

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 January 2017 at 7pm at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present Councillor N Ashcroft (Chairman)
Councillor R Barton (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor W Ashcroft
Councillor J Cunliffe
Councillor K Roughley
Councillor E Uren

Also in Attendance J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)
2 residents

134 Prayers: The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

135 Parish Matters:
St Helens Council's Local Plan Preferred Options – with the Parish Council's permission the Chairman varied the agenda and dealt with issues concerning residents that had attended the meeting. At the previous meeting residents had raised questions regarding the proposed release of land from the green belt between Crantock Grove and Houghtons Lane. The Clerk had contacted St Helens Council and invited a planning officer to attend the meeting. No one had been available to attend but the Clerk had received an email in reply to questions. Appendix 1 attached. Cllr Ashcroft read the email to the meeting. Residents were notified of the next consultation event to be held at Bleak Hill School on Thursday 19 January 2017 between 5pm and 8pm.

Cllr Cunliffe had attended a consultation event at St Helens Town Hall in December and had brought to the meeting a copy of the Local Plan and associated maps. He felt that St Helens Council would release green belt land for development in stages as he felt this may not cause as much opposition. He also informed the meeting the procedure for raising issues: the process did not have to be completed online but if correspondence was being posted it should be addressed to Planning directly making clear any points. Planners also recommended that if points were made in opposition then alternative suggestions should be made.

Cllr W Ashcroft stated that with the possibility of an extra 4,000 people with more cars and the already congested junction at Bleak Hill Road and Rainford Road, that cannot be improved, any objections should not be about the green belt but should be about the infrastructure that will effect residents. Cllr N Ashcroft read out a copy of a letter to St Helens Council from a resident which raised issues about the traffic congestion and infrastructure in the area.

Residents thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

136 Apologies: Councillor A Bate and Councillor A Dockerty

137 Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

138 Minutes of Meeting: The council received the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2016.

Resolved the minutes of the meeting be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

139 Matters Arising: (a) Cllr Barton asked for a letter be sent to the Head at Bleak Hill School requesting permission for an Honour Board to be installed listing Windle Parish Council's past Chairmen in memory of the late Cllr Mrs Sheila Barton. **The Councillors agreed and asked the Clerk to send the letter.**

140 Planning Matters:
a) **Applications:** None

b) **Decisions:**
Windle Grange Granted 19/12/16

Applications and Decisions were noted

141 Other Correspondence: (a) an invitation from the Mayor of St Helens to a Holocaust Memorial Service at St Helens Town Hall on Friday 27 January 2017 at 10am (b) email from a resident informing Parish Council of an advertising vehicle that had been parked in the turning circle of Rainford Road since before Christmas. Resident had informed St Helens Council.

142 Ecclesfield Sports Facility: Nothing to report.

143 SLCC: Nothing to report

144 Lynton Way Play Area: Nothing to report

145 J Malone Garden: Cllrs reported that it looked neat and tidy.

146 Christmas Reception: Cllr Ashcroft thanked everyone for their hard work. The event had been a success and she thanked everyone who contributed.

147 Reports from Other Bodies: None

148 Finance:

a) The Clerk advised that the balances at 31 December 2016 were:

Current Account	£5,251.30
Business Reserve	<u>£6,045.21</u>
TOTAL	£11,296.51

Payments –

		Chq
Rainforde Christmas Trees Ltd – tree at Bleak Hill School	150.00	2369
HMRC – PAYE Oct-Dec	186.60	2370
Brian Walsh – website maintenance	35.00	2371
Eccleston Parish Council room hire, telephone, copier service	48.44	2372
J Anderson – January	260.82	2373

b) Receipts –

NatWest – interest	0.10
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c) **Budget/Precept** – letter received from St Helens Council advising the Council Tax Base for 2017/18 would be 947 Band D equivalent properties (down 1 on last year – 948). Payment of the precept would be 50% on 20 April 2017, and 50% on 22 June 2017.

d) **Finance Committee Meeting** – arranged for 6 February 2017 at 7.30pm at Cllr Ashcroft's house

e) **Risk Assessment** – carried out and **resolved to accept and sign the document**

149 Date of Next Meeting: to be held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at 7.00pm at Eccleston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

APPENDIX 1

From: planningpolicy@sthelens.gov.uk
Date: Tue, January 17, 2017 3:55 pm
To: "Windle Parish Council" <clerk@windleparish.org.uk>

I am sorry for the delay in responding.

1) We will not be able to attend as we have two other evening consultation events that week, but I have prepared a response on the issues raised (please see below).

2) At the request of Windle Ward Councillors, we have now arranged a consultation event at Bleak Hill Primary school on Thursday 19th January from 5pm to 8pm, if there are queries from members of the public at the meeting this evening, they can be referred to the consultation event on Thursday. We have advertised the meeting in the press last week (St. Helens Star), on our website and at library display screens.

Response to queries raised:

- has a soil profile been taken?

No. The Council relies on published data about soil quality.

- concern over the already high water table

Comment noted. Any future development would involve detailed site investigation and would have to be designed to deal with high water tables should they be an issue. It is worth reporting this in a consultation response so it is formally noted.

- water springs already appearing at Crantock Grove, Lynton Way and Windlebrook Crescent.

Comment noted. Any future development would involve detailed site investigation and if there are water springs on the site, these would have to be dealt with. Any development on a site is required to be designed so that it does not create adverse off-site impacts in terms of flood risk. It is worth reporting this in a consultation response so it is formally noted.

- traffic management – already very congested area around the junction of Bleak Hill Road and Rainford Road.

Comment noted. The planning department are aware of the peak time congestion at the junction of Bleak Hill Road and Rainford Road. Any development would be required to ensure any increase in traffic does not lead to unacceptable impacts on junctions. Preferred Option policy "LPA05.1: Strategic Housing Sites" has a section on this site and states that "design and layout should mitigate and minimise impacts on existing road network". It is worth reporting this in a consultation response so it is formally noted.

APPENDIX 1

- is there any guarantee there would not be other exits other than Houghtons Lane.

The site would be expected to have pedestrian and cycle access into it from adjacent roads and the playing fields. The main vehicle access would be onto an improved Houghtons Lane. The developer proposing the site has raised the possibility of a small amount of the total housing (such as small cul-de-sacs) having vehicle access to the residential roads off Bleak Hill Road adjoining the site rather than via Houghtons Lane. However, Preferred Option policy "LPA05.1: Strategic Housing Sites" does not currently support this and instead requires all vehicle access to be from Houghtons Lane has a section on this site and states that "design and layout should mitigate and minimise impacts on existing road network".

- as the land is already a flood plain concerns were raised that any run off would raise the levels of the brook

Policy LPC12 of the Local plan Preferred Options requires new development to manage surface water on site and not transfer it to other watercourses.

This would normally be through a soakaway or other system to transfer surface water into the ground rather than a watercourse or other drain. The aim of this is to avoid increasing flooding off the site.

- at a recent meeting of Ecclesfield Management Ctte concern was raised that there may be potential flooding of the football pitches

If new development meets the requirements of policy LPC12, then there should not be an increase in flooding of the pitches.

- would Bleak Hill School become a 3 or 4 form entry school

The exact implications for individual schools has not yet been determined.

Regards,

Gerard Woods

Team Leader, Planning Policy Team,
Development Plans, Development & Growth, Environmental & Trading Services,
St. Helens Council

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