

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Remote Meeting held 10 December 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present Councillors H Thomas (Chairman), R Burns, M Frost, C Heath, D Miller, M Miller, and A Whittaker.

Also present 4 Members of the Public

101.20 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors D Bonney, K Brown, M Brown and V Caunce.

102.20 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

103.20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2020

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended for the following items to allow open discussion between representatives of Eccleston Primary School and Councillors.

104.20 Public Participation

No issues raised.

105.20 Footpath Link to Eccleston Primary School on Millennium Green

Representatives of the School provided information on the proposed extension to the footpath on the Millennium Green to provide an alternative access to the school to families from the South of the village. The intention of the path is to encourage children to walk to school, which would help alleviate traffic problems on Doctors Lane and to allow direct access to the Millennium Green for nature projects. The School had been informed by Lancashire County Council that the Parish Council's permission may be required. Some financial support may be requested. It was not envisaged Red House Lane would become a drop off point. The Governors are looking at improving the fitness and well-being of children and the School's Development Plan aims to encourage pride in the village. The School wishes to work with the Parish Council and is willing to become involved with maintenance of the area.

Councillors pointed out the drainage on the Millennium Green is not good and the area where the path is proposed is prone to flooding during heavy rainfall. The representatives advised the School could look into the drainage.

Concerns were also raised regarding the impact on residents of Red House Lane, particularly as the planning application submitted by Lancashire County Council stated the idea was to spread the load of congestion. The representatives advised this was not the intention from the school's point of view and that the original aim had been to enhance the offer to pupils by providing an alternative to travelling to school in cars.

The management of the project was queried. The representatives advised the School will be responsible for the project. The School would have the ability to restrict access in the event of problems. A suggestion was put forward for Lancashire County Council to research and model the impact on the residents of Red House Lane to provide evidence the Parish Council would not be supporting a problem. A request for the School to monitor the situation if the project goes ahead was put forward.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

106.20 Planning Matters

20/01208/TPO Application for work to a protected tree - Chorley BC TPO 9 (Eccleston) 2011: T1 Willow - 30% crown reduction and removal of two lowest branches growing towards neighbouring property

20/01209/FULHH Part two storey/part single storey side/rear extension at 5 Drapers Avenue

20/01227/FULHH Single storey rear extension including attached garage following demolition of existing garage at Beau View, Woodhart Lane

20/01240/FULHH Single storey side and front extensions and new vehicular access at 25 Snipewood

20/01296/PIP Permission in principle application for the erection of 1no. dwelling demolition of an existing stable building and store, together with the removal of an existing riding arena and reinstatement to open grassland/meadow Land and Buildings West of 367 Southport Road

There were no objections to these applications.

107.20 Financial Matters

i) The financial monitoring statement was considered.

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

ii) A request for assistance from Healthier Heroes CIC towards the furnishing of a home for Military Veterans and their families was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £100 was awarded, with part of the amount charged to the 'Sundries' budget.

iii) A contribution towards the provision of food parcels for local families was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £400 was awarded, with the amount to be charged to the 'Sundries' budget.

iv) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 290.00	DWG (NW)	Winter planting
£ 432.00	J H Mayor and Sons	Christmas tree
£ 1529.19	Employee 1	Salary and reimbursements
£ 756.78	Employee 2	Salary and reimbursements
£ 583.75	Employee 3	Salary and reimbursements
£ 8.69	HM Revenue and Customs	Tax/NI
£ 100.00	Healthier Heroes	Grant
£ 246.27	Waterplus	Water and wastewater (Changing Rooms)
£ 191.18	Total Gas and Power	Electricity (Hub)
£ 242.37	Total Gas and Power	Gas (Hub)

108.20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The report of the External Auditor's report was presented and noted. There were no issues arising from the report.

109.20 2021-22 Precept

Items for inclusion in the precept for 2021-22 were discussed. Suggestions put forward included the Recreation Ground CCTV, car park and play area and improvements to the Village Green. The Open Spaces and Village Activities Committees had submitted proposed budgets.

110.20 Committee Report

A verbal report from a recent meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was provided. A request to reduce the height of Birch trees in the vicinity of Newlands had been received. As the trees are healthy, work would not be carried out under the Council's Tree Procedure however, as the trees

are alleged to cause a nuisance, enquiries are to be made to ascertain whether the trees do cause a 'nuisance', as described in the lease agreement with Lancashire County Council.

Improvement works on the Millennium Green and relaying of the surface under the tree seat on the Village Green were approved. The residents involved with the petition to improve the Recreation Ground play area had been contacted and a working group is to be set up to take the project forward. Several budgets are to be amalgamated for 2021-22 in order to reduce the number of individual budgets.

111.20 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 January 2021.

112.20 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the exclusion of members of the press and public for the following item was considered on the grounds that the item comprises information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, in accordance with Part 1 (3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, is exempt from public disclosure.

Resolved: due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, Members of the press and public were excluded for the consideration of the following item.

113.20 Personnel Matters

Employee salaries were reviewed.

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