

## Windle Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7pm in Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present Councillor Barton (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Almond  
Councillor Barnes  
Councillor Donnelly  
Councillor Riley

Also in Attendance J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)  
One resident

- 94 Prayers: Cllr Barton welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.
- 95 Apologies: Cllr Dockerty and Cllr Greatorex.
- 96 Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.
- 97 Parish Matters: (a) A resident attended the meeting to highlight the dangers for pedestrians trying to cross Kiln Lane, especially school children going to and from Bleak Hill School and De La Salle School. She said there was no safe point for crossing with parked cars and a blind bend. She had started a petition for a crossing to be installed and proposed the bridge as a location. Cllr Barton explained that the Parish Council had contacted St Helens Council several times over previous years with regard to the safe crossing of Kiln Lane. The Clerk read out replies from St Helens Council that explained that there was a high volume of driveways and other obstacles making it highly unlikely to find a suitable location to put a crossing. The Council also stated that any crossing should be at least 25m away from a junction. Councillors commented that there were several crossings in the area that were within 25m of a junction such as on Rainford Road and Boundary Road.  
As Parish Councillors were in support of the case, and felt it would be supporting St Helens Council's net zero and road safety initiatives to promote walking to school, it was agreed that the Clerk contact St Helens Council to ask for a review of the situation and include the petition responses.  
(b) Cllr Barton asked that the parking in the bus stop area and on the pavement of the bus stop at Kiln Lane be reported to St Helens Council.  
(c) A resident had contacted both Cllr Barton and Cllr Dockerty to report a metal fence around building work in Windle Grove that had been obstructing the footpath. Cllr Dockerty visited the property and the resident was happy to push the fence back off the footpath.
- 98 Minutes of Meeting: The council received the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 and  
Resolved that the minutes of the meeting be accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.
- 99 Matters Arising: (a) Cllr Barton reported that the shrubbery on the bridge in Kiln Lane had not been cut back.  
(b) Cllr Almond reported that the public footpath sign on the East Lancashire Road had not been repaired or replaced.

- 100 Planning Matters:  
(a) Applications:  
None
- (b) Decisions:  
**18 Lawrence Road**  
Demolition of existing front porch and erection of a front porch extension.  
**Granted 11/10/23**  
**Noted**
- 101 Other Correspondence: (a) Email from St Helens Council – invitation to Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 12 November 2023 at St Helens Town Hall. The parade and service will be at the Cenotaph starting at 10.51am.  
(b) Reply from the police to say that neither the constable or PCSO for the area would be available for today’s meeting nor the next meeting on 21 November. They were trying to arrange for someone else from other neighbourhood police teams to attend the next meeting. Any police issues discussed should be emailed to Con Mario Samata.
- 102 Councillor Vacancy: The Parish Council could now co-opt after the recent resignation of Cllr Uddin. It was agreed to send former Cllr Nancy Ashcroft a letter of thanks along with some flowers sending best wishes on her retirement from Parish Council.
- 103 Ecclesfield: The changing room doors had been left unlocked recently. Clerk had contacted both teams to remind them to lock up when they had finished.
- 104 Litter Picking: It was agreed to hold the first litter pick on Saturday 25 November, 10.30am-12pm around Windle Island. Cllr Donnelly would inform the Clerk of items that need to be purchased.
- 105 Social Media: Cllr Riley informed the meeting that Facebook was now up and running and he had put several posts up and had joined several groups that were linked to Windle. It was agreed to approve the Social Media Policy.
- 106 Neighbourhood Planning: Cllr Riley had completed the application form. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit the form to Planning at St Helens Council.
- 107 Bleak Hill Road/Calderhurst Drive Junction: Cllr Dockerty had raised the issue of parking at a meeting with Bleak Hill School. They were very aware of parking problems and were doing everything possible. They had explored the ‘little people’ bollards but there were some insurance issues as well as the logistics of placing them and removing them each day. The school were still considering them.  
Cllr Riley reported that since the ‘no parking on pavements’ cards had been put on vehicles, there had been less cars parked there.
- 108 Kiln Lane Crossing: The issue had been discussed earlier (see 97(a)). It had been agreed to contact St Helens Council to ask that they review the possibility of a crossing on Kiln Lane.
- 109 Newsletter: Councillors were reminded that articles would be needed for the Newsletter which would be published April/May next year.
- 110 Remembrance Day: Councillors were invited to St Helens Council’s Remembrance Day service on Sunday 12 November 2023. The wreath, on behalf of Windle Parish Council, had been received and would be given to Cllr Dockerty who would be attending along with Cllrs Barnes, Barton and Donnelly.

111 Christmas Tree Lighting: Cllrs Dockerty and Barton along with the Clerk met with Head of School at Bleak Hill. The date for the event was confirmed as Friday 1 December 2023 starting at 2pm. It was agreed to revert back to the lengthier format from a few years ago with 6 or 7 songs/carols. The school requested a tree of approximately 12-14ft. The school would contact Mr Dickinson to arrange Father Christmas and Mr McCoy, the Executive Head would compere. The Mayor, Cllr Lynn Clarke, had been invited. School would provide tea and coffee this year and Parish Council would provide soft drinks and mince pies/snacks. St Helens Council had asked if Parish Council would be paying for the installation of the lights and the switch on as last year. **Agreed.**

112 SLCC: Nothing to report.

113 Lynton Way Play Area: Cllr Greatorex had spoken to the resident that had complained about a large tree growing near the sub-station. Cllr Greatorex informed the resident that St Helens Council had taken a look and thought the tree was on private property and therefore it could not be removed or cut back.

The invoice for grounds maintenance work for the year 2023/24 had been received.

Cllrs Barnes and Donnelly left the meeting.

114 J Malone Garden: The gardener had asked how much to spend purchasing soil and plants. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the gardener to ask how much soil and how many plants were needed to fill the space. Two quotes for re-painting the sign had been received - one for £220 and one for £290. Cllr Riley would contact each company to find out exactly what each quote included.

115 Reports from Other Bodies: Nothing to report.

116 Finance: a) The Clerk advised that the balances at were:

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Current Account          | £23,087.03       |
| Business Reserve Account | <u>£5,913.61</u> |
| TOTAL                    | £29,000.64       |

b) **Resolved** that the following payments be made:

|  |         | Chq  |
|--|---------|------|
| Eccleston PC – room and phone                        | 33.66   | 2686 |
| St Helens Council – grounds maintenance – Lynton Way | 308.67  | 2687 |
| J Anderson – Sept + postage and travel               | 328.63  | BACS |
| Ecclesfield Project – second half contribution       | 1935.50 | 2688 |

**Resolved** that the following receipt(s) be noted:

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Interest – Aug  | 7.02 |
| Interest – Sept | 6.81 |

c) HMRC Statement – the Clerk presented the HMRC statement dated 16 October 2023 showing nothing owing.

117 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 21 November 2023                      7.00pm                      Eccleston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:  
Chair

Date: