

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2011 at the 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
“ “ M. McNulty
“ “ E.Uren

Also in Attendance: Paul Sanderson (Director of Environmental Protection -St Helens Council), Nine Windle Residents, P.C. M. Pender (Merseyside Police)
L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

173. Prayers

Prayers for the work of the Council had already been said at the Annual Assembly, which had preceded this meeting. The Chairman then welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

174. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

175. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. W. Ashcroft declared that being a member of the St Helens Council Planning Committee, he was permitted to participate in discussion of planning matters, but not to vote on any decisions.

176. Lynton Way Play Area

The Chairman welcomed Paul Sanderson (Director of Environmental Protection- St Helens Council), who had been invited to the meeting specifically to discuss, with the residents and the Parish Council, the problems faced with the Play Area and also possible solutions suggested at the P. C. Meeting on 18/01/11.

These included:

Problems of noise and disturbance to residents and small children and accompanying parents etc. when groups of youths gather there and some instances of them damaging equipment and even setting fire to a litter bin.

Even more disturbing are the occasions when the Play Area is “invaded” after hours and alcohol is being consumed. One such incident occurred at 10.00pm on freezing cold winter night in January 2011.

Youngsters had been seen stripping lead off the roof of the power substation, and there was graffiti daubed on the walls of the building.

It was pointed out that this play area was made use of by residents and families from quite a wide area of St Helens, not just those of Windle and Eccleston.

These problems have necessitated the Parish Council requesting the St Helens Security Service to open and close the Play Area on a daily basis, instead of just at weekends during parts of the year. This involves a great expense amounting to £3908.54 (+ £781.71 VAT) for a full year.

Possible solutions to combating the nuisance factor and reducing the costs included:

Opening /Closing of the Play Area with the possible involvement of local residents, who would be supplied with keys.

Possible use of the Council employee who calls at the L.W.P.A. each morning to make an inspection to open it up.

Possible permanent locking of one of the three entrance gates -- the Pentire Ave. one being the most likely.

Repair / replacement of damaged benches, litterbins etc.

Replacement of hawthorn hedging alongside the boundary at the bottom of the Play Area at the St Mawes Way Entrance to prevent football being played against the boundary fencing. Also allowing the hedge on the boundary to grow a little higher and thicker.

Possible use of anti-vandal paint to deter access and egress when the Play Area is closed.

Proper new signage indicating that the Area and its equipment were for the use of children under the age of twelve, No Dogs Allowed, No Ball Games, Details of Hours of Opening and Closing. These would need to be sited near the entrances e.g. fastened to the gates or mesh fencing.

Use of the "Mosquito Sound System." deterrent, which young people cannot tolerate and are forced to move away from the source. Mr. Sanderson commented that this might be done on a shared cost basis.

P.C. Mark Pender was able to make valuable contributions to the discussion and stressed that any incidents are reported to the Police and listed by them, to help in any follow up action and record.

A lively discussion ensued with Mr. Sanderson and the other parties at the meeting, and he made careful notes concerning the points raised, and, whilst making no commitments, promised to try to reply in approximately ten working days.

At the end of this discussion and frank exchange of views, Mr. Sanderson was thanked for his visit and for his promise to consider matters carefully, and, at this point he and the residents and the Police left the meeting.

177. Parish Matters

There were still no details concerning the re-exploration by camera of the drainage problems in Hamilton Road, but, at the moment, it was reported that no further problems had been encountered by the residents.

Hamilton Road would now be included on the official list of roads to be gritted when weather conditions demanded it.

178. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the meeting, held on Tuesday, 15th February 2011, which had been distributed previously.

It was pointed out that Cllr. Mrs. Bate had not attended the meeting -away on holiday. Additionally ref min. 167 J. Malone Garden as well as Cllr. W. Ashcroft, Councillors R. W. Barton and S.A. Bligh had offered to "lend a hand" to Cllr. Mrs. McNulty to tidy up work etc. the Garden. When the necessary amendments had been made it was;

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting, held on Tuesday 15th February 2011 be accepted, and be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

179. Matters Arising- No matters arising

180. Planning Matters

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

a) Application

a) P/2011/0165 D. Nolan 49 Rainford Rd. WA10 6BZ- Works to a sycamore tree covered by a T.P.O. for removal of a branch and deadwood in the canopy of the tree.

b) Approvals

1) P/2011/0101- 13 Queens Drive- 2Stry.extension to side and rear plus a single stry. extn. to the rear

2) P/2011/0044- 23 Stuart Rd.- 2 stry. side- extn. plus single stry. extn. to the rear

Resolved that no comments be made concerning the application in (a), and the two approval in (b) should be noted.

