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Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th February 2009, at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

Present : Cllr. W. Ashcroft (Chairman)
Cllr. R. W. Barton (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. K. S. Barton
Cllr. Mrs. A. Bate
Cllr. S. A. Bligh
Cllr. M. McNulty
Cllr. K. D. Roughley
Cllr. E. Uren

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

157. Prayers

The Chairman welcomed everyone , and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council . He thanked the Deputy Chairman for covering for him during his enforced absences in recent months.

158. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs .N.J.Ashcroft – prior meeting.

159. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Mrs. A. Bate and K. D. Roughley declared an interest in two of the planning applications to be discussed viz. P/2009/0063 and P/2009/0104

160. Parish Matters

The Clerk reported that all the Newsletter Advertisers had paid their outstanding accounts and that the advert. for the driving school was to be discontinued with immediate effect.

The Childrens Colouring Competition contained in the Nov.2008 Newsletter had attracted four entries only.

Resolved that each entrant be awarded a prize (detail to be decided)

161. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council , held on Tuesday 20th January 2009 , which had been circulated previously .

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council , held on the 20th January 2009, should be signed as a true and correct record .

162. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

163. Planning Matters

The Clerk gave an invitation to comment on the following applications and approvals

A) Planning Applications –

1. P/2009/0063 – Mr.S.Bate -5 Lawrence Road – 1st Flr.extn.over existing
grnd.flr.extn.
2. P/2009/0084 – D. Hollihead -83 Bleak Hill Road – Certificate of Lawful Use – for
demoliti.n.of existing conservatory and erection of single stry.pitched roof extn.
3. P/2009 /0104 – P.Clucas – 45 Rainford Road WA10 6BZ – Demolition of existing
detached garage and outrigger to the side,- erection of a conservatory to side
elevation.

B. Approvals

1. & 2. P/2008/1214 and 1215 – Creation of front balconies on front elevation
Numbers 1 and 2 Malt House Court ,Rainford Road
3. P/2009/0017 – P.Wittle -44 St George`s Ave.- Cert. of Lawful Use – proposed
single stry.extn . to side

Resolved that no comments be made concerning the three applications listed in A,and
that the three approvals in B should be noted.

164. Other Correspondence

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

1. Minutes of the meeting of the TravelSafe Board held on 4/12/08 }
Also details of dates of meetings for 2009.} Received & Noted
2. From St Helens CVS Feb- March Issue of “Contact”. Received
3. Letter from a resident querying the veracity of the advice given ,in the Nov `08
Edition of the Newsletter, regarding ATM machines and what to do when in a
difficult situation.

Cllr. Roughley, as editor of the Newsletter, keeps a record of all sources of information supplied to him for publication. Thus he was able to reveal that the information had been passed onto to him by Cllr. W. Ashcroft, who, in turn, had received it from a Rainford source.

Cllr. W. Ashcroft would seek verification.

165. Bleak Hill School –Possible Spring Project

The Clerk to ascertain any suitable requirements with the Head Teacher, Mr. I. Wellens.

166. Ecclesfield

Next meeting of the Committee will be held on March 3rd ..

167. LALC/NALC/MAPTC/SLCC

The form for the Buckingham Palace Visit Draw had been received from LALC, and it was agreed that the Deputy Chairman, Cllr. R. W. Barton, should be the nominated entrant from Windle Parish Council. He completed the form ready for posting. Details given of a Chairmans Workshop to be held by LALC.

168. L.W.P.A.

Following the success of the limited closure routine adopted from 15th Dec 2008 It was

Resolved that this measure be continued until 31st March 2009 at least, with the position being finalised at the next P.C. Meeting in March. Clerk to inform P. Mavers (St Helens Council) of this decision.

169. J. Malone Garden

Cllr. McNulty informed that it was hoped to clip the shrubs etc. as the weather improved, and to tidy up the garden generally and do some planting.

170. Reports

The Clerk gave a brief summary of a recent meeting of the St Helens Parish Clerks, Held at the Town Hall in St Helens.

