

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 12 October 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present: Councillors M Miller (Chairman), D Graham, A Marsh, D Miller, H Thomas, A Whittaker and O Williams.

Also present: Borough Councillor Singh and 4 Members of the Public

125.23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Bland, D Bonney, M Brown and C Heath.

126.23 Declarations of Interests

None declared.

127.23 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2023

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

128.23 Public Participation

A resident queried when the repairs to the Hub would be carried out. The Clerk advised work was due to start next week. The resident also mentioned youths climbing onto the roof and queried when works to the path around the Recreation Park would be carried out. The Clerk advised, as the installation of the replacement play equipment would involve the use of heavy vehicles, this would be dealt with once the replacement had been completed.

Assistance with this year's Poppy display was requested. The Poppies will be put up on 28 October.

A young resident provided details of a Selection Collection Box project she is looking to carry out. This will involve collection points around the village for donations of chocolate which will be passed on to a charity for onward distribution to those less fortunate. Councillors were impressed with the initiative of the young resident.

A resident of a property adjacent to the Recreation Park has requested the Parish Council carry out works to tree branches overhanging a garden. This will be considered by the Open Spaces Committee.

129.23 Planning Matters

23/00740/TPO Application for work to protected trees - Chorley BC TPO 5 (Ecclestone) 1982: Oak - crown thin and crown reduction at Mapleleaf, 35 Red House Lane

23/00788/FULHH Two storey side and rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory and rear projection at 141 The Green

23/00795/FUL Section 73 application to variation condition no. 3 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 22/00182/FUL (Erection of 1no. detached three storey dwelling to replace the original approved house type for Plot 1), detached double garage, gabion wall and associated works) new second floor opening window fixed unit with obscured glass at Land to the South West of Ricmarlo Preston Nook

23/00829/FULHH Single storey rear extension at 23 Drapers Avenue

23/00840/FUL Change of use of existing barn, to stables, tack room and home office at Ecclestone Hall Lydiate Lane

There were no objections to these applications.

130.23 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:

£ 28.85	Vodafone	Broadband (Hub) - August
£ 35.00	Information Commissioner	Date Protection registration
£ 339.55	Lancashire County Council	Cleaning (Hub) - August, September
£ 457.70	Wernick Hire	Hire - temporary changing rooms
£ 124.80	PFA Consulting	Prison Inquiry consultancy fees
£ 2591.07	Staff costs	Salaries, deductions and reimbursements
£ 28.85	Vodafone	Broadband (Hub) - September
£ 18.00	Chorley Council	Business rates (Changing Rooms)
£ 76.84	British Gas	Electricity (Hub)
£ 34.44	SSE	Electricity (Changing Rooms)
£ 81.53	Everflow	Water, wastewater and surface water (Hub)

131.23 Internal Audit Review

The annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit was carried out.

Resolved: the current system of internal audit was found to be adequate.

Councillors considered the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the current financial year and the internal audit fee.

Resolved: Mrs A Partington was appointed and the fee set at £110.

132.23 Speeding Vehicles

Residents of the village, and neighbouring villages, had raised concerns regarding the speed of vehicles. A localised consultation with properties on Towngate, regarding the siting of a solar powered speed indicator device in the vicinity of their properties, had resulted in objections and discussions are ongoing with Lancashire County Council Highways Officers regarding alternative potential sites. The Police are to be asked to have the permanent speed devices put into operation. A scheme in Manchester, where residents are provided with hand held speed guns, was mentioned.

133.23 Remembrance Parade

Details of the arrangements for the Remembrance Parade were confirmed.

134.23 2024-25 Precept

Preliminary discussions regarding the precept took place. It was mentioned funds would need to be accumulated for the replacement of The Hub. It was confirmed Community Infrastructure Levy funds due to be received later this month and in April 2024 will be taken into account. Councillors are to provide the Clerk with suggestions for any major projects for consideration.

135.23 Climate and Ecology Bill

A request for support for the Climate and Ecology Bill, which is currently going through Parliament. Details of the request were noted.

136.23 Clerk's Report

Community Hub - youths have been climbing onto the roof and causing nuisance to groups using the premises. Anti-climb paint is to be applied and CCTV footage offered to the Police. Damage had also be caused to a drain cover to the rear of the building and this had been replaced.

Recreation Park Play Area - a site meeting with the supplier and contractor had been held and work is scheduled to commence early November.

A request from St Agnes Church to erect banners on the Village Green and the verge at the entrance to The Hawthorns had been received. Councillors agreed to the request however, the banner on the Village Green is not to be erected until after Remembrance Day.

137.23 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

138.23 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9 November 2023.

139.23 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 items on the grounds that the items comprise information relating to any individual, information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, in accordance with Part 1, (paragraphs 1, 2 and 3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, is exempt from public disclosure, was considered.

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 items.

140.23 Website

The provision of an alternative website, via Easy Websites, a company which provides facilities for a number of local parish councils, at a monthly cost of £23.00 (+VAT), was considered.

Resolved: a website is to be provided by Easy Websites.

141.23 Changing Rooms

A settlement offer of £11568.91, for the repairs and ancillary costs, provided by the Insurance Company's Loss Adjuster was considered,.

Resolved: settlement offer was accepted.

142.23 Personnel Matters

A complaint from a resident, submitted anonymously via email, was considered.

The complainant is to be advised the Council will not consider complaints submitted anonymously.

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