

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting held 8 May 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, M Brown, D Graham, H Thomas and A Whittaker.

Also present: 4 Members of the Public.

51.25 Election of Chairman

Cllr Miller was elected as Chairman for 2025-26. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.

52.25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bonney.

53.25 Declarations of Interests

None declared.

54.25 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Thomas was elected as Vice Chairman for 2025/26.

55.25 Other Appointments

The following appointments were confirmed:

i) Committee appointments:

Open Spaces Committee - Councillors E Biggs, R Bland, Bonney, Miller, and Thomas.

Village Activities Committee - Councillors R Bland, Brown, Graham, Miller and Thomas.

Personnel Committee - Councillors Bonney, Graham, and S Bland.

ii) Appointments to Outside Bodies:

Chorley Liaison - Cllr Whittaker

Lancashire Association of Local Councils Chorley Area Committee - Cllr Graham.

Peter Lathom Charity - Councillors Graham and Miller

Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting - Cllr Miller

iii) Lead Member for Planning - Cllr Miller.

56.25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 April 2025

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

57.25 Public Participation

The situation regarding the heating system at The Hub was queried. The Clerk advised a replacement fan has been ordered and is to be fitted later in the month.

It was reported the developer had removed part of the hedge to create an access from the Parr Meadows development onto the Recreation Park.

58.25 Planning Matters

25/00350/FULHH Erection of outbuilding (greenhouse and store) at Marl Barn, Parr Lane

There were no objections to this application.

59.25 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. A representative from the Church is to be invited to the next meeting to provide additional information

Prior to the approval of the requests for payment, a motion was tabled to withhold £100 from the payment to J T and K J Waterworth. The motion was not seconded

iii) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 592.04	Everflow	Water/wastewater (Changing Rooms)
£ 158.99	British Gas	Electricity (Changing Rooms)
£ 391.83	British Gas	Gas (Changing Rooms)
£ 30.36	Easy Websites	Website
£ 93.08	Waterplus	Water/wastewater (Hub)
£ 673.43	LALC	Annual subscription
£ 150.00	Internal Auditor	Internal audit fee
£ 1692.00	J T & K J Waterworth	Hedge cutting
£ 3045.62	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements
£ 31.52	Vodafone	Broadband (Hub)
£ 52.00	Chorley Council	Business rates (Changing Rooms)
£ 112.58	British Gas	Gas (Hub)
£ 14.28	British Gas	Gas (Changing Rooms)
£ 1239.57	Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment

60.25 Clerk

An advert for the Clerk's position was considered. Several examples were provided and an amended version of a current advert to include the position to be advertised at the current hours and rate of pay was selected.

61.25 Clerk's Report

Lancashire County Council had supplied and planted Alder trees on the Millennium Green to try to help alleviate the waterlogging.

Objections have been submitted to planning applications for construction of a 3 bedroom dormer bungalow at Sunnymead, Woodhart Lane (planning ref: 25/00210/FUL), erection of containerised storage units at Grove Park Industrial Estate (ref: 25/00132/FUL), and a change of use of land to open storage, including hardstanding on land 35m South of Units 1 – 12, Grove Park Industrial Estate (ref:25/00268/FUL).

62.25 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

63.25 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12 June 2025.

64.25 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.

65.25 Personnel Matters

Arrangements for temporary cover for the Village Caretaker were considered. The Clerk was authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

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