

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Windle Parish Council, held on 20th March 2012, at the Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. K. S. Barton (Chairman)
“ Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft (Deputy Chairman)
“ W. Ashcroft
“ R. W. Barton
“ Mrs. A. Bate
“ S. A. Bligh
“ K. D. Roughley
“ Mrs. E. Uren

Also in Attendance: Mr. A. Hull (Chairman of Alder Hey Road Allotments)
L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

176. Prayers - The Chairman welcomed everyone, and then opened the meeting (as prayers had been said at the commencement of the Annual Assembly, which had preceded this meeting.)

177. Apologies- had been received from Councillor Mrs. M. McNulty.

178. Declarations of Interest- Cllr. W. Ashcroft- as a newly proud owner of an allotment on Alder Hey Road- declared an interest regarding the discussion on the new Garden Competition Format, which would involve Mr. Hull and these allotments.

179. Parish Matters

a) There had been expensive equipment etc. stolen from” Beyond the Fringe” premises and access had been obtained by forced entry and subsequent damage etc. to the premises of the florist on Coronation Road.

b) Cllr. Nancy Ashcroft informed that the newly refurbished “Diamond Jubilee Room” at the Mansion House in Victoria Park was to be officially opened on this Friday, at 11.30am. and the public were invited to attend- it would be well worth a visit.

c) Recent incidents of dog fouling had been reported to the Dog Warden.

d) Cllr. Ken Roughley informed the Council that the Olympic Torch was expected to arrive at the Windle Island junction at 2.10pm, on Friday 1st June 2012 from Aintree Race Course, on its processional journey round the country, prior to the London Olympics. It would then be carried down Rainford Road and Greenfield Road, and was scheduled to arrive at the Knowsley Safari Park at 3pm.

Resolved that

a) the costing (around £40)- be obtained of a banner, bearing a suitable Olympic message, which might be prominently displayed at Windle Island, on this unique occasion. Cllr. Roughley volunteered to do this.

b) Enquiries to be made to ascertain if it would be possible for the Chairman of the Windle Parish Council to greet the arrival of the Olympic Torch etc. at Windle Island.

180. Garden Competition 2012

With the Council's permission the Chairman varied the agenda order, so that the next item for consideration would be the Garden Competition 2012, and allow Mr.Hull to give his advice on the matter.

Alan Hull gave his advice and talked about the progress and set-backs (break-ins and subsequent damage, and successful co-operation with the Police) experienced by the Allotments Committee.

Among suggestions made were for a small "Grow Your Own Competition" and in conjunction with an Allotments Competition for Parish Residents to coincide with an allotments open day.

Baking Competition to be held in Eccleston Village Hall -necessary to liaise with Eccleston P.C. Competition to be open to non-residents?

Resolved that Alan would discuss with the Allotments Committee in a fortnight, and it was suggested that a sub-committee from, both the Allotments Committee, and the Parish Council be formed to carry the matter further.

Judging of the Competition would best take place in July.

Mr. Hull was thanked by the Chairman for his valuable contribution to the meeting, and then took his leave.

181. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2012, which had been circulated previously.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2012 be accepted, and be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

182. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

183. Planning Matters

The Clerk gave an invitation to comment on the following:

1) Applications

a) P/2012/0190 – Mr. M. Evans 22 Windle Grove

Single stry. side and rear extn.

b) P/2012/0185- Mr.R. Leung 51b Rainford Rd.(Abbeyfields House)- proposed utility room extn.- to the side elevation.

2) Approvals

P12012/1032 Euro Garages Ltd. on land adjoining petrol stn. At Windle Island.

Signage for Starbuck's Drive/Thru Coffee Bar

Resolved that no objections be raised reference the 2 applications in 1, and that the approval in 2 be noted

184. Other Correspondence

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

Latest Bulletin from Halton and St Helens VCA Group- Received & Noted

Letter from Knowsley Council informing of a possible pollution source in Kikby.
Received & Noted

185. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

Lynne Scott – Clerk of Eccleston Parish Council, and also Secretary to the Ecclesfield Project Managing Committee was retiring at 31st March 2012, and the Chairman paid tribute to her service in this dual capacity. The meeting in March had been affected by sudden illness in her family. The budget had been accepted and the next meeting was scheduled for 5th June 2012.

