

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 14 December 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present: Councillors M Miller (Chairman), R Bland, D Graham, C Heath, A Marsh, D Miller, A Whittaker and O Williams.

Also present: 4 Members of the Public

155.23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Bonney, M Brown and H Thomas

156.23 Declarations of Interests

None declared.

157.23 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 November 2023

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

158.23 Public Participation

The request for parking restrictions at the Carrington Centre was queried. A response from Lancashire County Council is awaited. The situation regarding the speed indicators was also queried. An alternative site on Towngate had been suggested and details of the owner of the adjoining land have been obtained for the Highways Officer, who is to carry out an assessment of the site.

The restriction on the number of visitors in the Library was mentioned. The Chief Librarian has been contacted regarding the possibility of a redesigned entrance.

159.23 Planning Matters

23/00953/FULHH Extension of detached garage to accommodate home gym and office (resubmission of application ref. 19/00713/FULHH) at 5 Cortland Avenue

23/00954/FULHH Extension of detached garage to accommodate ancillary annexe (resubmission of application ref. 20/00324/FULHH) at 5 Cortland Avenue

23/01010/TPO Application for work to a protected tree - Chorley BC TPO 1 (Ecclestone) 2013: Oak T1 - crown raise to 4 metres at 6 Drapers Avenue

23/01041/AGR Agricultural determination for the erection of a building for hay/straw, machinery and equipment storage at Wood End Farm, Parr Lane

23/01044/DIS Application to discharge conditions 4 (materials, levels and landscaping), 5 (biodiversity enhancements), 10 (ground investigations), 11 (listed building and barn materials), 12 (passing places), 15 (written scheme of investigation) and 17 (amphibian method statement) of planning permission 22/00851/FUL (Extension and renovations to listed farmhouse, conversion of barn to two dwellings, demolition of former farm buildings and erection of two detached and two semi-detached dwellings) at Wood End Farm, Parr Lane

There were no objections to these applications.

23/01062/TPO Application for work to a protected tree - Chorley BC TPO 1 (Ecclestone) 2009: Silver Birch - Fell at Land Adjacent to 2 Braeburn Crescent. As the application was lacking in detail the Tree Officer is to be asked to confirm whether the works are necessary.

160.23 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:

£ 80.91	Everflow	Water, wastewater and surface water
£ 34.46	SSE	Electricity (Changing Rooms)
£ 74.68	British Gas	Electricity (Hub)
£ 199.86	SSE	Electricity (Changing Rooms)
£ 398.66	Opus Energy	Gas (Hub)
£ 169.78	Lancashire County Council	Cleaning (Hub) - October
£ 457.70	Wernick Hire	Hire - temporary changing rooms
£ 370.00	Rufford Printing	Newsletter printing
£ 100.00	Ecclestone Scout Group	Newsletter delivery
£ 200.00	Ecclestone Brass Band	Donation - Carol singing
£ 350.00	RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation and wreath
£ 3267.67	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements
£ 18.00	Chorley Council	Business rates (Changing Rooms)
£ 28.85	Vodafone	Broadband (Hub) - September
£ 83.94	Everflow	Water, wastewater and surface water
£ 119.62	British Gas	Electricity (Hub)

161.23 2024-25 Precept

A draft budget, requiring a 5% increase in council tax was provided for discussion purposes. An updated version will be provided for the precept setting at the January meeting.

162.23 Lancashire Devolution

Councillors considered a consultation regarding a proposed Lancashire Combined Authority. Information regarding the proposals was provided. Additional Government funding will be available however, decisions will be made by representatives from Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils. Local District Councils are concerned they are excluded from the decision making process and that funding for the Combined Authority may be taken from existing funding available to District Councils. In order to allow Councillors adequate time to digest the details, an item is to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

163.23 Clerk's Report

Changing Rooms - repair work is due to be completed within the next week.

Recreation Park Play Area - the installation of the new equipment is underway.

The Carol singing will take place on 19 December.

164.23 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

165.23 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 11 January 2024.

166.23 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.

167.23 Personnel Matters

Staff salaries for the next financial year were reviewed.

168.23 Will Trust

Information was provided regarding a Will Trust, of which the Parish Council is the ultimate beneficiary. The Trust Company which manages the assets has advised of the demise of the last surviving beneficiary and the process of liquidating the assets is to commence. As part of the process a Payment Authority to enable the transfer of funds as and when the investments are liquidated is required.

Resolved: the Clerk was authorised to sign the Payment Authority.

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