

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 12 December 2013 at 7.30 pm in The Changing Rooms, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present Councillors M Frost (Chairman), L Armstrong, A Barnes, D Bonney, K Brown, H Caunce, V Caunce, B Harrison, C Lilley, W Mason and M Miller.

Also present 1 Member of the Public.

152.13 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Holborn.

153.13 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Lilley, as the owner of a property adjacent to the Carrington Centre, declared a personal interest in an item forming part of agenda item 5 (Planning Matters).

Councillors considered the granting of dispensations to Cllrs D Bonney, H Caunce and V Caunce, in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, relieving them of restrictions contained within Section 31 of the Act referring to pecuniary interests to enable the setting of the precept for the parish of Ecclestone. Each Councillor submitted a written request for a dispensation, until the end of the current terms of office, to the Clerk.

Resolved: dispensations were granted to the Councillors until the end of their current terms of office.

154.13 Minutes of the Meeting held 14 November 2013

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record with the following amendment:

144.13 - reference to Bradley Lane was amended to read Tincklers Lane..

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended to allow Members of the Public to speak.

155.13 Public Participation

A resident mentioned concerns regarding disabled and pedestrian access to the new shopping centre. There is no pedestrian crossing and the dropped kerbs are between the disabled bays. A set of cycle racks appear to have been removed from the proposals. A Councillor offered to liaise with the Project Manager.

The meeting was advised the Library would now not be opening until 3 February 2014.

A resident advised a small amount of pruning had taken place to the Oak tree on the Drapers Avenue verge.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

156.13 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial monitoring statement.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

A request to pay the half yearly repayment to the Public Works Loans Board was considered.

Resolved: the request payment was approved and the direct debit mandate was signed.

Resolved: the following payments were approved, the invoices having been inspected in accordance with fidelity guarantee requirements:

£ 653.46	Employee 1	Salary
£ 436.66	Employee 2	Salary
£ 478.30	Employee 3	Salary
£ 250.90	HM Revenue and Customs	Tax and NI
£ 192.32	Employee 1	Reimbursements
£ 19.38	Employee 2	Reimbursements

£ 307.80	J H Mayor and Sons	Christmas tree
£ 200.00	Eccleston Brass Band	Donation
£ 414.00	DWG (NW)	Loan repayment
£ 1122.00	DWG (NW)	Spring planting
£ 4800.00	J T and K J Waterworth	Annual mowing contract
£ 683.96	Wybone	Litter bins
£ 200.00	Sprintprint	Newsletter printing
£ 72.00	E.on	Electricity charge
£ 35.28	United Utilities	Water services charge
£ 52.09	United Utilities	Surface water charge

157.13 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

13/00843/FUL Change of use from gymnasium to furniture sale room at Flic-Flac, Units 12/13 Grove Park Industrial Estate, The Green.

13/0138/TPO Felling of Beech Tree in rear garden due to fungal disease infection at 6 Cortland Avenue.

13/01066/TEL Notice of intention to install 1no. BT Openreach High Speed Broadband cabinet at Opposite 302 The Green.

13/01079/FUL Replacement of flat roof dormers to front and rear with pitched roof dormers, and demolition of existing rear extension and erection of single storey rear conservatory at 28 Larkfield. The validity of this application was discussed as the works had commenced some time ago.

13/01083/DIS Notice of intention to install 1no. BT Openreach High Speed Broadband cabinet at Footpath Adjacent to 173 The Green.

13/01097/ADV Installation of illuminated ATM surround at Unit 2, The Carrington Centre.

13/01106/FUL Substitution of house types on plots 26, 30, 36, 41, 46, 48, 49, 50 and 59 at The Carrington Centre.

Councillors had no comments relating to these applications.

Councillors discussed a suggestion to support a request, from Adderbury Parish Council, for a parliamentary debate on the need for reform of the National Planning Policy Framework and the provision of interim protection measures. The request had raised fears that local residents may be unable to object to applications on emotive issues. The meeting was advised the issues raised are unlikely to occur in Chorley borough as a large proportion of Chorley's submitted Local Plan is already being given significant weight in planning decisions.

The matter was deferred to the next meeting to allow Councillors time to study the information.

158.13 2014-15 Precept

Councillors discussed suggestions for inclusion in the Precept for 2013-2014. Suggestions included funding for improvements to the pond, once adoption has been completed, entrance signs, a contribution towards the renovation of the Lych Gate at St Mary's Church and the contracting in of parking enforcement.

159.13 Junior Pitch Lease

Councillors considered the terms of a sub lease for the Junior Pitch for the Football Club.

Resolved: the sub lease was approved.

160.13 Traffic Speed on New Lane

A resident attending a PACT meeting complained about the speed of vehicles, within the 30mph zone, along New Lane from the Southport Road junction. Lancashire County Council is to be asked to inspect the area for suitable site for a SpID plate.

161.13 Future of Local Audit Draft Regulations Consultation

A consultation from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding draft regulations relating to the future of the Local Audit was discussed. It was noted changes already implemented have resulted in reduced fees for the external audit.

162.13 Chorley Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy Consultation

A consultation from Chorley Council was considered. Councillors had no comments.

163.13 Newsletter Delivery

A resident attending a PACT meeting had mentioned properties on the outskirts of the village did not have the newsletter delivered. Councillors discussed options available and the following suggestions were made. Newsletters are already available from the Council's website and copies are placed in the Library and copies could be emailed to residents who provided email addresses.

Due to time constraints agenda items 14 and 15 were brought forward.

164.13 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Councillors considered the exclusion of members of the press and public for an item of business, in accordance with Section 1 (1) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved: Members of the public were excluded for the consideration of the following item.

165.12 Personnel Matters

Staff salaries were reviewed.

166.13 Open Spaces Committee

A report from the latest meeting of the Committee was provided. Information was provided on works being carried out by the Landowner on the Bradley Lane. Construction of the Ball Court is expected to commence around the third week of January and refurbishment of the Skate Park is also to begin early 2014. A draft of the Walks Map has been prepared and photographs of significant buildings are to be obtained. The damaged fruit trees on the Millennium Green are to be attended to and a pruning training session in January was confirmed.

166.13 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

PACT Meeting - There were 9 recorded crimes, the majority being the theft of number plates.

3 Tier Forum - Public participation was introduced. Items discussed included the ratio of parish council representatives, bus timetables, the 2014/15 roadworks schedule and allotment provision.

Borough/Parish Clerks meeting - a new system for reporting issues direct online was presented.

168.13 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9 January 2014.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.