181. Other Correspondence

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

a) Invitation to the Clerk to attend a presentation by the Army at the World of Glass on Thursday 31ST March 2011. As the invitation allowed accompanying guests, it was suggested that Councillors K.S. and R. W. Barton would also attend.

Clerk to reply to the Army accepting the invitation.

182. Ecclesfield Sports Facility-Report

The drainage systems now working well again. Problems persist over the use of the car park.

183. LALC/NALC/MAPTC/SLCC

Details given of forthcoming training courses and conferences. Received.

184. Parish Clerks Meeting -Report

This meeting for Parish Clerks took place in St Helens Town Hall on Friday 4th March 2011. The Clerk gave a summary of the points emerging viz. it was possible that the contribution, for the cost of the forthcoming elections, due from Windle P.C. may be £2000 approximately

There was a new 10 year agreement (Public Sector Mapping Agreement for England & Wales) to provide access to core geographic data sets from Ordnance Survey, which are free at the point of use for all eligible public sector bodies, including Parish Councils. Further details were to follow.

185. Re-publication of Local Development Framework Meeting – 22/02/11- Report

This meeting had been attended by Councillors K. D. Roughley, Mrs.K. S. Barton and R.W.Barton and the Clerk, when amendments and reductions to the original document were revealed. A CD had been obtained by the Clerk, which detailed all the information, and was available for reference as required. Noted

186. J. Malone Memorial Garden

Garden is untidy and requiring attention. Volunteers to help Cllr. Marie McNulty were required- Councillors W. Ashcroft and S. Bligh said that they would help at a date to be arranged.

187. Parish Newsletter – Report

Articles still required a.s.a.p. New full page advert. ordered by the new boutique- “Cat Walk” -.at 82 Kiln Lane .

The Newsletter will be published in May after the elections, and so it was;

Resolved that the judging for the Garden Competition would be held on Wednesday, 29th June 2011.

188. Reports

Standards Committee

Cllr. R. Barton reported that the Standards Committee is still currently continuing in its present form, prior to the forthcoming proposed alterations.

189. Local Elections , including Parish Council Elections

These would be held on Thursday 5th May 2011. The necessary forms for candidates would need to be received in the Town Hall by noon, on Monday 4th April 2011.

190. Finance:

a) Balances; the Clerk reported that the balances at 28th February 2011 were as follows Current A/c= £ 4058.38 Business Reserve A/c £7826.64

b) Payment of Accounts

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

DSG Retail Ltd. (PC World)	Ink caRtridges and Stationery	69.58
Eccleston P.C.	Room Hire 15 th March 2011	20.00
Bleak Hill CP School	Photo Copying Services (Jan-Mar 31 st 2011)	24.72
L. J. Kilshaw	Salary & Postage	304.82

* St Helens Council	Christmas Tree Lighting	542.79
St Helens Council	Security Force (Opening/Closing Lynton Way Play Area 2010/2011)	3208.98

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

c) External Audit

The briefing for the 2010-2011 Audit had been received, but the date of the audit had not yet been allocated yet.

d) Internal Audit

A review of the Internal Audit was carried out under the usual headings:

1) Scope- Discussion had taken place with the Internal Auditor concerning the extent of the audit to ensure all risk areas covered. Yes.

2) Independence- the I.A. is objective and unbiased in his quarterly reports. He concerns himself with completing only Section 4 of the Annual Return of the Audit.

3) Competence – As a retired Bank Inspector, and in his third year of office as I.A., he understands the requirements of local government accounts.

4) Relationships- the relationships between the clerk/RFO, members and the internal auditor are business like, and their respective responsibilities have been outlined.

5) Planning and Reporting- the Council is aware that quarterly Internal Audit Reports are normally made in July/ End of October /January/ End of March/Early April and the reports made at the next monthly meeting.

e) Risk Assessments

The Parish Council reviewed the risks assessment and financial management using the "Practitioners Guide and the Audit Local Council Briefing" to assist, including the insurance cover renewal. This latter would need to be looked at in April / May 2011, when information awaited concerning the Play Area should have been received. Internal controls are in operation concerning the risks and also management of the accounting systems and an effective system of internal audit has been installed.

f) PAYE /Parish Councils

HMRC has published a requirement that all Parish Councils should register as an employer and thus deduct PAYE from the salary payments to the Clerk. Clarification of this matter is currently being sought by the Clerk.

g) Bank Mandate / Banking –new payment procedures

LALC informs that, as yet, internet payments for Parish Councils instead of cheques, is not allowed.

The Bank Mandate will need to be replaced after the elections in May.

191. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would held on Tuesday 19th April 2011,commencing at 7.00pm,at the Eccleston Village Hall , Kiln Lane.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman)

_____ (Date)