

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES (subject to approval at the next meeting) of the meeting held on 6 August 2025 at Eccleston Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Eccleston.

Present Cllrs M Miller (Chairman), E Biggs, D Bonney, R Bland and H Thomas.

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

07.25 Election of Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Miller was elected as Chairman.

08.25 Apologies for Absence

None received.

09.25 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

10.25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2025

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

11.25 Public Participation

A resident of Newlands had requested work be carried out to trees on the Millenium Green which are causing shading of a garden. Some Members present expressed support for the request.

The Eccleston, Heskin and Charnock Richard Ward Councillors have put in a bid to Chorley Council for a replacement entrance board for the Millennium Green, which would display the plaque containing the names of contributors to the original project. It is hoped to incorporate the existing header board.

The Scouts have removed wire fencing on the Recreation Park.

A representative from the Recreation Park Fundraising Group advised the Lancashire Environmental Fund grant application was successful. The Group is waiting for finalised quotations for Phase 2 of the project.

A suggestion was put forward for a commemorative seat to be placed on Parr Lane, replacing the existing problematical seat. This would require a concrete plinth. The poor condition of another seat, in the grounds of St Mary's Church, believed to be connected to an historic Best Kept Village Competition was also reported.

12.25 Recreation Park

A recent site meeting with representatives from Lancashire County Council's Treescapes Team identified one dead Fir Tree, a number of trees suffering from Ash Dieback and several trees in need of works to make them safe. A contractor recommend by Treescapes had inspected the trees and provided a quotation.

Resolved: the quotation of £2825.00 was accepted.

The contractor had also looked at the hedge line along the Northern boundary of the football pitch. The hedge can be reduced in height to allow for future hedge laying.

Resolved: the quotation of £1420.00 was accepted.

The wooden notice board is in poor condition and is in need of replacement. A powder coated aluminium board can be obtained for approx £650.00 + installation.

Resolved: a replacement notice board is to be obtained.

13.25 Millennium Green

A request from a resident of Newlands for work be carried out to trees on the Millennium Green was considered. It was noted the proposed works were not in keeping with the Council's Tree Policy. Members agreed to refer the possible temporary suspension of the Tree Policy, to allow works to the trees, to Full Council.

The Treescapes Team had inspected the area to look at a solution to the problem of poor drainage and suggested the provision of a Myawaki Micro Forest. A cost of between £5000 and £6000 to include excavation, preparation and fencing of the planting site, provision of 850 trees and shrubs plus additional small trees planted outside the fence and ongoing maintenance, is envisaged.

Resolved: the provision of the micro forest, up to a maximum cost of £6000 was approved.

The installation of a fence along the ditch between the Millennium Green and properties on The Green will be considered. The length is approx 60m and costings for the installation of a stock fence are £11.45 per metre, with preparation/removal of old fence £3.45 per metre. A request was made for the contractor to look at overgrowth in the corner near the school.

Resolved: the installation of a stock fence was approved.

14.25 The Hawthorns

Treescapes had suggested planting fruit trees on the verge at the entrance to The Hawthorns estate. 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.

Resolved: the trees and accessories are to be ordered.

Treescapes had also suggested planting low growing stock fruit trees in the grassed area of the Hawthorns Play Area and infilling of gaps in the hedges with new whips. An approximate cost of £700 will also include clearance of weeds and trimming of growth on the hedges.

Resolved: the trees and works are to be ordered.

15.25 Remembrance Seat

Details of a specially made Remembrance seat, to replace the existing wooden seat on the stone circle, were provided. A proposal to purchase this seat, and an additional Remembrance seat for the verge by Verdes was tabled.

Resolved: two seats, up to a maximum cost of £4000 are to be ordered.

16.25 Tree Policy

Chorley Council's revised tree policy was considered. Members had no objections to the revised policy, which is to be referred to Full Council for approval.

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