

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Remote Meeting held 12 November 2020 at 7.30 pm.

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

Also present 5 Members of the Public

86.20 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor D Bonney.

87.20 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

88.20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 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.

89.20 Public Participation

A resident raised concerns regarding the consultation for houses on land off Tincklers Lane. There are a large number of properties involved, with access via Doctors Lane near the school which will lead to traffic problems. The proposed development will exacerbate existing problems with run-off from the fields experienced by houses on The Hawthorns and will also impact on the drainage and sewage systems. Local schools are over-subscribed and Chorley Council is currently meeting housing targets. Councillors advised these proposals have followed on from a recent Planning Inspectorate appeal judgement for a development in Euxton on land safeguarded for future housing needs which may have opened the door for this type of application. It was also mentioned the village needs affordable homes and bungalows as opposed to these types of properties and that the brownfield sites in the area should be concentrated on for housing.

The residents and Councillors responsible for the display of poppies on the Village Green, which had attracted many positive comments, were thanked.

Details of the scheme to distribute food parcels for families in need were provided. The Group is hoping to provide Christmas food parcels.

A resident queried whether the proposed rear entrance to Eccleston Primary School would be locked outside opening times.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

90.20 Planning Matters

20/01072/DIS Application to discharge condition nos. 9 (dwelling emission rate), 10 (dwelling emission rate compliance), 11 (drainage details and 12 (public open space) attached to planning permission 19/01067/OUT (Outline application (with all matters reserved) for the erection of a detached dwellinghouse and detached garage) at 236 The Green

20/01144/FULHH Single storey rear extension at 6 New Street

20/01148/TPO Application for works to protected trees - Chorley BC TPO 5 (Eccleston) 2005: Prune and reshape three Yew trees at Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Towngate

There were no objections to these applications.

20/01085/OUTMAJ Outline application for the construction of up to 15no. dwellings (with all matters reserved save for access from Tincklers Lane at Land at Tincklers Lane. It was mentioned the land is safeguarded for development in a future Local Plan and the applicant had not provided evidence of a need for these large properties. The access is located on a bend on a busy lane.

Resolved: an objection is to be submitted on the grounds the land is safeguarded for development in a future Local Plan and there is no evidence of a need for this type of property.

A consultation on a proposed residential development of up to 80 properties was discussed. As there is no detailed planning application, a brief comment relating to the lack of a demonstrable need for these properties and the land being safeguarded is to be submitted.

91.20 Financial Matters

i) The financial monitoring statement was considered.

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

ii) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 163.42	Total Gas and Power	Electricity (Changing Rooms)
£ 960.00	Argus Security Systems	Annual maintenance contracts
£ 96.00	Croston Plumbing and Heating	Boiler service
£ 169.00	DWG (NW)	Winter planting
£ 500.00	Harry Grainger Landscapes	Replace fence - Drapers Avenue
£ 360.00	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit fee
£ 350.00	RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation and wreath
£ 748.96	Employee 1	Salary
£ 724.32	Employee 2	Salary and reimbursements
£ 583.75	Employee 3	Salary and reimbursements
£ 6.89	HM Revenue and Customs	Tax/NI
£ 100.00	St Mary's Church	Grant
£ 100.00	St Agnes' Church	Grant
£ 100.00	Eccleston Methodist Church	Grant
£ 1239.57	Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment
£ 139.89	Total Gas and Power	Gas (Hub)

92.20 Community Hub

Limited reopening of the building, for use by Inspire Youth Zone to carry out outreach work with young residents, was discussed. Options for a deep clean of the premises were considered. It was suggested an initial deep clean be carried out by a Chorley Council recommended contractor.

Resolved: Inspire Youth Zone is to be granted exclusive use of the building, following a deep clean by the Chorley Council recommended contractor. Inspire Youth Zone will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting following the use.

93.20 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 discussed the appointment of an Internal Auditor in accordance with guidance provided within Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners' Guide (2020).

Resolved: Mrs A Partington was appointed and the fee was set at £110.00.

94.20 Footpath Link to Eccleston Primary School on Millennium Green

A letter from Eccleston Primary School, advising of the benefits of the alternative entrance, was read out.

The path is intended to encourage children to walk to school and the gate will be locked at 4:00pm. No additional lighting is proposed and future maintenance costs will need to be addressed. Existing traffic problems at school opening and closing times on Doctors Lane will be exacerbated by future development.

A Councillor expressed concerns that this proposal simply moves the current traffic problem to another area of the village. The impact of additional vehicles dropping off children on Red House Lane, which is a cul-de-sac requiring vehicles to turn around to exit, was mentioned. Evidence of the confirmation of suggested usage figures was questioned, as was the school's efforts to remedy the existing problems on Doctors Lane.

Resolved: representatives from the School and the Lancashire County Council Officer heading the project are to be invited to the next Council meeting to answer queries.

95.20 Petition

An online petition, requesting improvements to the Recreation Ground play area, was received. The matter was referred to The Open Spaces Committee.

96.20 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.

97.20 Committee Report

A verbal report was provided on a recent meeting of the Village Activities Committee. The Committee was disappointed previously planned events had had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic but plans were in hand for events next year, once the all clear is given. The Christmas lights are to be updated, however the Carol singing will not take place this year. Christmas advice cars from the Neighbourhood Watch are to be delivered provided the information is still current.

98.20 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12 November 2020.

99.20 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 items.

100.20 Disposal of Land

A request for the sale of an area of land owned by the Parish Council received no proposer.

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