


ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING: Open Spaces Committee, Wednesday 6 August 2025, 7:30pm.

VENUE: Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

A G E N D A

1. Election of Chairman
To elect the Chairman of the Committee.
2. Apologies
To receive apologies for absence.
3. 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.
4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2025
To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting distributed to Members.
5. 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
 - i) To approve works to trees on the Park.
 - ii) To consider works to hedges.
 - iii) To consider the replacement of the notice board.
6. Millennium Green
 - i) To consider works to Silver Birch trees.
 - ii) To consider replacement of the entrance sign
 - iii) To consider the provision of a Myawaki Micro Forest.
 - iv) To consider the installation of a fence along the ditch.
7. The Hawthorns
 - i) To consider planting of fruit trees on the verge at the entrance to the estate.
 - ii) To consider planting of low lying fruit trees and infill gaps in hedges on the Play Area.
8. Village Green
To consider a suggestion to place a Remembrance seat will be considered.
9. Tree Policy
To consider the adoption of amendments in line with revisions to Chorley Council's policy.


CLERK

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Eccleston Parish Council
Open Spaces Committee
Reports for the meeting 2025

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interests

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 3 April 2025

4. Public Participation

5. Recreation Park

- i) An update of Phase 2 of the Play Area project will be provided by the Fundraising Group. This will include details of grant offers received.

- ii) During a meeting with a Lancashire County Council's Treescapes Officers who were providing advice and assistance on several potential projects around the village, issues with a number of the trees on the Park were identified. The Officers recommended a Tree Surgeon used by them and a subsequent inspection has revealed 29 trees on the Recreation Park are in need of works/removal, the majority of which have been identified as suffering from Ash Dieback. The recommendation is for the removal of 12 trees, removal of dead wood on 15 trees and pollarding of 2 trees.

All branches will be processed through a wood chipper with chippings blown into woodland and raked level with timber to be left neat and tidy in woodland (not obstructing footpaths) for natural decay and habitats.

Total cost for all works is £2825.00.

- iii) The contractor was also asked to look at reducing the height of the hedge to the side of the football pitch, with a view to the possible laying of the hedge in the future. The contractor advises a flail is not a viable option, due to the amount of hedge having to be removed and the potential for flying debris hitting the nearby properties and vehicles. The remaining option is to cut by hand to a height of approx 2.5m, including blowing the wood chip back into the shrub bed where possible and raking level. Where this is not possible it would be removed from site. It is recommended completing the works outside of nesting season.

Total cost for all works is £1420.00.

- iv) The notice board is showing signs of wear. The board is rocking in the mountings due to the wooden posts rotting and the actual board is not weatherproof. Members will be asked to consider replacing the board with an aluminium version similar to the Community Board by Verdes however, it is suggested the Recreation Park board should be obtained with a dark green powder coating.

Details available at:

<https://www.earth-anchors.com/product/economy-9-x-a4-h105-x-w75cm-single-door/>

Cost of power coated board, including header board and legs is £648 (+VAT). There will be an addition cost for installation

- v) A suggestion to convert the goal end on the Park to a small climbing wall will be considered. The cost of climbing wall grips is low however installation would be required.

6. Millennium Green

- i) A request to cut back or remove Silver Birch trees on the Newlands side of the Green will be considered. The relevant section of the Parish Council's current Tree Policy states "Council will not take action" for the following:

"Other issues including:

- Excessive leaf/fruit/blossom/twig fall
- Complaints regarding allergies (pollen/seed), insect sap, bird droppings or bees/wasp nest
- Perceived risk of damage from a tree
- Root ingress into underground drainage (roots will generally enter drains that are already damaged/evidence required).
- Tree deemed too large
- Satellite and/or TV reception
- Interference with telephone lines (responsibility of service provider)"

- ii) Replacement of the wooden signboard at the entrance to the Millennium Green will be considered. Proposal is for manufacture and installation of a laser cut sign "Eccleston Parish Council Millennium Green" 1500mm by 1500mm on steel posts at a cost of £2000.

- iii) Myawaki Micro forest

Estimated cost between £5000-£6000 (inc VAT). LCC Treescapes Officer advises "whilst this is still an estimate, largely because the tree nurseries have yet to tell us their new season rates, we can say with confidence that the price will fall into this bracket, and will, more likely than not, be at the bottom end of it. It may even fall below it." The cost includes:

- Excavation and cultivation of the planting site, including burying unearthed debris
- Incorporation of approximately 10 tonnes of spent mushroom compost. This is a blend of manures, previously used to grow mushrooms commercially
- Top dressing with about the same quantity of bark chip mulch
- Fencing the plot perimeter with chestnut paling, including the option of a gate
- 850 trees and shrubs, planted inside the fence, once the 2025 nursery stock is released.
- Other small trees, planted just outside the fence, providing a soft transition from grass to trees
- Inoculation of tree roots with Rootgrow. Rootgrow is a natural product, containing fungi which enable the trees to rapidly establish themselves

In addition to the capital items and work carried out by a contractor, under LCC Treescapes supervision, Treescapes will provide the following:

- Prestart desktop searches - utilities, conservation designations etc.
- Project management
- Supervision of, and assistance with setting up, community task days to put the fence up (this could be done by a contractor if you prefer) and plant the trees
- Selection of the tree assemblage and handling the nursery stock, prior to planting
- Aftercare and advice.

- iv) The installation of a fence along the ditch between the Millennium Green and properties on The Green will be considered. Approximate costings for the installation of a stock fence are £11.45 per metre and preparation/removal of old fence £3.45 per metre.

