

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES (subject to approval at the next meeting) 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.