

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th May 2008
At Eccleston Village Hall

PRESENT ; Councillor W. Ashcroft (Chairman)
Councillor R. W. Barton (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft
Councillor Mrs. K.S. Barton
Councillor Mrs. A. Bate
Councillor S. A. Bligh
Councillor Mrs. M. McNulty
Councillor Mrs. E. Uren
Councillor K. D. Roughley (present for the latter part of the meeting)

Also in Attendance : P. C. B. Morrison (Merseyside Police)
L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

13. Prayers

Prayers for the work of the Council had already been said at the AGM , which had preceded this meeting.
The new Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting .

14. Apologies

Cllr. K. D. Roughley was attending a meeting of the St. Helens Council Planning Committee and would hope to arrive here as soon as possible afterwards.

15. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made .

16. Parish Matters

With Council's permission the Chairman varied the agenda slightly ,by incorporating the Police Report in with Parish Matters for the convenience of P.C. Bev. Morrison .

1. The dilapidated fencing by the brook in Bleak Hill Road had now been replaced with new fencing .
2. The parked vehicle in Hamilton Road had been removed at last as the tax-disc had expired (see min.165 -19/02/080)
3. The sun – bed shop in Kiln Lane continues to be a problem. Efforts continue to alleviate the matter.

4. The incident involving an elderly resident of Regal Drive and school children (see min209 – 15/04/08) was followed up with Social Services ,but their hands are tied as the resident is able to look after herself and also has a sister, who visits her once a week.

P.C. Morrison requested that any further complaints be referred to her.

5. Cllr .W .Ashcroft informed Council that he had complained to Highways concerning the fact that in a recent down-pour and thunderstorm the junction at Rainford Road and Bleak Hill Road had been completely flooded and practically impassable .He was awaiting their comments.

6. Congratulations were extended to Councillor W. Ashcroft on being re-elected to St Helens Council as the District Councillor for Windle North.

7. A police raid had been carried out on a house in Coleridge Avenue , where a “Cannabis Farm” had been discovered . The Vietnamese occupants had been arrested.

8. P.C. Morrison revealed that she would be moving from her post into C.I.D. and was thanked for her excellent efforts in policing the Parish by the Council.

17. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council , held on Tuesday ,15th April 2008 ,which had been circulated previously.

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

18. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

19. Planning Applications

A) The Clerk gave invitation to comment on the following applications :

1. P/2008/0417 – 151 Rainford Road (Rainford) – Dormer Window to the rear with balcony-increase in size of existing side extn. and replacing the flat-roof with a pitched one, plus porch to front of house.

2. P/2008/ 0462 – 88 Kiln Lane (Richard Hall 92-94 High St. Newton –le-Willows) Change of use from a dwelling to a café at grnd.flr.leve /plus 1st.Flr flat /.Erection of single stry. rear extn. and pitched roof at front .

3. P/2008/0498 – 47 Rainford Rd. Windle (Mr.I.Lockhead 5, Croft Manor, Eaglesfield ,Lockerbie, Scotland DG11 3PZ) – Single stry. detached garage.

B.) Decisions

1. P/2008/0125- 12 Windlebrook Cresc.- Conservatory to rear.-Permission granted.
2. P/2008/0239 – 68 Coronation Rd.- 1st Flr. Side & Rear Extns. over existing garage and kitchen. -Permission granted
3. P/2008/0309 – 25 Rutherford Rd. – Demolition of existing kitchen extn. and the erection of a single stry.hipped- roof extn. to side and rear . –Permission granted.
4. P/2008/ 0316 – 157 Rainford Rd. (Rainford) – single stry. side extn.to form sun lounge .
Permission granted.
5. P/2008/0382 – 88 St George`s Ave. single stry. side extn. – Permission granted.

Resolved : 1. that the approvals listed in B be noted.

2. that no comments be made regarding the applications 1 and 3 in A.
3. with regard to the application No.2 in A the Clerk to write opposing permission for the change of use as follows:

A similar application for this site was refused permission on 2 /1/08,and , having considered the current application , the Council is still of the opinion that the same objections apply .viz.

1. The property is a substantial ,desirable detached –house in a primarily residential area and therefore the residents do not wish to be subjected to any subsequent pollution that may result from this proposed change of use e.g. cooking smells and litter , and possibly vermin attracted from the nearby brook. It is thus considered that this would not be an appropriate use of the property .
2. Traffic congestion in the area ,which is already a problem ,would be exacerbated .There are two main road junctions in the vicinity : one at Coronation Road / Kiln Lane and the other at Kiln Lane / Alder Hey Road and egress and access would be even more difficult with any resultant increase in traffic and parked vehicles.
3. There are also two `bus –stops – one on either side of Kiln Lane and not far from No.88,Kiln Lane- and ,in addition , School `Buses for several High Schools operate in the neighbourhood when dropping off or collecting pupils .Additionally the local Bleak Hill C.P. School is accessed by a considerable volume of traffic via the Kiln Lane /Coronation Rd. Junction .
4. A previous application to open a “fast-food shop” at No.84 Kiln Lane was turned down several years ago as “inappropriate”. This shop did in fact become a “sun –bed tanning shop”, which , subsequently , became a gathering place for youngsters and has produced youth disorder problems for local residents and the police, especially since it became ,and remains , unoccupied. A situation that residents would not wish to see repeated.