171. Finance

A.) Balances : The Council noted that the balances, at 28/01/09, were :

	£
Current A/c	1078.53
Capital Deposit A/c	10116.10

b) Payment of Accounts

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

		£
Paragon Bldng. Services (St Helens) Ltd:	Christmas Tree Lighting and Supply of some replacement lights	465.75
Eccleston Parish Council	Room Hire 17/02/09	20.00
L.J.Kilshaw	Salary Post & Purchases	347.64

c) Finance Committee Meeting / Budget / Precept 2009/2010

A meeting of the Finance Committee had taken place on Tuesday ,10th Feb.2009, at 26 Kiln Lane and the Council received the minutes of this meeting ,which had been distributed earlier .

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

Matters Arising

The Finance Committee had urged acceptance of the NALC recommended salaries , applicable from 01/04/08 (which included an interim increase of 2.45%).

Resolved that the recommendations of the Finance Committee be accepted and the salary adjustment for the Clerk be implemented – back-dated to 01/04/08.

Budget / Precept 2009/2010

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

	£
Balance @ 1.4.08	8079
Plus Income (projected) 2008/09	<u>12937</u>
	21016
Less Expenditure (projected)2008/09	<u>12983</u>
<u>Balance (projected)@ 31.03.09</u>	<u>8033</u>

St Helens Council had previously advised that the Council Tax Base for 2009/2010 for the Parish had been set at £1.007 (Band D equivalent properties), and the Parish Precept for £12000 = £11.91,for £11,500 = £11.42 and £11,000 = £10.92 and £11,850 = £11.76

The Finance Committee had recommended a level of £11,850 for the amount of the Precept for 2009/2010.

The suggested payment dates i.e. { 50% on 24th April 2009 } and had previously been { 50% on 26th June 2010 }

agreed (see min.137d 16/12/08) : and a letter and email confirming this , had been sent to R. Anders Asstnt. Treasurer –Accounts & Payments - St Helens Council .

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 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 2009 / 2010 :

	£
<u>Payments (net of VAT)</u>	
<u>Fees & Insurance</u>	
(Bank £39- Ins.£492-)	
Internal Audit £130 – Ext. Audit £135)	1250
NALC/LALC/SLCC etc. £454)	
Salary	3621
Election Costs	1000
Post & Telephone _incl.Broadband	406
Website etc.	140
Printing ,Stationery & Publications	240
Room Hire	220
Advertising	000
Flowers & Donations	25
Newsletter	1060
School Awards	150
New Shields	80
Maintenance - Ecclesfield	1420
Maintenance - J.Malone Garden.	25
Security –Lynton Way Play Area	3000
Engraving (including Chairman's Chain)	60
Garden Competition	240
Trees / Christmas Tree Lighting	350
Hospitality	280
c/fwd.	<u>13567</u>

	£
b.fwd.	13567
VAT – Total Payment est.	600
Contingency	000
Miscellaneous	000
Computer – Towards Replacement Purchase	600
Bulbs – J. Malone Garden	<u>25</u>
Total	<u>14792</u>

<u>Receipts – estimated 2009-2010</u>	<u>£</u>
Precept	0
Bank Interest	70
VAT	600
Advertising	320
Matching Funding	000
Miscellaneous	<u>000</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>990</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 LWPA equipment should be kept to £2500 .

b) the balances include £600 provision towards election costs, but , in view of increased costs this provision needs to be increased to £1000 per annum .Also it may prove essential to replace the current computer equipment and so £600 is allocated in the above budget with a further similar amount to be allocated in 2010-2011 budget.

c) Additionally consideration should be given in the budget for making provision for these identified projects i.e. Quality Parish Council Training £ 500 .

d) A major and increasing expense is the cost of having the Lynton Way Play Area opened and closed daily and some security coverage provided , by St Helens Council Security Force. With current costs of around £4000 this accounts for over 30% approximately of the total precept , and may well increase further next year . Some reduction has been achieved in the current year by only having the Play Area opened and closed on Saturdays and Sundays, and left open for the rest of the week. This was done from Dec 15th 2008 until 31st March 2009 and it is intended to make a decision on opening and closing for 2009/2010 in March when the position will be

reviewed. It is intended to try to reduce the use (and therefore the cost) of the Security Force, whilst providing cover for the periods when trouble may happen.

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

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 ,however, be approved by the Council.

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

Resolved that the proposed budget be accepted and that the precept for 2009/2010 be set at £11 ,850 , and that St Helens Council be informed tomorrow, by email and surface mail , as is required .

172. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday , March 2009, following on from the Annual Assembly, which starts at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman