

Windle Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th January 2008
at Eccleston Village Hall**

PRESENT : Councillor Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft (Chairman)
Councillor W.Ashcroft (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Mrs.K.S.Barton
Councillor R.W.Barton
Councillor S.A.Bligh
Councillor Mrs.M.McNulty
Councillor K.D.Roughley

Also in Attendance : L.J.Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

144. Prayers

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

145. Apologies

Apologies had been received in respect of Councillor Mrs A.Bate – holidays ,and Councillor Mrs.E.Uren – alternative engagement.

146. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

147 .Parish Matters

a) There had been further problems with the premises in Kiln Lane (formerly the “Tanning Shop”)and Cllr.W.Ashcroft was currently in contact with St.Helens Council concerning this matter.

b) Houses in St George`s Avenue (and also Hartington Road) were currently encountering drainage problems,and again Cllr.W.Ashcroft was requesting the help of St.Helens Council to help solve the problem.

148. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th December 2007, which had been circulated previously.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2007, should be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

147. Matters Arising

a) Ref. min .132 (Matters Arising) – 15/01/08- concerning the unattractive condition of the old French`s Farm Site and also the shops and car park at Lynton Way/Bleak Hill ,which are owned by Henderson Homes the building firm- local residents were complaining and requesting action be taken to have the site improved and in keeping with the surrounding residential neighbour hood.

This matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Windle Ward Committee and the Parish Council

Resolved that the three Ward Councillors should be requested,with the full backing of the Parish Council, to urge St Helens Council to bring about the desired improvement in this matter.

148. Planning Matters

The Clerk gave invitation to comment in respect of the following applications

A. Planning Applications

1. P/2007/1477- J.Thompson -3 Lawrence Road – 2 stry.side extn.1st Flr.Extn.to rear Elevatn. + porch to front elevation

2. P/2008/0030 – J.K.& S.Nuttall – 8 Malthouse Court, Rainford Rd. – Works to Protected Trees covered by Tree Preservation Order.

B. Approvals or Otherwise

Permission granted.:

P/2007/1375

– J.McAllister,34 Moss Lane – Dem.of existing lean-to at rear-erectn.of 2 stry.side extn.plus porch to the front-Dormer window and conservatory to rear.

Permission refused:

P/2007/1332 – Richard Hall – 88 Kiln Lane- Change of Use – ex residential(C3) to Coffee shop (A3)

Resolved that no comments be made concerning the planning applications in A. and that the two decisions in B be noted .

149. Other Correspondence

The Clerk submitted the following correspondence , to be dealt with as indicated :

1. Copy of the Road Safety Plan 2007, from St Helens Council (George Houghton – Head of Traffic Engineering/Traffic & Engineering Consultancy) – Received & Noted.

2. Document from an unknown source ,headed “PARISH REFERENDUM”-
Received & Noted

3. Letter from St Helens Council(Town Planning Dept.) ref: Call for Sites Suitable for development,or redevelopment in the period up to 2024 and beyond. Received
150. Quality Parish Councils
Nil Report.

151. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

Payment of the quarterly payment to be made today of £325.00

152. LALC / NALC/ MAPTC /SLCC

Details had been received of a Regional S.L.C.C. Conference for Clerks and Councillors on Thursday 13th March 2008 at Shotton Hall, Peterlee, County Durham.
Noted

Announcement of a County Training Partnership- Chairmanship Workshop, 4th March 2008. Noted

153. Lynton Way Play Area

The large increase in the security charge for 2007-2008 had been queried with the St Helens Security Force. This figure at £3175.00(VAT EXCL.) c.f.£2543.60 (VAT EXCL.) an increase of 25% seems out of proportion, and represents around 28% of the Parish Precept. Negotiations were continuing with St Helens Council to alleviate the situation .It was suggested that one way of reducing the cost might be to close the park for 3 months of the year in the Winter.

154. Bleak Hill School – Spring Activity

As the School had no need of any more trees for the School grounds, it was Resolved to donate a sun-dial for placement in the Memorial Garden ,which might be used to teach the children how to use it to tell the time .The cost to be in the £60.00 region. The Clerk to discuss with the School etc.

As this year Liverpool is the European Capital of Culture it was felt that it would be beneficial for the School to become involved in some community activity to celebrate this .This suggestion to be explored further.

155. Jim Malone Garden

Routine maintenance has been carried out.

156. Parish Newsletter

Four advertisers had not yet paid their outstanding accounts – Resolved that the Clerk should write to remind them.

As the next issue would be the 50th Edition it was hoped to feature some of the previous issues cover pages etc. The Clerk to try to obtain as many of the previous editions as possible for use by the Editor.

157. Pre-Christmas Reception 2007

This had been very successful and very well attended and enjoyed by all those present. Indeed several thank you communications had been received from guests. The Catering Committee of Cllrs. N.Ashcroft, S.Barton and M.McNulty had done a first class job in providing delicious refreshments , and were congratulated by the Council for this success.

158. Christmas Tree Lighting – Further Report

The two additional sets of LED lights had been purchased at a cost of £100.00 and the total cost had finally been £480.00 which also included the necessary hire of scaffolding when dressing the tree.etc.

