

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 12 June 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 and A Whittaker.

Also present: 6 Members of the Public.

66.25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors D Graham and H Thomas and County Councillor M Wade.

67.25 Declarations of Interests

None declared.

68.25 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 8 May 2025

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

69.25 Public Participation

Representatives from St Agnes Church PCC provided information in support of a grant application towards the renovation of the clock was considered. The church will be holding additional fundraising activities.

70.25 Planning Matters

25/00459/ADV Application for advertising consent for the display of 1no. non illuminated free standing sign at Ecclestone Cricket Club, Doctors Lane

25/00489/MNMA Minor non-material amendment to planning permission ref 21/01360/FULHH (Erection of detached garage (following demolition of existing garage) and elevational alterations to existing property including replacement of integral garage door with window and brickwork) involving alterations to approved detached garage including replacing garage door with bifold doors, window to replace door in side elevation, and changes to materials at 32 Hawkswood

There were no objections to these applications.

Information regarding the redevelopment of the Camelot site was provided. An image of a site plan was also provided.

71.25 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 from St Agnes Church PCC for a contribution towards the renovation of the clock was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £500.00 was awarded, to be paid from the CIL budget.

iii) A request from Ecclestone Primary School PTA for a contribution towards the cost of play sand was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £75.00 was awarded.

iv) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 104.97	Everflow	Water/wastewater (Changing Rooms)
£ 80.12	British Gas	Electricity (Hub)
£ 128.82	British Gas	Electricity (Changing Rooms)

£ 30.36	Easy Websites	Website
£ 98.65	Waterplus	Water/wastewater (Hub)
£ 1050.00	John Finnamore Ltd	Car park repairs
£ 910.32	Croston Plumbing and Heating	Boiler repairs (Hub)
£ 35.00	LALC	Councillor training
£ 3779.18	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements
£ 31.42	Vodafone	Broadband (Hub)
£ 52.00	Chorley Council	Business rates (Changing Rooms)
£ 83.37	Everflow	Water/wastewater (Changing Rooms)
£ 42.35	British Gas	Gas (Changing Rooms)
£ 105.49	British Gas	Electricity (Hub)

72.25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
The Annual Governance and Accountability Return was considered.

- i) The Internal Auditor's report was noted.
- ii) Resolved: the Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
- iii) Resolved: the Accounting Statements, having been signed by the Responsible Financial Officer prior to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

73.25 E Bretherton Deceased Will Trust

The formation of an appointed committee to administer funds arising from the proceeds of the Will Trust was considered. It was proposed the bequest should be invested in an interest bearing account and that the interest generated used to provide grants for the betterment of the village and its residents. The original capital received is not to be utilised, with only the interest being spent. This would involve accumulating the interest during the financial year within the existing Will Trust budget, with all funds above the original bequest being available for distribution.

The Committee is to vet applications and present recommendations to the Parish Council for approval. Councillors D Biggs, R Bland, and Brown offered to join the committee.

Resolved: Councillors D Biggs, R Bland and Brown were appointed to the Committee.

74.25 Bank Account Signatories

Following recent resignations, a need has arisen for additional signatories for the bank account. Councillors D Biggs and Miller offered to put their names forward.

Resolved: Councillors D Biggs and Miller were appointed as signatories.

75.25 IT Policy

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending 31 March 2026 will require all smaller authorities to have an Information Technology policy. A model policy, produced by the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) was presented for adoption.

Resolved: the model IT Policy was approved for adoption.

76.25 Clerk's Report

The gap in the hedge previously removed to create an access from the Parr Meadows development onto the Recreation Park has been fenced by the developer. The developer has also advised the gap will be replanted in the Autumn.

77.25 Reports from Outside Bodies

The Chairman provided a report from the recent LALC Conference. Presentations provided included information on the impact of changes on the parish and town council sector arising from devolution proposals, effective communications with communities and residents, General Data Protection Regulation and Freedom of Information compliance. Details of newly introduced savings accounts specifically aimed at parish and town councils were provided. A presentation by Lancashire County Council's Treescapes Officers containing details of opportunities for funding, tree planting projects across Lancashire and planting projects and ideas for working with local councils.

78.25 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 July 2025.

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