5. In conclusion the Parish Council , having considered the application and its ramifications , and having consulted with local residents , is of the opinion that the application should be opposed and permission refused in the best interests of the area and its inhabitants.

20. Other Correspondence

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

1. "Contact Magazine" - latest edition from 11 St Helens CVS – Received
2. Minutes of last Windle Ward Committee Meeting – Received.

21. Quality Parish Councils

Nil Report.

22. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

Next Management Committee Meeting scheduled to be held 3rd June 2008 .

23. LALC / MAPTC/NALC /SLCC

The Council had approved, at the AGM preceding this meeting , renewal of membership of these bodies .

Resolved that the fees for membership of the LALC /MAPTC/ NALC / SLCC be paid and that two subscriptions only for the NALC magazine be included i.e. one for Cllr.R.W.Barton and one for the Clerk.

24. Parish Newsletter

The next edition was at the printers and its receipt expected any day now.

Resolved that a vote of thanks be accorded to Cllr. Ken Roughley for all his hard work ,as editor ,in compiling the Newsletter.

25. Lynton Way Play Area

No problems being reported currently by residents.

However the question of the rising cost of providing security continues to be a problem. This now accounts for some 28 per cent of the Parish Precept for the year.

Resolved that the possibility of actually closing the Play Area for two or three months in winter be explored , in order to cut costs. This would necessitate consultation with all residents in the Parish . Consequently the Clerk was requested to draft a suitable letter to be considered at a later meeting and for further discussion .

26. Jim Malone Garden - Report

The Chairman gave thanks to Cllr. M. McNulty for keeping the garden neat and tidy.

(At this point (8.15 pm) Councillor K. D. Roughley joined the meeting.)

27. Insurance 2008/2009 –Renewal and Risk Assessment

The invitation to renew , at a cost of £479.32 (c .f £460.63 for 2007/08) received from Allianz Insurance plc had been considered and accepted previously (min.220-15th April 2008).The premium was now due for payment and it was

Resolved that the is approval and risk assessment be confirmed and the payment made.

28. Bleak Hill School Awards 2008

The Clerk informed that arrangements had been agreed with Mr.Ian Welllens , the Head Teacher ,for these to be presented on Wednesday ,9th July 2008.The ceremony to start at 9.15 a.m.

Resolved that the above arrangements be confirmed and that the prize levels be maintained at the same levels as in 2007.

It was noted that on the previous Friday a sun-dial had been presented to the School by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Nancy Ashcroft, on behalf of the Council for use in the “Woodland Walk Garden”. A short pleasant ceremony had been held ,attended by Councillors Nancy and Wally Ashcroft, Marie McNulty and the Clerk: in conjunction with Mr. Wellens and several pupils, who were members of the School Council .

This was the last official outside duty for Cllr. Nancy Ashcroft in her Year of Office as Chairman, and she carefully explained to the pupils how sun –dials were used to tell the time . Unfortunately, for the first day last week , there was no available sun during the presentation to help demonstrate the process. Nevertheless the pupils and staff were delighted to receive this valuable enhancement to their garden project .

29. Garden Competition / and Advertising Poster Competition

Cllr. Mrs . M. McNulty reported that provisional arrangements had been had been made for both events:

Resolved a) that judging would be carried out on Wednesday 18th June 2008

b) prize levels to be at the same levels as 2007

30. Reports from Other Bodies

A) The Police Report had been incorporated in with Parish Matters earlier in the meeting. (see min. 16 ante).

B) Windle United Charities – Cllr. W. Ashcroft gave a case example where money had been provided to assist an old lady to visit her estranged son, who was in hospital down South. He also urged members to make known any deserving cases needing help, so that the Charity might be of service as funds are currently available .

C) A meeting of the St Helens Sports Council was scheduled for Weds.21st May 2008

31. Finance

a) Balances - The Council noted that the balances at th2 25th April 2008 were ;

| | £ |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Current Account | 5895.67 |
| Capital Reserve Account | 7546.36 |

b) Payment of Accounts

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

| | £ |
|--|--------|
| Eccleston Parish Council Room Hire- 20 th May | 20.00 |
| Allianz Insurance plc Annual Insurance Premium | 479.32 |
| Mr. J. Friar Internal Audit Fee (2007/2008) | 130.00 |
| L.J.Kilshaw Salary & Post | 293.44 |

c) Audits

The Internal Auditor's report for the last quarter of the Financial Year 2007-2008 was presented to the Council . No issues were raised .

Resolved that this be noted and accepted ,and it was duly signed by the Chairman.

Mr. John Friar was now finishing as Internal Auditor, and it was requested by the Chairman and Council ,that the Council's thanks and appreciation for his help and guidance over the years as Internal Auditor be placed on record in the minutes and also by letter .

The new Internal Auditor for the Financial Year 2008-1009 would be Mr. Philip Fairclough .

External Audit

Copies of the Balance Sheet and the Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2007/08 had been circulated earlier .

Resolved that these be accepted.

The date for the External Audit was Friday 18th July 2008.

d) . Completion of the Annual Return for the Year Ending 31 /03/ 2008

The completion of the Annual Return Form was carried out and checked , and it was

Resolved that it be approved and accepted ,and be signed by the Chairman ,and the Clerk as the Recognized Financial Officer .

This action was then completed – the forms would be sent off by registered- post in good time for the External Audit .

32. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 17th June 2008 .

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman