

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 10 March 2016 at 7.30 pm in The Changing Rooms, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

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

Also present 2 Members of the Public.

33.16 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors D Bonney and M Frost and Mr C Mayor.

34.16 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Miller, as a relative of an applicant for co-option, declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3 (Councillor Vacancy).

35.16 Councillor Vacancy

Applications for co-option from Mrs D Miller and Mr C Mayor were considered.

A paper ballot was held and the ballot papers checked under the supervision of a resident. C Mayor was co-opted

36.16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2016

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

37.16 Public Participation

A representative from St Mary's PCC advised sufficient funds for the lighting had been obtained but additional funds were needed for the reinstatement of the headstones of 38 graves which had been affected by the flood and were unsafe.

It was reported some repair work to the potholes on Doctors Lane has been completed.

Information and a map relating to works on the trees along Drapers Avenue is awaited from Lancashire County Council. Once this is received residents a letter will be delivered to residents advising of the situation.

Overgrown hedges on Parr Lane were mentioned.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

38.16 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

16/00002/FULHH Erection of front boundary wall with railings above with a maximum height of 1.2m. Including pillars at a height of 1.8m at 295 The Green

16/00108/TPO Overall pruning of overhanging branches to give 2m clearance to property.

16/00135/FULHH Erection of a single storey side/rear extension following the demolition of the existing garage at 63 Lydiate Lane

16/00146/FULHH Demolition of the existing car port, conservatory and porch and the erection of a single storey rear extension. Replacement of the existing front windows with new bay windows. Conversion of the existing garage into additional living accommodation at 18 Snipewood

16/00153/FUL The erection of a detached two storey house to the rear of 203 The Green (application to allow changes to sustainability conditions on previous permission)

Councillors had no comments relating to these applications.

39.16 Financial Matters

Evidence of the receipt of the precept request by Chorley Council was presented and noted.

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
£	11.70	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£	354.55	Employee 1	Reimbursements
£	2.16	E.on	Christmas lights electricity
£	255.44	British Gas	Gas bill
£	200.00	St Mary's PCC	Grant
£	1.20	Whittle Jones	Lease
£	59.06	E.on	Electricity contract
£	56.47	United Utilities	Surface water charge
£	70.00	Chorley Council	Business rates

40.16 Financial Risk Assessment

Councillors completed the annual risk assessment in accordance with the Practitioners Guide to Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales. The existing procedures and controls were found to be adequate.

Resolved: the adequacy of the existing controls was noted.

41.16 Eccleston Library

Information was provided on the possible closure of the Library and the Young People's Centre. Lancashire County Council is expected to make the decision in May, which will be followed by a further consultation regarding the possible takeover of facilities by interested parties. The possible involvement of the Parish Council was discussed. It was suggested the potential costs should be investigated although it was pointed out the parish precept for the next financial year has already been set.

Resolved: Lancashire County Council is to be advised of the concerns regarding the possible loss of the services and that the Parish Council would like to be involved in future negotiations regarding the future of the Library and in discussions regarding any future use intended for the Young People's Centre.

42.16 Communications

Methods of communication with residents were discussed with a view to improvement.

The newsletter does not reach all residents, the website facilities are fairly basic and the Twitter feed has a relatively small number of followers. The use of a Facebook was mentioned. Concerns were raised regarding misuse which would have to be monitored closely. Councillors Miller and G Thomas are to investigate possible improvements and report back to the Council.

An issue was raised relating to the exclusion of a suggested amendment to an article in the March newsletter regarding the possible closure of Library. Councillors had felt the proposed article contained a political reference and had not agreed with its inclusion. Several Councillors expressed opinions that politics should be kept out of parish council matters.

The procedure of meetings was also questioned, with an opinion raised that members of the public do not understand the principle of suspending the Council's Standing Orders to allow them to speak. The Chairman offered the opinion that conforming with procedure helped with the understanding of how meetings work.

43.16 Village Activities Committee

A verbal report from the meeting held on 7 March 2016 was provided. Events which have been confirmed are the fair on the Millennium Green over the weekend of 20 and 21 August, a play at St Agnes' on 14 May and Lancashire Night on 26 November. Possible venues for Film Nights are being investigated.

44.16 Reports from Outside Bodies

Police report - the latest crime figures were provided.

45.16 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 April 2016.

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