

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 10 April 2025 at 7.30 pm in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present: Councillors M Miller (Chairman), D Biggs, E Biggs, R Bland, S Bland, D Bonney, M Brown, D Graham, C Heath, D Miller, H Thomas and A Whittaker.

Also present: Borough Councillor Singh and 6 Members of the Public.

38.25 Apologies for absence
None received.

39.25 Declarations of Interests
None declared.

40.25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 March 2025
Resolved: the minutes of the meeting (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

41.25 Councillor Vacancy
A application for co-option from Mr Eric Biggs was considered.
Resolved: Eric Biggs was co-opted.

42.25 Public Participation
The pothole at the entrance to the car park has been repaired.
A resident complained over hedge cutting on the Recreation Park and Church Walks. The Chairman advised the hedge cutting had been dealt with at a recent committee meeting and the Parish Council is not responsible for Church Walks.
Residents of a neighbouring property expressed objections regarding a planning application on Woodhart Lane. The residents advised the proposed property is thought to be overbearing, not in keeping with other properties in the immediate vicinity and overly close to the boundary with their property.

43.25 Planning Matters
25/00132/FUL Erection of 63no. containerised storage units for 'self-storage' purposes at Grove Park Industrial Estate, The Green. Councillors reported hardstanding has been laid in the Green belt across a bridge over Syd Brook.

Resolved: concerns are to be raised regarding the impact on neighbour amenity and the encroachment into the Green Belt, caused by existing hardstanding

25/00210/FUL Construction of a 3 bedroom, self-build, dormer bungalow, following demolition of the existing dwelling at Sunnymead, Woodhart Lane

Resolved: an objection is to be submitted on the grounds of adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties due to the overbearing nature of the design of the proposed property

25/00279/FULHH Single storey rear extension at 16 Chaucer Close

25/0295/PIP Permission in principle application for the erection of up to two dwellings at Land between 39 and 45 Lydiate Lane

25/00336/FULHH Two storey rear extension: conversion of coach house to annexe at 148 The Green

There were no objections to these applications.

44.25 Financial Matters

i) The financial monitoring statement for the year ended 31 March 2025 was considered.

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

ii) The financial monitoring statement was considered.

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

iii) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 30.36	Easy Websites	Website
£ 79.06	Waterplus	Water/wastewater (Hub)
£ 1000.00	St Mary's PCC	Grant
£ 3300.00	Lancashire Environmental Fund	Third party grant contribution
£ 36.00	CPRE	Annual subscription
£ 1351.20	J L Hill and Son	Bridge works
£ 3039.81	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements
£ 30.36	Vodafone	Broadband (Hub)
£ 162.53	British Gas	Gas (Hub)
£ 56.74	Chorley Council	Business rates (Changing Rooms)
£ 69.66	British Gas	Electricity (Hub)

45.25 Asset Register

Councillors completed the annual review of the asset register. It was noted there were no additions or disposals during the year.

Resolved: the Asset Register was approved and signed by the Chairman.

46.25 Business Continuity Plan

Preparations in advance of the Clerk's leaving were discussed. It was noted the website and email is able to be transferred by the website provider. The provision of a council owned laptop to enable the transfer of records was discussed, with the possible provision of a council owned mobile phone.

Resolved: a branded laptop, up to a maximum value of £450 is to be purchased.

47.25 Committee Reports

A verbal report from a recent meeting of the Activities Committee was provided. An event to mark the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day on 16th August at St Agnes' Church was discussed. A Lancashire Night event will be arranged for 29th November.

A verbal report from a recent meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was also provided. Works to trees, the use of CIL funds towards a path to the rear of Eccleston Primary School, with the possibility of a car park at the Red House Lane entrance, and drainage, all on the Millennium Green, and recent hedge cutting on the Recreation Park were raised by residents.

Details of Phase 2 of the Recreation Park project were provided by Members of the Fundraising Group, which had obtained additional grant funding. A third party contribution of £3300, to release a £30000 grant was agreed.

48.25 Clerk's Report

Lancashire County Council had offered to supply and plant surplus trees free of charge. Alders will be planted on the Millennium Green to try to help with the waterlogging.

The Ulles Walton Action Group advised the High Court had judged the Secretary of State had acted lawfully and reasonably and refused the application for leave to appeal the granting of permission for the Third Prison. The Group intends to appeal the review decision as the

Barristers have advised they feel this worthy of their efforts and offers no further risk in terms of costs.

49.25 Reports from Outside Bodies

Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting - Neighbourhood Priorities for 2025-26 were selected.

Chorley Liaison - Chief Inspector Neale, from the Local Policing and Partnerships Team at Lancashire Constabulary, provided details on local policing within Chorley. Information was provided on how issues including possible drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and speeding and other traffic issues may be reported.

A request was made for Planning Officers to provide guidance relating to the definition of 'Grey belt' land used as justification for recent Planning in Principle applications.

50.25 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 8 May 2025.

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