

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Council Meeting held 10 May 2018 at 7.30 pm in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

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

Also present 5 Members of the Public

58.18 Election of Chairman

Resolved: Cllr K Brown was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

The Chairman's acceptance of office was received.

59.18 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors H Caunce and J Holborn.

60.18 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

61.18 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Thomas was elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

62.17 Councillor Appointments

i) Committee appointments were as follows:

Open Spaces Committee - Councillors D Bonney, K Brown, Holborn, Miller and Thomas.

Village Activities Committee - Councillors Armstrong, M Brown, V Caunce and Thomas.

Personnel Committee - Councillors Bonney, Holborn and Mason.

ii) Lead Member for Planning - no nomination.

iii) Appointments to Outside Bodies were as follows:

Chorley Liaison - Cllr Whittaker.

Friends of St Mary's - Cllr K Brown.

Police Liaison - Cllr Mason.

Tree Warden - Cllr Mason.

Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting - no nomination. Cllr Whittaker will attend when possible.

63.18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 2018

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2018 (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

64.18 Matters Arising

53.18 Works to the polished floor in The Hub have been completed.

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

65.18 Public Participation

Clarification on insurance provision for the lamppost poppies is awaited.

A resident queried why the relocation of the War Memorial was on the agenda as he felt it had been dealt with at the previous meeting. Councillors advised the previous agenda item had resulted in a specific resolution and it had been thought necessary and advisable to include an item on this agenda to clarify the position of the Parish Council in relation to the issue.

A resident advised of litter problems on the Millennium Green and that the village was generally untidy. The Volunteer Group had been assisting with litter on the Millennium Green. The resident also felt the number of posts installed to protect the verge by the Millennium Green was insufficient. The meeting was advised the posts had been installed by Lancashire County Council and were intended to protect the verge at the entrance.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

66.18 Planning Matters

18/00182/FULHH Two storey side/rear extension and single storey rear extension at 87 Towngate

18/00327/DIS Discharge of condition 4 (external facing stone and roofing materials re 17/00298/LBC (erection of detached garage, conversion of existing garage to domestic use and associated works at 119 Towngate

18/00345/FULHH Two storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) at 1 Towngate Court, Towngate

18/00376/FUL Section 73 application to vary conditions 12, 13 and 14 (Code for Sustainable Homes) attached to planning permission 15/00080/FUL (Erection of one detached dwellinghouse) at Low Row Cottage, 103 Towngate

18/00377/DIS Application to discharge conditions 4 (boundary treatment), 5 (levels), 6 (landscaping), and 9 (external facing materials) attached to planning permission 15/00080/FUL for the erection of one detached dwellinghouse at Low Row Cottage, 103 Towngate

18/00378/FULHH Part two storey, part first floor side extension at 8 The Croft

18/00408/FUL Change of use at ground floor from retail (use class A1) to dog grooming salon (use class sui generis), sub-division of existing dwelling to form a one bedroom flat at ground floor and a two bedroom flat at first floor, elevational alterations, erection of new roof to single storey side extension and formation of new car park (following demolition of existing outbuildings) at 287 The Green

18/00421/CLPUD Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed detached garage (following demolition of existing detached garage) at Avondale, Towngate

67.18 Financial Matters

i) Evidence of the receipt of the Precept was noted.

ii) Councillors considered the monthly financial monitoring statement.

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

iii) A grant request from North West Air Ambulance towards operating costs was considered.

Resolved: a grant of £500 was awarded.

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

£	970.00	K Langshaw Property Services	Hub floor
£	35.00	DWG (NW)	Weedkiller
£	100.00	Eccleston Scout Group	Newsletter delivery
£	700.20	Employee 1	Salary
£	499.00	Employee 2	Salary
£	38.34	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£	679.53	Employee 3	Salary

£	124.60	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax/NI
£	65.08	Chorley Council	Business rates
£	65.93	Water Plus	Surface water charge
£	388.21	Npower	Electricity (Hub)
£	1239.57	Public Works Loans Board	Loan repayment
£	144.51	Total Gas and Power	Gas (Hub)

68.18 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

Councillors considered the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Councillors reviewed the Asset Register.

Resolved: the Asset Register was approved and signed by the Chairman.

Resolved: the Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Resolved: the Statement of Accounts was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

69.18 War Memorial Relocation

The Chairman clarified the position relating to the inclusion of this item, which was to formally provide the Parish Council's position of the relocation. A letter, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, was read out detailing a willingness to meet, only if the Council expresses agreement to pursue the relocation.

During a lengthy debate, many items were discussed, including the methods of consultation, the possibility of an alternative structure on the Village Green and who would cover the cost. It was noted responses to the Council were generally in favour of the move however, social media comment was generally against.

In order to provide the Council's position on the relocation, the question of whether Councillors were in favour of moving the Memorial was put to the vote. Following a tied vote the Chairman's casting vote was against the relocation.

As this is a highly emotive and divisive topic within the village, the PCC is to be contacted advising of the closeness of the vote and to request a meeting with two members of the Council at which the PCC can be made aware of the emotions involved.

70.18 Eccleston Community Hub

The works to the floor have been completed and chairs purchased from a closed hotel. Another area of the floor is in need of covering, further interior painting is required and folding tables are needed. Donations and grant funding are being sought. Discussions are underway with Chorley Council regarding wi-fi connection. The Hub Committee is looking to contact the young people to discuss what sort of a facility they would like.

A report on the financial position was provided and the Committee was requested to provide reports at future meetings.

71.18 Communications

A change to the format of the newsletter to an A5 coloured booklet style was considered. It was mentioned there may be insufficient time to reformat the June edition.

Resolved: newsletters will be produced in the new format.

Councillors considered the replacement of the current website.

Resolved: a new website, costing £150 for the first year is to be set up.

72.18 General Data Protection Regulation

Information was provided on forthcoming changes to Data Protection laws which will require an action plan to be worked through to ensure compliance over the coming months.

73.18 Lancashire County Council Consultations

Consultations relating to the proposed reduction in funding for community transport in Lancashire and the proposed ceasing of routine streetlight inspections, with testing of streetlights and illuminated signs, due to the introduction of LED lighting, to be carried on a 10 year cycle rather than the current 5 year cycle were considered. The contents of the streetlighting consultations were noted.

Resolved: Lancashire County Council is to be advised any reduction in the provision of community transport will impact unfairly on vulnerable members of rural communities.

74.18 Reports from Outside Bodies

A report from the Lancashire Association of Local Councils AGM was provided. Information had been provided on new legislation relating to the Data Protection Act, playgrounds and possible amendments to the Code of Conduct.

The latest crime figures were provided. There were 10 reported crimes.

75.18 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 June 2018.

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