

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held 14 March 2019 at 7.30 pm in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present Councillors K Brown (Chairman), L Armstrong, D Bonney, M Brown, R Burns, H Caunce, V Caunce, W Mason, D Miller, H Thomas and A Whittaker.

Also present 6 Members of the Public

26.19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor J Holborn.

27.19 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

28.19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2019

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019 (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

29.19 Matters Arising

16.19 Cutting of the hedge on The Hawthorns Play area has been ordered.

16.19 The gully by Verdes has been cleared by Lancashire County Council.

20.19 Orders for Changing Rooms power supplies have been placed with the new supplier.

21.19 Replacement of the Car Park boundary fence has been ordered.

22.19 The order for Community Hub broadband provision has been placed. Chorley Council is to provide a secure router.

30.19 Public Participation

No items raised.

Resolved: Agenda items 8, 9, 10 and 11 were brought forward.

31.19 Village Clean up

Suggestions for improvements to the village were discussed. Litter was reported on lanes not covered by Parish council staff. Issues with overgrown hedges blocking pavements around the village were mentioned and details of problem properties are to be provided to the Clerk to contact the residents. The Bradley Lane pond is in need of a clean up and the owner is to be contacted. A resident has been throwing garden waste over a fence onto a verge on Langton Brow.

A number of suggestions were put forward including sponsorship for areas from local businesses, the setting up of a "clean up" committee, contacting local schools and the Scouts and including an article in the next newsletter mentioning litter and overgrown hedges to get the message across to local residents. A community clean-up was suggested and Councillors will be contacted to provide a convenient date.

32.19 Verge on The Green

HMP Wymott has offered to assist with producing wooden planters and the project, with support from local residents to carry out ongoing maintenance, was agreed as a Neighbourhood Priority for 2019-20. A visit to Wymott has been arranged and further details will be provided following the visit.

33.19 Silent Soldier Silhouette

A suggestion to permanently locate the silhouette on The Green was considered. A position along the grass to the rear of The Village Green was suggested and Councillors are to visit the site and provide suggestions for a position.

34.19 Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Admissions

A report of 15 local residents, who had been advised they had failed to obtain a place at Bishop Rawstone C of E Academy for the 2019 intake, were provided. Details of the history of the school and the Admissions Policy were provided. The admissions policy is weighted in favour of church attendance and it was suggested the policy is contrary to the original purpose of the school ie for young people living within the Foundation Parishes of Croston, Eccleston, Wrightington with Heskin, Mawdesley and Bretherton.

It was mentioned there were 450 applications for the 190 school places and, with the increase in housing numbers in Eccleston and Mawdesley, the situation is not likely to improve in the future.

Resolved: a letter is to be sent to Bishop Rawstone C of E Academy requesting the Governors relax the present policy to admit the 15 children not admitted this year, and in view of the current popularity of the School and the number of houses being built and sought to seek urgently to increase the intake to 7 or 8 form entry, with copies to be sent to the local MP's.

35.19 Planning Matters

19/00176/FULHH Single storey front extension at The Old Orchard, Preston Nook

There were no objections to this application.

36.19 Financial Matters

i) The financial monitoring statement was considered.

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

ii) A grant request from Eccleston Library towards the costs of visiting speakers was considered.

Resolved: a grant of up to £250, to be drawn down as and when required, was awarded.

iii) Resolved: the following payments were approved, the invoices having been inspected in accordance with fidelity guarantee requirements.

£ 268.75	Total Gas and Power	Gas (Hub)
£ 1.20	Northern Trust	Lease
£ 300.00	S Croniken Tree Services	Tree pruning
£ 48.00	S M Sheet Metal	Leg press repair
£ 965.49	Employee 1	Salary and reimbursements
£ 496.53	Employee 2	Salary and reimbursements
£ 679.53	Employee 3	Salary
£ 125.14	HM Revenue and Customs	Tax/NI
£ 460.00	DWG (NW)	Repairs, tree pruning and tree planting
£ 64.00	Chorley Council	Business rates
£ 422.02	Total Gas and Power	Gas (Hub)
£ 130.20	Total Gas and Power	Electricity (Hub)
£ 364.65	British Gas	Gas (Changing Rooms)

37.19 Risk Assessment

Councillors completed the annual review in accordance with the publication 'Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England'. The existing procedures and controls were found to be adequate.

Resolved: the adequacy of the existing controls was noted.

38.19 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed. Model documents had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Several items were raised relating to the model documents and Councillors are to provide the Clerk with details of proposed amendments for discussion at the next meeting.

39.19 Lancashire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres consultation

A consultation on revised opening times was considered. It was suggested the proposed detriment to the service would result in increased fly tipping. Councillors were advised they could also comment as individuals.

Resolved: an objection to the proposal is to be submitted to Lancashire County Council.

40.19 Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

Comments made earlier in the meeting were taken into account and there was no proposer for entry into the competition.

41.19 Reports from Outside Bodies

Community Hub - electrical work is to be carried out at the end of March and a projector has been ordered.

42.19 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 11 April 2019.