

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th February 2011
at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane.

PRESENT: Councillor K. D. Roughley (Chairman)

- “ S. A. Bligh (Deputy Chairman)
- “ Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft
- “ W. Ashcroft
- “ Mrs. K. S. Barton
- “ R. W. Barton
- “ Mrs. A. Bate
- “ Mrs. M. McNulty

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

156. Prayers

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

157. Apologies:

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. E. Uren - away on holiday.

158. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. W. Ashcroft declared that being a member of St Helens Council Planning Committee he would be able to participate in discussions of planning matters, but would not vote on any decisions.

159. Parish Matters

a)Cllr. W. Ashcroft was pursuing the matter raised by a resident of Moss Lane concerning repeated accidents by vehicles involving damage to his property. George Houghton (Highways Manager) was attempting to resolve the matter.

b) Cllr. Roughley requested articles for the next edition of the Windle Parish Newsletter to be sent to him as soon as possible.

160. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the meeting, held on Tuesday, 18th January 2011, which had been distributed previously.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2011 be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

161. Matters Arising

Cllr. W. Ashcroft informed that reference minute 144a(ante), he was persisting in his attempt to get Hamilton Road on the list of roads to be gritted whenever icy etc. conditions prevailed, as this was road on a busy School route and used by School buses taking pupils on excursions to swimming etc.

162. Planning Matters

The Clerk gave an invitation to comment on the following applications:

a) P/2011 / 0044- S. Smith- 23 STUART ROAD- 2Stry.side extn. and single stry. addition to the rear.

b) P/2011/0068- Mrs. G. Foster- 84 KILN LANE- Retention of shutters to front elevation.

c) P/2011/0101 – Mr. W. Barrow- 13 QUEENS DRIVE- 2Stry, extn.to side and rear plus a single stry .extn. to rear.

Resolved that no objections be made concerning the applications in a, b .and c but regarding b there be added the comment that these shutters, had, together with improvements to neighbouring premises, considerably enhanced the appearance of this parade of shops.

No approvals/ or decisions had been received.

163. Other Correspondence

The Clerk submitted the following items of correspondence, to be dealt with as indicated;

1. From St Helens & Halton CVS – latest bulletin- Received

164. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

No report - Meeting due shortly.

N.B. that the contribution due from Windle P.C 2011-2012= £1412 (£158 less than the current year) and the Eccleston contribution would = £3464 (£196 less).

165. LALC/NALC/MAPTC/SLCC

Details of training courses for 2011 had been received from both LALC and SLCC. Received & Noted

Concerning the required publication of items of expenditure in excess of £500 the current advice is to tread lightly. It would be possible to publish the information on the Council website. Clarification of the situation is being sought.

166. Lynton Way Play Area- Report

There had been no further incidents at the Play Area since the daily opening and closing had been instigated.

Paul Sanderson (Director of Environmental Protection-St Helens Council) had agreed to attend the next meeting to be held on March 15th 2011, which would be preceded by the Annual Assembly at 7.00pm, which meant that the monthly meeting might be expected to commence at 7.30pm.

The Clerk would remind the residents who had attended the January meeting to inform them of developments and enlist their further support.

167. J. Malone Garden- Report Cllr. Mrs. McNulty reported that the garden would need some work on it to tidy up and some new planting. Cllr. W. Ashcroft volunteered to lend a hand.

168. Republication of the Local Development Framework Consultation Meeting
This would take place on Tuesday 22nd February 2011 at 11a.m. in the Town Hall.
Resolved that Councillors K. Roughley, Mrs. K. S. Barton and R. W. Barton, together with the Clerk, would attend.

169. Roll of Honour Plaques- Report
Resolved that, in view of the current financial crisis and budget restrictions, this possible project should be postponed for the time being.