7. The Hawthorns

- i) A suggestion for the planting of fruit trees on the verge at the entrance to The Hawthorns estate will be considered. At last season's prices, the trees, plus all the accessories needed for planting, come to a little over £600, plus carriage. The new catalogue is expected shortly and this figure is expected to increase.

LCC Treescapes have planted similar varieties successfully in a community orchard at Moss Field, Mawdesley. They're all disease resistant, well suited to long term tending by non-professionals. Generally, maintenance of these varieties consists of nothing more than seasonal pruning. Treescapes can run a short training session on pruning, once the trees are established.

- ii) A suggestion for the planting of low growing stock fruit trees in the grassed area of the Hawthorns Play Area will be considered. This will include planting, spread wide enough for the mower, infilling of the gaps in the hedges with new whips, clearance of weeds and trimming of growth on the hedges. Cost approx £700.

(cont.)

8. Remembrance Seat

A suggestion to purchase a Remembrance seat, to be situated in the village, either at on the Village Green or on the pathway next to Verdes, backing on to the pond will be considered.

Price for Lest We Forget Bench Seat is £1,478 (+VAT).

Price for stainless-steel dedication plaque 120x80mm (40-45 words) is £67+VAT.

Price for a bolt down kit to secure to a hard standing is £15+VAT or alternatively price for a set of underground leg extensions for securing into a soft standing is £36+VAT.

Delivery for 1no seat delivered to Lancashire is £125+VAT.

The seat is manufactured from steel, hot dip galvanized for weather and corrosion protection, then wet painted in 2-pack acrylic paint system in your colour of choice. They are virtually vandal proof, maintenance free and come with a 25-year guarantee against rust and corrosion.

Details of an example can be viewed at www.davidogilvie.com

Should the Committee agree to obtaining the seat, the following suggestions will be considered:

- a) enquiries to be made as to who is the oldest male and female residents in the village with a view to inviting them to present the bench.
- b) invite the press to attend the presentation.
- c) agree the wording on a dedication plaque.

9. Tree Policy

Member will consider amendments to the Tree policy in line with revisions to Chorley Council's policy. If agreed, as a policy change, this would be recommended to Full Council for approval.

Chorley Council's revised Action on Requests for Tree Works are as follows:

Dangerous Trees	Made safe within 48 hours
Non-Urgent Requests	Scheduled based on available budgets.
Overhanging Branches	As a good neighbour, the Council will investigate overhanging branches from Council-owned trees on a case-by-case basis and where: A branch poses an unacceptable risk to people or property Branches are in physical contact with a structure (e.g., rubbing against roofs/ gutters). The work is beyond the reasonable maintenance means of the property owner that is causing an issue (e.g., large/ high branches).
Trees Blocking Light	The Council does not prune or fell trees solely to improve natural light to private properties. However, action may be taken if: Light restriction is severely impacting other Council-managed trees or vegetation There is evidence of a significant detriment to a private property 'Significant' is assessed case-by-case, considering factors like property use, duration of issue, and environmental balance.
TV/Satellite Reception	The Council will not trim or remove trees to improve TV or satellite signal.
Solar Panels	The Council will not trim or remove trees to improve sunlight to solar panels.
Seasonal Debris	The Council will not trim or remove trees to reduce leaf fall, fruit, or other debris. Exceptions may be made in cases of anti-social behaviour.
Large/Tall Trees	The Council will not trim or remove trees solely because they are large or tall.
Tree Roots	The Council will not trim or remove trees to prevent root spread into gardens. Property owners may trim roots back to the boundary but must ensure this does not harm the tree. If the tree is harmed, the owner may be liable.
Private Funding for Works to Council-Owned Trees	The Council will not accept private funding for tree works. Private individuals or companies do not have the right to undertake tree works on Council land.

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on 3 April 2025 at Eccleston Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Eccleston.

Present Cllrs M Miller (Chairman), D Bonney and R Bland.

Also present Councillors D Biggs, S Bland, A Whittaker and 2 members of the public.

01.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr C Heath, D Miller and H Thomas.

02.25 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

03.25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 August 2024

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

04.25 Public Participation

A resident of Newlands requested work be carried out to trees on the Millenium Green which are causing shading of a garden. A tree surgeon will be asked to inspect the trees.

The use of CIL funds towards a path on the Millennium Green to a new rear entrance for Eccleston Primary School, to alleviate traffic problems on Doctors Lane, was requested, together with the provision of a car park at the Red House Lane entrance.

Drainage on the Millennium Green was mentioned. Contractors will be asked to investigate the possibility of drainage.

Recent hedge cutting on the Recreation Park had caused concerns for some residents.

A representative from the Recreation Park Fundraising Group provided information regarding Phase 2 of the project, which involves a sensory garden, a zip wire and a climbing net. The Group has two quotations for the equipment and additional quote is to be obtained. Fundraising is continuing and a contribution from the Parish Council, which is required to release a grant from the Lancashire Environmental Fund was requested. The shortfall in funding is expected to be a maximum of £20,000. It was pointed out the Committee has spending powers from the CIL budget however, once the final figure is provided, the approval of the Parish Council will be sought.

05.25 Recreation Park Improvement Project - Phase 2

The Fundraising Group requested a third party contribution of £3,300 from the Parish Council, which is required to release a £30,000 grant from the Lancashire Environmental Fund.

Resolved: the third party contribution of £3,300 was approved.

06.25 Recreation Park Hedge Cutting

The hedge cutting was discussed. The work had been put off for several years due to financial constraints and weather conditions and the contractors had carried out the work as requested, with Council Staff examining the hedges for live nests.

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

.....(Chairman)