186. NALC/LALC/MAPTC/SLCC

Details given of future Training Course, and of the annual walk- accompanied by the official guide- crossing Morecambe Bay in the summer. Noted

187. Lynton Way Play Area – Report

Some agreed improvements have been carried out in the Play Area viz; .

1. New and refurbished equipment including new see-saw.
2. Repairs to seating / new rubbish bin metal liner/ hawthorn hedge replanted by St Mawes entrance.
3. Promised repainting of the main sign still to be done.
4. New opening /closing arrangements appear to be working well.

188. J. Malone Garden -Report

Concillors Bate and Roughley have helped with the garden and shortly hope to carry out some early planting in consultaion with Cllr.McNulty.

189. Parish Newsletter – Report

Articles needed by the editor a.s.a.p. New replacement advert. for Beyond the Fringe has been requested by 16/04/12.

Cllr.W.Ashcroft had been to see the advertiser, who had complained about their advert. being incorrect and it had been agreed that they should not be charged for the adverts.in 2011-2012. Also a proof copy of their advert would be sent to them for approval before publication in future.

Resolved that this be approved by the Council and the Clerk to confirm to the advertiser.

190. Reports from Other Bodies

Sports Council

This report had been made at the Parish Assembly, prior to this meeting and briefly stated that the Sports Council continues to offer CRB checks for member clubs at a much reduced rate. The volunteering scheme is proving very popular to young aspiring coaches. A presentation was given at the Town Hall by David Boocock –the Council's Chief Sports Officer -outlining Sport England Funding Strategy over the next five years. The AGM is to be held on 18th July 2012.

191. FINANCE : (a) Balances; The Clerk informed the Council that the bank balances at the 1st March 2012 were Business Current A/c= £2356.28
Business Res. A/c = £7330.34

b) Payment of Accounts

<u>Resolved</u> that payment of the following accounts be made;	£
Post Office Ltd. for St Helens Council Christmas Tree Lighting	541.51
Eccleston P.C. Room Hire 20 th March 2012	21.00
Bleak Hill School Photo copying Jan & March 2012	16.98
L. J. Kilshaw 3 months Post & Stationery	28.26
Post Office Ltd, St Helens Council –L.W.P.A - 3/10/11-31/03/12	1959.94
<hr/>	
*Expected Dir. Dr. payment due 28/03/12 to Douglas Tonks Ltd}	921.73
To include (£14.25 £2.85 vat Admin Fee),	
Qrtly. Salary & Paye L. J. Kilshaw }	

c) Minutes of Finance Committee Mtng 14/02/12

This meeting had been held on 14th Feb 2012 at 54 Brookside Ave. Eccleston and the Council had received details of the minutes on 21st Feb 2012.

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

d) Internal Audit Report

This report covered the period 1st September 2011- 31st December 2011 and confirmed that the earlier request relating to the itemising of the salary payments had been carried out, and this payment restored to inclusion in the "General Admin. Payments" and is now in more keeping for comparison with previous years. Confirmation that the required internal controls were operating efficiently was given.

e) Risk Assessment

The Clerk had produced a comprehensive document covering this matter and a copy given to each councillor. This was to help in covering the required risk assessment, together with the Practitioners Guide and the Audit Notes from the External Auditor and the Internal Audit Reports.

Internal Audit Review- the current system in operation was deemed to be effective in providing the necessary scope of coverage for Windle Parish Council activities. The auditor was independent and competent and his relationship business-like with the Council.

The current insurance cover was reviewed and it was decided that the level of the Fidelity Guarantee should be raised to £20,000 from £15,000 to meet the recommended cover level required at the time of year when both instalments of the precept have been received. i.e the end of June.

The Clerks salary and paye payments are now administered by an independent firm of accountants and payments are now made quarterly by direct debit to meet the legal income tax and National Insurance requirements for Parish Clerks Salaries introduced in the current tax year 2011-12.

The Standing Orders / Bank Mandate review indicated that current best practice may require that the requirement for both be adjusted so that each cheque is signed by two Councillors, but not the Clerk/RFO.

There had been no change to the Asset Register this year.
Register of Members' Interests etc is up to date.

There would need to be a further review from time to time of other items listed on Policy and Document Reviews received from the external auditor such as Training Policy and Vacancy and Co-option procedures which may apply.

192. Date of Next Meeting- is to held on Tuesday 17th April 2012, commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed _____
(Chairman)

Date _____