

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 11 February 2016 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, W Mason, M Miller, G Thomas, H Thomas and A Whittaker.

Also present 6 Members of the Public.

17.16 Apologies for absence

None received.

18.16 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

19.16 Appointment to Village Activities Committee

Resolved: Cllr V Caunce was appointed to the Committee.

20.16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2016

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

Cllr Whittaker requested that his vote against the resolution should be noted.

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

21.16 Public Participation

Issues of inconsiderate parking at school times and potholes on Doctors Lane were raised. The meeting was advised problems with parking occur outside virtually every school and that parking enforcement is an issue raised in all rural areas. Chorley Council is considering the provision of a small budget for enforcement. Both schools are to be asked to request parents to show consideration when parking.

A resident queried whether the Parish Council had made representations regarding the loss of Lancashire County Council facilities, notably the Library and bus services. The resident was advised of proposals to reduce five units (Ecclestone, Euxton and Parbold libraries, and Ecclestone Young People's and the Blossoms Children's Centres) down to one. The resident suggested the Parish Council should adopt a pro-active stance.

A resident asked what had happened to the Neighbourhood Plan. The resident was advised the Council had felt there was insufficient support from residents to continue with the Plan.

Footpath 12 (Long Meadows) was mentioned. The path is overgrown and one of the stepping stones has moved. The resident was advised information regarding a timescale for the works is awaited from Lancashire County Council.

Overgrown hedges on Parr Lane were mentioned.

It was reported the Environment Agency had removed debris along Syd Brook left by the flood.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

22.16 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

16/00016/FULHH Erection of side dormer extension, installation of new windows and doors, re-roofing of existing dwelling and wall rendering and installation of roof lights at Athercliffe Woodhart Lane

16/00024/FULHH Erection of a two storey rear extension including proposed alterations to the roof height at 163 The Green

16/00042/DIS Application to discharge conditions 4 (Design Stage assessment), 5 (hard surfacing materials), 7 (boundary treatments) and 8 (facing materials) of permission ref: 14/01248/OUT (which was for the erection of a detached two storey house to the rear of 203 The Green, Eccleston, to be accessed off Newlands) at Land to the rear of 203 The Green

16/00052/FUL Section 73 application to remove conditions 9 and 10 (Code for Sustainable Homes) attached to planning permission 14/00150/FUL (Erection of detached two storey dwelling) at Land 10m behind 167 The Green and fronting onto Doctors Lane

Councillors had no comments relating to these applications.

23.16 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the monthly financial monitoring statement.

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

A request from Eccleston St Mary's Church for a contribution towards fund raising events was considered. Additional information relating to further funding requirements towards flood damage was provided.

Resolved: a grant of £200, to be paid from the Grants budget (£85) and Village Activities budget (£115), was approved.

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

£	684.67	Employee 1	Salary
£	471.07	Employee 2	Salary
£	513.61	Employee 3	Salary
£	249.36	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax/NI
£	17.55	Employee 1	Reimbursements
£	20.00	Eccleston St Mary's C E Primary	Reserving of hall
£	200.00	Eccleston Brass Band	Grant
£	.89	Royal Mail	Freepost delivery
£	80.00	Croston Parish Council	Incorrectly paid advertising fee
£	204.00	E.on	Electricity contract
£	56.48	United Utilities	Surface water charge
£	70.00	Chorley Council	Business rates
£	37.16	United Utilities	Metered water charge

24.16 Audit Procurement from 2017

Councillors considered arrangements for audit procurement from 2017. Smaller authorities can have an independent auditor appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd, a new sector-led body, or they can decide to procure their own.

Resolved: audit provision is to be provided by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd.

25.16 Accuracy of Minutes of Meetings

The accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting were discussed at length. An issue was raised that the minutes failed to mention specifically the wording of a motion, tabled at the meeting, relating to the Government's austerity cuts. It was pointed out that draft minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all members and the majority of those present at the meeting had approved the draft minutes as presented, in accordance with the previously agreed procedure.

26.16 Parking Issues

Issues relating to inconsiderate and illegal parking were discussed. Incidents were reported of pavements being blocked, forcing pedestrians into the road, parking on double lines, overnight and car sharing parking on the Carrington Centre and one instance of a van belonging to a car valeter parked entirely on the pavement, along with the car being valeted.

27.16 Consultations

Councillors considered a response to a Chorley Council consultation regarding proposed budget plans for 2016-17. Information was provided on the possibility of Chorley Council providing some of the facilities which may be withdrawn and the question of the parish council running the Library was raised. This is to be included as an agenda item for the next meeting, which may be deferred if insufficient information is available.

Councillors considered a response to a Lancashire County Council consultation regarding the withdrawal of subsidy from local bus services. The meeting was advised Lancashire County Council is currently negotiating with bus operators regarding the viability of routes.

28.16 Chorley Liaison Meeting

Agenda items for the Chorley Liaison Meeting had been requested. No items were suggested.

Comments on the Play Area Assessment and Improvement Strategy 2014-2019 had also been requested. No comments were provided.

29.16 Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

Entry into the 2016 Competition was discussed. Items such as the appearance of the former Windmill pub were mentioned and it was felt these would affect any entry. There was no proposer for entry into the competition.

30.16 Village Activities Committee

A verbal report from the meeting held on 20 January 2016 was provided. A number of events are proposed for the year including assistance with the Church's music event, a baking competition in conjunction with Villages in Partnership, a fun day, a photographic competition, a music event with a local performer, Lancashire Night and a Christmas shop window competition.

31.16 Reports from Outside Bodies

Police report - the latest crime figures were provided.

Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area meeting - the crossing of the ditch between the Recreation Ground and New Mill Street has been included as a project, ownership of the New Street pond/open space is to be ascertained and public footpath FP12 and the Langton Close play area are to be dealt with as business as usual.

A report was provided on a very successful Snooker Evening held at the Young People's Centre.

32.16 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 March 2016.

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