170. Reports from Other Bodies
No reports were received.

171. Finance :

a) Balances- The Clerk reported that the balances at the 31st January 2011 were as follows- Current Account £4285.22 Business Reserve Account £7826.64

b) Payment of Accounts –

Resolved that approval be given for the payment of the following accounts: £

Eccleston P.C.	Hire of Room 15/03/2011 .	20.00
L. J. Kilshaw	Salary & Postage	303.59

c) Internal Audit Report

Mr .P. Fairclough, the Internal Auditor, was still having to spend time in the South of England with his daughter, in order to sort out the situation and help her after the tragic loss of her fiancé. However he had managed to complete an audit for the period from 21st July 2010 to 21st December 2010 and since, he expected to be home from early March the period to the 31st March 2011 would be audited in good time.

He reported that there were no matters he needed to bring to the Council's attention for the afore mentioned period.

d) Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th February 2011

This meeting had been held at 13, Rainford Road, Dentons Green, St Helens and the Council received the minutes of the meeting, which had been distributed earlier.

Resolved that these minutes be ratified as a true and correct record, and be signed by the Chairman.

Budget /Precept 2011/ 2012

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

Balance @ 1.4.2010

£
7961

Add	Receipts (projected) for 2010/2011	13186
		31147

Less	Payments (projected) for 2010/2011	-14537
	Balance (projected)	6610

St Helens Council had earlier advised that the Council Tax Base for 2011/2012 for the Parish had been set at £1.034 (Band D equivalent properties) and a Parish Precept of £125000 would = 12.08, £ 12300= £11.90, £12000=£11.61

The Finance Committee had recommended a level of £12000 for the amount of the Precept for 2011/2012- same amount as in 2010/11.

The suggested payment dates i.e. 50% on April 2011 and 50% on June 2011 had already been agreed previously, and a letter of confirmation had been sent to R. Anders- Assistant Treasurer- Accounts and Payments< St Helens Council.

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

The Finance Committee had given initial consideration to the proposed necessary budget in order to maintain existing levels and incorporate any possible projects and anticipated items of expenditure.

Resolved that the following broad-based budget be accepted for 2011-2012 ;

PAYMENTS(Net of VAT)	£
Fees & Insurance Bank£39/ Ins.£520/Int.Audits£130/Ext.Audit£135/ NALC/LALC/MAPTC/SLCC £472/ Easily£60	1400.00
Salary	3618.00
Election Costs	1000.00
Post & Telephone – incl.Broadband	460.00
Website	140.00
Printing, Stationery & Publications	250.00
Room Hire	220.00
Advertising	000.00
Donations	40.00
Newsletter	960.00
School Awards	110.00
Maintenace - Ecclesfield	1412.00
“ Jim Malone Memorial Garden	40.00
Lynton Way Play Area/ Security	3000.00
Engraving /Chmns. Chain / Garden Comp.Trophies	60.00
Garden Competition	250.00
Christmas Tree Lighting	400.00
Hospitality	270.00
VAT- estimated	800.00
Contingency	000.00
Project –Roll of Honour	000.00
Computer Replacement	000.00

Bulbs/Plants(J.Malone Garden)	15.00
Total	14445.00
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Receipts/ estimated for 2011/2012	£
Precept	00000.00
Bank Interest	10.00
VAT	800.00
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Advertising	375.00
Matching Funding	000.00
Miscellaneous	000.00
Total	1185.00

The Council will again need to consider carefully any other items of expenditure to be taken into account. In the current stringent financial climate the Council will again need to be prudent in the preservation of adequate balances.

(a) The costs of opening and closing the LWPA, using St Helens Council Security Force is the major item of Council expenditure and this year will rise due to trouble with disturbances, even late on freezing cold January nights. This has necessitated daily opening and closing for the time being. Efforts are being made by the Parish Council, in liaison with the local residents and St Helens Council, to find alternative ways to reduce the heavy costs involved.

Audit Regulations

The Council is reminded that the 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 features, 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, but this must be approved by the Council. The "audit trail" must be clear to follow, particularly in relationship to the accumulation of balances.

The Council: Resolved that the proposed budget be accepted and that the precept be set at £12,000 for 2011/2012 and that this decision be communicated to St Helens Council tomorrow, as is required.

172. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th March 2011, following on from the Annual Assembly, which starts at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Chairman)