The Clerk reported that the lights would remain fixed on the tree all year – only the bulbs had been removed from the traditional lights and stored until December.

Although there had been some residents who did not care for the new display it was felt that the majority did approve –judging by some messages received. All agreed that the display this year was brighter and made much more of an impact.

159. Reports from Other Bodies

Nil Reports.

160. Finance

a) Balances The Council noted that the balances at the 31st December were :

	£
Current A/c	972.00
Capital Reserve A/c	11060.85

b) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that approval be given to payment of the following accounts :

	£
Post Office Telephone A/c –Dedicated line & includes Broadband	84.52

*St Helens CVS	Annual Subs.2007/2008	10.00
*N.J.Ashcroft	Catering Costs /Pre-Xmas Reception	33.50
*K.S.Barton	Ditto	37.40
*M.McNulty	Ditto	25.48
B.Walsh	Web Site / Computer Maintenance	30.00
L.J.Kilshaw	{ Postage £1.97/ New Salary £290.56} {Arrears ex 1/04/07 9x £16.983=£152.85}	445.38
Eccleston Parish Council	Room Hire 15/01/08	19.00
Ecclesfield Project Revenue Account	4 th Qrtly.Payment	325.00
*Paragon Bldng. Services(St Helens)Ltd.	Xmas Tree Lighting	564.00

*Expenditure incurred by the Council in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 as being, in the opinion of the Council, in the best interests of the area and its inhabitants.

c) Minutes of the Finance Committee 8th Jan.2008

The Council received the minutes of this meeting of the Finance Committee, which were ratified as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

The Finance Committee had recommended acceptance of the NALC recommended salaries from 1st April 2007. Also the Clerk's salary was to be increased by one grade point from LC20 to LC21.

Resolved that the recommendations of the Finance Committee be accepted and the salary adjustments be implemented.

d) Budget/ Precept 2008/2009

The Council was advised in a report, by the Clerk, of the anticipated position on balances :

	£
Balance at 1.4.07	9852
Plus Income (projected)	<u>12458</u>
	22310
Less Expenditure (projected)2007/08	<u>14274</u>
<u>Balance (projected) at 31.3.08</u>	<u>8036</u>

St Helens Council had previously advised that the Council Tax Base for 2008/09 for the Parish had been set at 1,037 (Band D equivalent properties) and the Parish Precept for £11270 would=£10.87,for £11500= £11.09,for £12000 = £11.57
The Finance Committee had recommended a level of £11,560 for the amount of the Precept for 2008/09.

The suggested payment dates of 50% on 25th {April 2008} had previously been
50% on 27th {June 2008 }

approved on 18th December 2007-Min.144C, followed by a letter of confirmation to St Helens Council on 19th Dec 2007.

The Council was advised of the budget provision necessary to maintain existing levels and the report identified other items to be considered for inclusion for precept purposes.

The Finance Committee had given initial consideration to the proposed budget necessary to maintain existing levels and incorporate any possible projects.

Resolved:

that the following broad based budget be accepted for 2008/2009:

<u>Expenditure (net of VAT)</u>	<u>£</u>
Fees & Insurance	854.00
LALC /SLCC etc.	460.00
Salary	3484.00
Election Costs	600.00
Post & Telephone/ incl .Broadband	350.00
Website	120.00
Printing ,Stationery & Publications	195.00
Room Hire	220.00
Advertising	0.00
Flowers & Donations	25.00
Newsletter	990.00
School Awards	130.00
New Shields	80.00
Maintenance – Ecclesfield	1000.00
Maintenance – J. Malone Garden	25.00

Security – Lynton Way	3600.00
Engraving (incl. Chmns.Chain)	6.00
Garden Competition	230.00
Footpaths	0.00
Trees/ Christmas Tree Lighting	515.00
Hospitality	332.00
VAT	950.00
Contingency	0.00
Miscellaneous – Refund	6.00
Notice Board Repairs	30.00
Bulbs –Jim Malone Garden	25.00
Total	<u>14227.00</u>

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>
Precept	0.00
Bank Interest	140.00
VAT	950.00
Advertising	375.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Matching Funding	<u>0.00</u>
Total	<u>1465.00</u>

The Council will need to consider any other items of expenditure to be taken into account;

a) recognizing that the balances held in respect of Lynton Way Play Area equipment should be kept to £2500 .

b) the balances include provision towards election costs (£600)

c)Additionally consideration should be given in the budget for making provision for these identified projects i.e.

Election Expenses £600 , Quality Parish Council-Training £500 , Additional Notice Board £500.

The Council will need to be prudent in the preservation of adequate balances.

Audit Regulations

The Council is reminded that regulations introduced procedures which require the identification of specific provision (other than contingency) made within the balances and the need to have a budget based on expenditure and income figures which must be contained within the resolution of the Council accepting the precept requirement. This does not preclude the use of virement during the year, which must however, be approved by the Council.

The audit "trail" must be clear to follow, particularly in relationship to the accumulation of balances.

2. Resolved that the precept for 2008/2009 be set at £11560, and that St Helens Council be advised of this by letter this week.

161. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19th February 2008, commencing at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date