

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 10 July 2014 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 Counce, V Counce, C Lilley, W Mason and M Miller.

Also present 3 Members of the Public.

85.14 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor D Holborn.

86.14 Disclosure of Personal/Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Lilley, as a member of the Over 60's Committee, declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 (ii).

87.14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 June 2014

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

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

88.14 Public Participation

Residents of Doctors Lane complained of difficulties experienced due to cars being parked in the layby outside their property, opposite Ecclestone Primary School, during the day.

A resident had advised of problems for elderly pedestrians crossing to access the retail units at the Carrington Centre. Visitors to the units are forced to walk along the vehicular access with their backs to the traffic. It was also mentioned the kerb, by the café was higher than normal

A resident had requested the Council to cut back a tree on the Village Green which is overhanging a garden. This is to be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Tree Policy.

Staff at Ecclestone Library are looking to arrange walks based on the Walks Map and volunteers are being sought to lead the walks.

A questionnaire regarding a proposal for the Library to remain open at lunch times is available in the Library.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

89.14 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

14/00670/FUL Erection of a single storey rear family room extension at Cloverwood, 45 Bradley Lane.

14/00720/FUL Erection of two storey side extension at 22 Beechfields.

Councillors had no comments relating to these applications.

14/00640/FUL Proposed two storey extension to side and rear and extension to front and rear dormers at 27 The Hawthorns. The parking provision remaining, following the proposed removal of the garage, is to be queried.

90.14 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial update and bank reconciliation.

Resolved: the financial update was received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

A grant application from Ecclestone Over 60's towards the costs of coach hire was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £100 was awarded.

A grant application towards the costs of a booklet and exhibition to commemorate the anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £170 was awarded.

A grant application from St Mary's PCC towards the costs of a replacement mower for the churchyard was considered. Councillors suggested enquiries are made regarding the possibility of including the area within the Council's annual mowing contract.

A grant application from Lancashire Constabulary towards the costs of bike marking equipment was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £125 was awarded.

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

£ 670.60	Employee 1	Salary
£ 447.46	Employee 2	Salary
£ 490.02	Employee 3	Salary
£ 236.82	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax/Ni
£ 14.70	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 480.00	BDO LLP	Audit fee
£ 200.00	Sprintprint	Newsletter printing
£ 36.00	CPRE	Subscription
£ 216.00	Wicksteed Leisure	Play area inspection
£ 150.00	Eccleston Scout & Guide HQ	Newsletter delivery
£ 228.87	British Gas	Gas bill
£ 72.00	E.on	Electricity contract
£ 27.78	United Utilities	Metered water charge
£ 54.26	United Utilities	Surface water charge

91.14 Annual Return

The External Auditor's opinion was considered. A minor issue was raised regarding the inclusion of Chorley Council's precept top up grant within the precept figure. This will be restated for the next annual return.

Resolved: the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2014 was approved and accepted.

92.14 Open Spaces Committee

A report from the latest meeting of the Committee was provided. Six fruit trees, to replace the removed dead/failing fruit trees, are to be planted on the dryer side of the Millennium Green. Resident's feedback on the Walks map was reviewed. Possible sites for allotments were identified and quotes for the Recreation Fields path were considered, with a contractor being selected for recommendation to the Council.

93.14 Recreation Fields Path

The Open Spaces Committee had considered three alternative quotations for the installation of the path. The Committee's recommendation to the Council is the contractor providing the lowest cost estimate.

Resolved: the contract was awarded to DWG (NW) Ltd.

The amount set aside for the project in the 2014-15 budget is £15000, including developer's contributions from the Sagar House development. Councillors considered funding the remainder of the costs from an alternative budget.

Resolved: the balance of the costs is to be taken from the General Reserve budget.

94.14 Subsidised Bus Services Assessment Criteria

A response to a Lancashire County Council consultation on the proposed new method for assessing subsidised local bus services was considered. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of alternative provision in the event of a total withdrawal of services. Councillors felt the assessment should place more importance on the lack of reasonable alternative transport.

95.14 Chorley Local Plan - Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show People Preferred Options

A response to a Chorley Council consultation on a preferred option document was considered. Councillors were in favour of the preferred option site contained within the document.

96.14 Review of Polling Places and Districts

A response to a Chorley Council review of polling arrangements was considered. Councillors had no comments.

97.14 Draft Statement of Community Involvement

A response to a Chorley Council consultation was considered. Councillors had no comments.

98.14 Onshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution Supplementary Planning Document

A response to a consultation from Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council was considered. Councillors had no comments.

99.14 Reports from Outside Bodies

There had been no PACT meeting. Figures were provided of 11 recorded crimes in the village.

Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting - the Mill Lane path has been repaired. Chorley Council is not able to assist with land for allotments but small amounts of funding will be made available for the costs of planning applications. A request for a 'skip day' on an annual basis will be submitted to the meeting.

100.14 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 August 2014.

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