

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 9 January 2025 at 7.30 pm in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

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

Also present: 4 Members of the Public.

01.25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors M Brown, C Heath and D Miller.

02.25 Declarations of Interests

None declared.

03.25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 December 2024

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

04.25 Public Participation

Details of problems with drainage in and around the area of the Millennium Green and Ecclestone Primary School were reported. Enquiries are to be made with Lancashire County Council and United Utilities regarding drainage connections in the area. An access path to the rear of the School via the Millennium Green was also mentioned.

A representative of the Ulnes Walton Action Group provided an update regarding the Third Prison at Wymott. The Group has been advised by its legal team that the Secretary of State may have acted unlawfully in arriving at the decision to allow the planning appeal. The Group is intending to challenge the decision in the High Court, and is seeking pledges to cover the potential costs, which would be limited to a maximum of £10,000, should the challenge not be successful.

05.25 Planning Matters

24/001086/FUL Part two storey part single storey rear extension and alterations to existing single storey rear projection at 89 Towngate

There were no objections to this application.

06.25 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:

£ 306.50	British Gas	Gas (Changing Rooms)
£ 89.29	British Gas	Electricity (Hub)
£ 67.43	British Gas	Electricity (Changing Rooms)
£ 84.45	Waterplus	Water/wastewater (Hub)
£ 30.36	Easy Websites	Website
£ 30.36	Vodafone	Broadband (Hub)
£ 516.00	John Hy Mayor and Sons	Christmas tree
£ 354.00	Ecclestone Electrical Services	Replacement outside lights
£ 2798.98	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements
£ 19.00	Chorley Council	Business rates (Changing Rooms)
£ 410.15	British Gas	Gas (Hub)
£ 59.97	British Gas	Gas (Changing Rooms)

07.25 2025-26 Precept

A draft budget requiring a 20% increase in council tax was presented. A motion to hold the precept at the current level, using balances from budgets for the Will Trust and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), was tabled. An alternative motion was tabled to increase the precept in line with the presented budget, due to increases in staff costs, limitations on spending of CIL monies and the uncertainty surrounding the possible uses of the Will Trust.

Resolved: the Precept for 2025-26 was set at £61999.

08.25 Deposit Accounts

This item was deferred to allow additional time for investigation of the alternative investment accounts which may be available.

09.25 Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting

Suggestions for Neighbourhood Priorities had been invited. Updates on projects for a village entrance marker at Heskin Bridge and improvements to Mill Lane are to be requested. Suggestions for priorities included a contribution towards the cost of drainage on the Millennium Green and lighting for a path between Beechfields and Reeveswood and improvements to Church Walks, although this was acknowledged as an Lancashire County Council issue.

10.25 Chorley Liaison Meeting

Councillors had no suggestions for items for the meeting agenda. Information was provided on proposals for local government reorganisation affecting Lancashire.

11.25 Clerk's Report

A request from a resident for a grit bin on Snipewood has been passed on to Lancashire County Council.

An application to fill one of the councillor vacancies had been received.

12.25 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

13.25 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 13 February 2025.

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

Eccleston Parish Council

Budget 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

Budgets:

Salaries	36500
General office expenses	800
Staff Costs	500
Community Hub	4000
Changing Rooms	5000
Repairs and replacements	1000
Grounds maintenance	7500
Open Spaces	2500
Newsletter	1500
Donations	1500
Subscriptions/entries	800
Training	300
Christmas celebrations	800
Village activities	1000
Communications	500
Audit	800
Insurance	5000
Sundries	1000
CIL (balance of budget)	100000
General Reserve	500
Earmarked Reserves	1200
Will Trust	<u>200000</u>
Budget totals	<u><u>372700</u></u>

Financed by:

Estimated balance as at 01.04.2025	309065
Proposed precept	61999
Top up grant	<u>1636</u>
	<u><u>372700</u></u>