

# ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING: Open Spaces Committee, Thursday 3 April 2025, 7:30pm.

VENUE: Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

## A G E N D A

1. Apologies  
To receive apologies for absence.
2. Declaration of Interests  
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or pecuniary interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, or brought up at any point in this meeting, in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct.
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 August 2024  
To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting distributed to Members.
4. Public Participation  
The meeting will be adjourned.  
Members of the public may raise issues with the Committee. No legal decisions may be taken.
5. Recreation Park Improvement Project Phase 2  
To receive an update from the Fundraising Group and discuss suggestions for Phase 2 of the project.  
To approve the payment of the 3rd Party contribution in respect of the Lancashire Environmental Fund grant.
6. Recreation Park Hedge Cutting  
To discuss the cutting of the hedges on the Recreation Park.

*Abm Platt*

**CLERK**

Published: 29/03/2025

Eccleston Parish Council

Open Spaces Committee

Reports for the meeting 3 April 2025

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Declarations of Interests**

**3. Minutes of Meeting held on 6 August 2024**

**4. Public Participation**

**5. Recreation Park Improvement Project Phase 2**

An update will be provided by the Fundraising Group. This will include details of grant offers received.

Proposals for the additional equipment (zipwire and climbing net) will be provided. Once final figures are confirmed Members will be asked to consider funding for any shortfall.

Members will be asked to approve a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contribution of £4400 to be paid to the Lancashire Environmental Fund to release a £30,000 grant.

**6. Hedge cutting**

Members will discuss the recent hedge cutting works carried out on the Recreation Park.

Weather conditions in March allowed the machinery to access the Recreation park to carry out the long overdue works to the hedges.

The work was carried out in accordance with the Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024 (statutory guidance).

During the works a post was knocked over and some damage occurred to a resident's fence. These issues will be taken up with the contractor.

## ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on 6 August 2024 at Eccleston Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Eccleston.

Present Cllrs M Miller (Chairman), R Bland, C Heath, D Miller, H Thomas and O Williams.

Also present Cllr A Whittaker and 4 members of the public.

### 07.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Bonney.

### 08.24 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

### 09.24 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2024

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

### 10.24 Public Participation

Residents reiterated complaints made at council meetings regarding the cutting of the shrubs and hedges on the Hawthorns Play Area carried out in May. Opinions regarding the works had been provided by two local arboriculturists. The opinions were contrary to each other. Future action was discussed and suggestions put forward, including replacement of the shrubs with grass. Advice is to be sought from Chorley Council's Open Spaces Officers for suggestions for the area.

### 11.24 Hawthorns Play Area

In order to provide clarification in the future for contractors carrying out works to shrubs on the play area and avoid a repeat of concerns raised by residents following the works undertaken in May, Members considered the recommendation of the adoption of all, or parts of, Chorley Council's Hedge and Shrub Maintenance Policy for approval by full council.

Resolved: adoption of Chorley Council's Hedge and shrub maintenance policy is to be recommended for approval by full council.

A resident's suggestion for signage to be used during and following the application of weedkiller was considered. As the product used is RHS Advanced Bio-Degradable Formula, which is Glyphosate free, signage was not deemed necessary.

### 12.24 Grass Cutting

A specification for the grass cutting contract for areas owned or managed by the Council was discussed. The Village Caretaker is to be asked whether the play areas at The Hawthorns and the Recreation Park might be cut with a push mower and the Football Club is to be asked whether the playing surfaces should be included in the contract.

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

.....(Chairman)