

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 12 November 2015 at 7.30 pm in The Changing Rooms, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present Councillors M Frost (Chairman), L Armstrong, D Bonney, K Brown, H Caunce, V Caunce, M Miller, G Thomas, H Thomas and A Whittaker.

The Chairman advised of the passing away of former Councillor Mr Charles Lilley.

137.15 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors S Kenyon and W Mason.

138.15 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

139.15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 October 2015

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

140.15 Public Participation

Information regarding the introduction of an appointments only system at the Doctor's surgery was provided. The situation is to be clarified with the surgery.

Problems with parking at the end of Bannister Lane were mentioned.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

141.15 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

15/00969/FUL Erection of pitched roof over existing garage and erection of a front canopy 13 Drapers Avenue

15/01035/FUL Replacement of existing Grasscrete cast in-situ concrete car park with porous tarmac surfacing at Ecclestone Health Centre, Doctors Lane.

15/01063/NOT Notice of intention to install cabinet, replace existing mast head amplifiers and antennas, and associated development at Southerly Boundary of Units C and D, Grove Park, The Green.

15/01099/PDE Proposed single storey rear conservatory measuring 2.5m in depth, 4m in width, 2.2m high to the eaves and 3m maximum height to the ridge at 2 Martland Cottages, Towngate.

15/01113/FUL Erection of single storey rear extension at 20 Bradley Lane.

Councillors had no comments relating to these applications.

15/00979/FUL Creation of new shop front to existing retail unit at Flair, 269 The Green.

Resolved: an objection, on the grounds of lack of available parking spaces, is to be submitted.

15/01017/FUL Change of use from passageway to domestic garden curtilage and raising of ground level at 346 The Green. Concerns regarding the effect on access to the rear of a neighbouring property are to be expressed to Chorley Council.

15/01025/FUL Conversion of outbuilding to dwelling and erection of porch at Mill Lane Farm, Mill Lane. It was noted the lane is a well used footpath and is collapsing in places. Concerns were raised regarding safety of walkers.

Resolved: An objection, on the grounds of inappropriate development within the Greenbelt, is to be submitted and a condition, requiring the upgrading of the path, is to be requested in the event of approval being granted.

15/01067/OUT Outline application (with all matters reserved) for the erection of a detached dwellinghouse and detached garage at Land 15m North of 238 The Green. It was noted the proposed access is via the existing parking bay, which would result in the loss of at least two spaces and is directly opposite the Red House Lane junction.

Resolved: an objection, on the grounds of highway safety and the lack of suitable access, is to be submitted.

142.15 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the monthly financial monitoring statement.

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

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

£ 684.67	Employee 1	Salary
£ 457.89	Employee 2	Salary
£ 501.32	Employee 3	Salary
£ 242.96	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax/NI
£ 17.05	Employee 1	Reimbursements
£ 200.00	Royal British Legion	Donation and wreath
£ 600.00	Argus Security Systems	Annual maintenance contracts
£ 216.00	Wicksteed Leisure	Play area inspections
£ 952.80	Marmax products	Tree seat
£ 192.00	Ark Welding	Tree seat installation
£ 72.00	D Proe	Hedge cutting
£ 1416.00	DWG	Recreation Ground path
£ 318.00	DWG	Winter planting
£ 0.44	Royal Mail	Freepost delivery
£ 131.00	E.on	Electricity contract
£ 28.72	United Utilities	Metered water charge
£ 56.48	United Utilities	Surface water charge
£ 70.00	Chorley Council	Business rates
£ 1239.57	Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment

143.15 Internal Audit

The annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit was carried out.

Resolved: the current system of internal audit was found to be adequate.

Councillors considered the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the current financial year and the internal audit fee.

Resolved: Mr J Lawson is to be appointed and the fee set at £75.

144.15 2016 - 2017 Precept

Councillors were reminded of the need to provide suggestions for inclusion in the Precept. Preliminary suggestions included improvements to a play area and an area of open space on Langton Close and a play area and pond on New Street. Responsibility for these sites is currently being investigated.

145.15 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors considered responses to the freepost survey regarding the preparing of a Neighbourhood Plan for Ecclestone.

170 responses had been received, with 154 in favour, 13 against and 3 neutral responses. Of the 154 in favour, 32 expressed an interest in taking part in a Steering Group. Discussions took place as to whether the number of responses, from a total of around 2000 properties, was sufficient to proceed and it was generally felt that, due to the relatively small number of responses, the process should not be taken further. A proposal was made that, due to lack of interest, the preparation of a Plan should not proceed.

Resolved: the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Ecclestone will not be undertaken.

146.15 Drainage Ditch adjoining the Recreation Ground

Information regarding provision of a connection from Madison Chase to the Recreation Ground and a request to the Landowner to carry out improvement works to the ditch was provided.

The Developer had advised that they did not wish, from a health and safety perspective, to make the connection until the build phase is complete which is anticipated to be before the end of next year, subject to sales progress. Councillors were concerned at the delay, particularly as many of the properties in the vicinity of the path are now occupied. The Developer is to be asked to consider isolating the new build area and opening the path.

The Landowner had advised the matter of some form of crossing of the ditch to link the paths was currently being looked into by a Director of the company. With regard to a request for the Parish Council to view the latest camera survey of the drain behind the properties on Drapers Avenue and the Recreation Ground, a survey has been completed but a corresponding plan is still awaited.

Regarding the connection to the Recreation Ground a question was raised regarding the involvement of Lancashire County Council's Public Rights of Way Team, who had suggested they may be able to assist. The meeting was advised the team were holding the issue in abeyance until the access is addressed.

147.15 Western Parishes Neighbourhood Group Preferred Projects

Items for inclusion in the Preferred Projects for 2016-17 for consideration at the Neighbourhood Group Meeting were discussed. A request for improvements to a play area and pond on New Street and a play area and area of open space on Langton Close are to be put forward.

148.15 Parish Council Newsletter

The production process of the newsletter was discussed. A draft is to be circulated to Councillors 10 days prior to going to print, with comments to be submitted within 7 days. Should significant differences of opinion with the draft arise the Chairman will make the final decision on the content.

149.15 Trees on Drapers Avenue

Issues regarding the trees along Drapers Avenue from had been reported by residents. The issues involved the size and sap and leaves dropping. A letter, requesting views as to whether they would wish the trees to be pruned, removed, replaced or gaps filled, is to be sent to the Clerk for distribution to residents of Drapers Avenue.

150.15 Footpath No. 12 (Long Meadows)

Councillors discuss the clearance of the footpath. The issue was reported to Lancashire County Council in June of this year and the latest response advised that the report is still ongoing and they are unable to give timescales as to completion of any works. Photographs of the problems are to be sent to the Clerk and forwarded to LCC with a request for timescales.

151.15 Chorley Council Consultation on Validation Criteria for Planning Applications

A response to the consultation was considered. Councillors had no comments.

152.15 Carol Singing

Arrangements for the Carol singing were confirmed. The date is to be forwarded to Councillors.

153.15 Reports from Outside Bodies

The latest meeting of the Chorley Liaison was poorly attended. Information was provided on the impact of welfare reforms on residents of Chorley.

Police report - the latest crime figures were provided.

154.15 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 December 2015.

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