

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 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

“ Mrs. M. McNulty

“ K. D. Roughley

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

160. Prayers

There had been some recent controversy, after a recent court case about the legality of saying prayers before the start of Council Meetings. However the Secretary of State, Mr. Eric Pickles, had declared it to be permissible. After consideration it was Resolved that Windle Parish Council would continue with the practice, as before, pending further advice from NALC, or any other official source.

Thus the Chairman welcomed everyone and prayers were said for the work of the Council.

161. Apologies: had been received from Cllr. S. A. Bligh attending a Maths. Seminar as part of his Degree Course, and Cllr. Mrs. E. Uren (away).

162. Declarations of Interest Councillors Bate and Roughley declared an interest reference the Planning Application P/2012/0050 .

163. Parish Matters

- Cllr. W. Ashcroft had earlier attended the St Helens Planning Committee Meeting, and informed that the application by Euro Garages for the proposed Starbucks Drive Thru Coffee outlet, at the Tesco site at Windle Island, had been voted through. This despite the number of letters, received by the Planning Office, against the granting of the application had far exceeded the number in favour -judging from the St Helens Council Website. Noted
- A suggestion was made that it may be helpful to write to Starbucks, in due course, and invite a representative to a Parish Council meeting to discuss how they might live up to their claim to enhance the areas in which they operate, in this particular locality.
- Cllr. Roughley reported that he had found what appeared to be a “home made notice” – certainly not an official one-in Walton Road and advised people to ignore it and any others appearing elsewhere.
- Cllr. R. Barton reported that a gate had been locked across a public footpath on Windle Farm, but the farmer had been made to open it again by St Helens Council.
- - The 2011 Competition had not been held due to lack of entries . Several suggestions for an alternative format were made and it was;

Resolved that Mr. Alan Hull be asked to come along to the next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.30pm (i.e. at the conclusion of the Annual Assembly) in order to give some expert opinion on the matter.

164. Minutes: The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012, which had been circulated previously. It was pointed out that ref min.148 the number of fulltime jobs was 10 not 20, and it was confirmed that ref min158a the Business Reserve A/c balance figure was £7330.34. After the necessary adjustment had been made it was :

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012 should be accepted and approved and, be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

165. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

166. Planning Matters:

The Clerk gave an invitation to comment on the following;

a) Applications

1) M. Rush 29 Calderhurst Drive – Demolition of existing detached garage and the erection of a single storey side extn.

Resolved that no objections be raised.

b) Approvals – No approval notices had been received.

167. Other Correspondence – The Clerk submitted the following items of correspondence, to be dealt with as indicated:

1. Latest bulletins from Halton & St Helens VCA Received & Noted
2. Letter received from LALC indicating that Windle Parish Council had won the annual draw for the incumbent Chairman and guest, to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party later in the year. This had required a prompt reply from Sheila and Richard Barton accepting the invitation. Other Council Members offered their congratulations.

168. Ecclesfield Sports Facility- Report

Next meeting expected in March.

169. NALC/LALC/MAPTC/SLCC- Report

Information sheet received concerning “The Big Jubilee Lunch”-one of the official celebrations of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations over the Jubilee Weekend 2-5 June 2012. The day for the “B.J.L.” is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Further information at [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com). Received & Noted

170. Lynton Way Play Area – Report

Details of likely costs for the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011 to 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2012 are estimated at £1663 (+ VAT£326.66), which would make the total for the year £3582.50 (+ VAT£716.50).

The new measures adopted from 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012(see Min.152 17/01/12)-should help reduce the costs involved in this high expenditure item.

171. J. Malone Garden – Report- Cllr. McNulty had made a recent inspection of the garden which has been pretty dormant, but there are signs of life now emerging. Cllr. Roughley suggested the planting of some daffodils and snowdrops for future flowering in the early spring time.

172. Parish Newsletter-Report

The editor requested articles for inclusion in the next edition.

The Clerk informed that Beyond the Fringe would be submitting a new design advert in time for inclusion in the next issue. He had requested receipt of this new advert by Monday 18th April 2012.

J.S.Hedges had sent in a copy of their new advert. and given details of their website and email address for inclusion also, which the Clerk handed to Cllr. Roughley.

There had been a complaint about the advert contained in the last issue being out of date, and it was

Resolved that Councillors W. Ashcroft and K. Roughley go and see them concerning this matter.

173. Reports from Other Bodies.

1. Age UK/ Age Concern and Help the Aged

Cllr. Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft advised that craft sessions were being conducted at 10.00a.m. on Mondays at the Mansion House in Victoria Park

2. St Helens District Sports Council

Details of Leisure Activities currently available were given, and also, other relevant news as detailed in the Jan 2012 edition of the St Helens Sports Development E-Newsletter.

174. Finance:

a) Balances: The Clerk informed the Council that the bank balances at the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 were Business Current A/c £ 2442.01,  
Business Reserve A/c £ 7330.34

b) Payment of Accounts:

Resolved that payment of the following accounts be made;

Eccleston Parish Council	Room Hire 21/02/12	£ 21.00
DSG Retail Ltd	Ink Cartridge	49.99
DSG Retail Ltd.	Ink Cartridge	49.99 )

Finance Committee Mtng. 14/02/12- Report

The Clerk reported on the anticipated position on balances

d) Budget /Precept 2012/13		£
Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2011	7802	
Add Projected Receipts for 2011/12	12981	
	<hr/>	
	20783	
Less Projected Payments for 2011/12	14579	
Projected Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012	<hr/>	
	6204	

St Helens Council had advised that the Council Tax Base for 2012/13 for the Parish had been set at £1,035 (Band D equivalent properties). Thus a Precept of £ 12000= 11.59, £12250=11.84, £12500= 12.08, and £12750= 12.32

The suggested payment dates of 50% on April and 50% on June 2012 had already been agreed previously and a letter of confirmation sent to Mr. R. Anders, Assistant Treasurer – Accounts and Payments- St Helens Council.

The Council was advised of the budget provision necessary maintain existing levels of service, and the report identified any problem areas and other items to be included for inclusion for precept purposes.

The Finance Committee had given initial consideration to the proposed necessary budget to maintain existing levels and also to incorporate any possible projects and anticipated lines items of expenditure and had recommended a level of £12750 for the precept for 2012/13.

Resolved that this level of £12750 be agreed and that the following broad based budget be accepted for 2012/13;

<u>Payments (Net of VAT)</u>	£
<u>Fees &amp; Insurance(Bank £39/ Ins. /Int.Audit£130/Ext.£135}</u>	
<u>NALC/ LALC/MAPTC/SLCC / Easily£ 64 D.Tonks£60 }</u>	1558
Salary	3690
Election costs provision	1200
Post /Telephone incl Broadband	400
Website	140
Printing Stationery Publications	440
Room Hire	229
Advertising	000
Donations	50
Newsletter	920
School Awards	110
Maintenance – Ecclesfield	1412
J.Malone Memorial Garden / Bulbs /	25
Lynton Way Play Area /Security Opening- Closing	3000
Engraving/ Chmns. Chain of Office/ Gdn.Comp. Trophies	10
Garden Competition	250
Christmas Tree Lighting£560 / Tree £75/ Transport£85/	720
Hospitality	240
	<hr/>
Sub Total	14394
VAT Estimated	800
Contingency ( 600)	
Roll of Honour Project(500)	
Computer Replacement(500)	
	<hr/>
Total	<u>15194</u>

Receipts for 2012/13(Estimated)

£

Precept	00000.00
Bank Interest	3
VAT REFUND	966
Advertising	320
Matching Funding	000.00
Miscellaneous	
	Total 1289

The Council will again need to consider carefully any other items of expenditure to be taken into account and will need to be prudent in the preservation of adequate balances.

a ) It is confident that the new arrangements with St Helens Council introduced in Jan 2012 for opening and closing the Lynton Way Play Area will reduce the cost of this service by significantly.

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 income and expenditure features, which must be contained within the resolution of the Council accepting the Council accepting the precept requirement. This does not preclude the use of "virement" during the year, but this must be approved by the Council. The "audit trail" must be clear to follow, particularly in relationship to the accumulation of balances.

The Council

Resolved that the proposed budget be accepted and that the precept be set at £12750 for 2012/13 and that this decision be communicate to St Helens Council tomorrow as is required.

Councillor W.Ashcroft opposed the resolution and it was put to the vote and voted through by a 7 to 1 majority.

175. Date of Next Meeting- scheduled for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012, to be preceded by the Annual Assembly which would commence at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman) Date \_\_\_\_\_