

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th October 2010, at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane.

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

Also in Attendance: PCSO R. Frodsham (Merseyside Police)
L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

85. Prayers

The Chairman, Cllr. Ken Roughley welcomed everybody, and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

86. Apologies

Nil.

87. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. W. Ashcroft announced that he was now a member of St Helens Council and would therefore not be participating in any discussion of planning matters. He completed the relevant Declaration of Interests form.

88. Parish Matters

a) Cllr. Mrs. M. McNulty reported that she had been approached by a resident of Windle Grove, Mr. Tony Bishop, who had complained about the graffiti and dog fouling, in and around the passageway from Windle Grove and Rainford Road. He also mentioned the lack of signs warning against allowing dog fouling, and said he had complained, but nothing had been done about it.

Cllr. W. Ashcroft refuted these claims and said that, after a long drawn out saga of requesting action from St Helens Council, great improvement had been achieved. He had even received congratulatory emails from other residents of Windle Grove for his tenacious efforts and results. Furthermore he would go round to see Mr. Bishop to discuss the matter.

b) A resident of Windlebrook Crescent, Mr. George Jones had informed Cllr. W. Ashcroft that he had observed that the gate onto Ecclesfield – accessing from Bleak Hill Road- had been left open and unlocked. This had been reported to Brian Johnson but, in the interim, it had been locked. Apparently there is a key which is kept in the changing rooms, so that access for vehicles such as ambulances may be obtained, and perhaps the security arrangements for this key need to be improved.

c) A resident of 43 Regal Drive had complained several times about people obstructing the entrance to her drive with parked cars. Cllr. W. Ashcroft had been to see her and advised her on possible steps she might take, such as having Highways Dept. paint a white H strip on the road, which would involve some personal cost.

89. Lynton Way Play Area

With the Council's permission the Chairman varied the agenda, so that items of particular interest to the CSO present, might be dealt with early in the meeting. There had been a few incidents recently in the LWPA, which had been reported by the CSO and a local resident. These were gatherings of teenagers in the play area, indulging in drinking alcohol, going on the equipment e.g. slides, setting fire to the refuse bin and generally being a nuisance.

The Clerk reported that as a result he had requested the Security Force to open and shut the play area every day instead of just at weekends. On checking one evening that the gates had been locked he had observed two young men approaching the gates in St Mawes Way and carrying a bottle of wine apiece. When they discovered that the gates were locked they had drifted away. It would appear to indicate that the park had again become one of the current "in venues" for the latest crop of teenagers.

Councillor W. Ashcroft said that he had an occasion to request early evening closure of the park by the security force to prevent these invasions.

After further discussion, it was

Resolved that daily opening and closing be continued until mid- November, and after this the gates were to be left open until the end of March 2011- subject to no further problem incidents taking place.

90. Ecclesfield Sports Facility – Report

Here also there had been problems encountered –

1. Increase in the amount of graffiti on the changing room walls.
2. Cardboard refuse had been taken from outside the Spar shop and it had been set on fire resulting in a request for the Police to be more present at week ends.
3. Problems with the car park as a result of the chain being left off and the shopkeepers failing to lock it.

91.) Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on the Tuesday, 21st September 2010, which had been circulated previously.

It was pointed out that ref. the min.77- "the holly bush had been trimmed – not demolished".

After this amendment had been made it was

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st September 2010 be accepted and signed by the Chairman as true and correct record.

92. Matters Arising

a) Ref min 69a – regarding the drainage problems in Hamilton Road Cllr. W. Ashcroft had arranged an informal meeting with Mr. Makinson from Utd. Utilities, at 26 Kiln Lane at 11 a.m. on Tuesday 26th October 2010 in order to discuss the matters raised. An invitation to attend was to be extended to the residents involved and Councillors N. J. Ashcroft, S. A. Bligh, and K. D. Roughley and the Clerk would also be there.

b) Ref. min69b- Cllr. W. Ashcroft reported that Mr. Muskett had told him that Environmental Health had used the sound monitor, but no result had been gained. A further attempt was to take place.

c) Ref. min69c – see min88 ante when this matter and its successful outcome is described.

93. Reports

Police Report- CSO R. Frodsham, who had contributed to discussion on previous items – the Lynton Way Play Area and Eccelsfield troubles etc. gave a brief description of current police concentrated activity. After being thanked by the Chairman for his efforts, he left the meeting.

94. Planning Matters.

The Clerk gave an invitation to comment on the following ;

A. Planning Application

P/2010/0915 Mr. D. Traynor 82 Kiln Lane – 1st Flr. side extn. to be used as vibrogym(D2) - Change of use of the existing 1st flr. Retail (A1) to retail and coffee bar (A3)

Mr. Traynor had made several alterations since moving into the premises, and indeed had generally helped to improve the appearance of the retail shopping parade. He had written a letter explaining the reasons for his proposed alterations and had also consulted some local residents.

However the Parish Council had received, and still continues to receive complaints about the existing dangerous problems for vehicles exiting and accessing Kiln Lane at the Coronation Road junction. This is exacerbated by the parking of cars etc. by customers etc. when visiting the business premises there. Any increase in traffic and parking etc resulting from the alterations would worsen the situation.

Therefore, at this stage and with some reluctance, as the Council concedes that previous alterations had helped to improve the shopping parade, it was

Resolved

that the application be opposed on highway grounds.

B. Approvals

No approvals received.

95. Other Correspondence

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

1. Letter of invitation for a representative of the Parish Council to attend the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony on 14th November 2010 at 11.00am at the Cenotaph, Victoria Square.

The Clerk had consulted with the Chairman, who had informed that he would represent the Council at the Ceremony, and a reply had been sent to Sue Frayn (Mayor's Secretary)

2. The wreath, obtained from the RBLA by the Clerk, was handed over to Cllr. Roughley for laying at the Cenotaph on the 14th November. Noted

3. Letter from Billinge Chapel End P.C. informing that, assurance had been given by Dave Watts MP- St Helens North, that he had been informed that the parish elections can take place on the planned date in 2011, at the same time as other elections. Received & Noted.

4. An email had been received ref. the Newsletter advert. for J.S.Hedges which required alteration, as Neil Middlehurst was no longer employed by them. The Clerk had emailed back with a request for their new advert. which he would forward to Cllr. Roughley upon receipt. Noted

97. LALC/NALC/MAPTC/SLCC

The AGM for LALC would take place on Saturday 6th November, and the AGM for MAPTC would take place on Weds. 3rd November. Received & Noted.

98. Christmas Tree Lighting 2010

The Clerk had written to the Windle Ward Committee and Andy Dempsey (Lead Officer) to request some financial help (see min 81 21/09/10). It was hoped that the matter might be resolved before the next meeting of the Ward Committee, which was only on the 15th November, in order that Lighting Department be authorised to carry out the necessary work to establish the electrical contact point at the new site for the tree. Time is pressing as the Tree lighting is scheduled for Friday 3rd December.

Resolved that

a) the Clerk should seek to urge the matter forward

b) the Clerk would try to obtain estimates from the Lighting Dept., Paragon Construction Group Ltd. and an independent certified electrician for the cost of attaching lights to the tree, using new LED lights if necessary, any required electrical work on site, and attendance on the day of the ceremony.

99. Jim Malone Garden – Report

Cllr. Mrs. McNulty reported that the Rowan tree needed to be taken down, and that Mrs. Palfrey, a resident whose property is next to the garden, had expressed concern about the tree.

The garden had been tidied up and some new plants/shrubs had been inserted including an acer.

100. Parish Newsletter - Report

The editor, Cllr. Roughley thanked those people who had sent in contributions and stressed that any outstanding ones be supplied as soon as possible.

101. Pre Christmas Reception- Arrangements

Resolved that the reception be held at the conclusion of the December meeting of the Council at 8.30pm on 21st December 2010, and that the Catering Committee would arrange a meeting to discuss their plan of action.

102. Finance:

a) Balances – The Clerk reported that the balances at 1/10/10 were:

Capital Deposit A/c £7824.66 Current A/c £ 7332.31

b) Payment of Accounts - Resolved that approval be given for the payment of the following accounts : _____ £

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| Post Office BT telephone A/c – incl.B/band | dedicated line | 99.03 |
| Eccleston Parish Council | Room Hire 19/10/ 10 | 20.00 |
| Ecclesfield Rev. A/c | 4 th Qrtly. Payment | 392.50 |
| B. Walsh | Website / Computer | 35.00 |
| L. J. Kilshaw | Salary & Postage | 304.75 |

c) Internal Audit Report

Mr. Fairclough had resumed his duties but was still, naturally, involved with Mrs. Fairclough in helping their daughter deal with the tragic loss of her fiancé and the resultant aftermath.

He had carried out the internal audit for the period April 1st to July 31st 2010 and had no matters he wished to draw to the Council's attention at this stage.

103. Date of Next Meeting

The next was scheduled for 7.00pm Tuesday, 16th November 2010, at the Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____