

**LITTLE ECCLESTON WITH LARBRECK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Thursday 11th January 2024, 7.00pm at Elswick Village Hall, Roseacre Road, Elswick.

PRESENT: Cllr P Bull (Chair)
Cllr G Stead (Vice Chair)
Cllr Sandra Milton
Cllr N Smith
Cllr A M Bull
Cllr Steve Milton

IN ATTENDANCE: Jane Lingings (Clerk)
LCC Cllr J Singleton (Agenda Item 10 only)
FBC Cllr P Hayhurst

Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

1134/24 1. **Apologies for Absence**

1135/24 2. **Declaration of Interests and Dispensations**

Cllrs S & S Milton, Agenda item 5 (pecuniary), Agenda Item 9 (pecuniary)

1136/24 3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting 9th November 2023 as an accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

1137/24 4. **Action Tracker**

The action tracker of previous decisions of the council was noted and updated.

1138/24 5. **Finance**

- i. **It was resolved to approve** the monthly bank reconciliation.
- ii. **It was resolved to approve** the cumulative budget report.
- iii. **It was resolved to approve** payments.

Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross
United Trust	Bank Charges	18.00	0	18.00
Salaries/PAYE	Staff costs inc backdated rise	690.28	0	690.28
J Lingings	Admin Reimburse	40.00	0	40.00
Mr S Milton	Amenity Cleansing	390.00	0	390.00
Mr S Milton	Reimburse groundwork and Amenity consumables	52.35	5.47	57.82
Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership fee	112.00	0	112.00
EDF Energy	Unmetered electric supply	11.35	0.57	11.92
AON UK Limited	In Bloom group insurance	100.00	0.00	100.00

Income received: Donation Envirocare £108.86
Donation from Great Eccleston Show Committee £363.58
Interest £66.65

1139/24 6. **2024/25 Budget**

The final proposed budget was presented to the Council and was discussed at length. Earmarked reserves were also re-considered and revised in line with the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG). **It was resolved** that the total funding precept requirement would be £20,000.00 The clerk will inform Fylde Borough Council.

1140/24 7. **Monthly Health and Safety Risk Assessment**

Blocked gullies near Cartford Close have been reported via the Love Clean Streets app. The Parish Council is advised by a resident, that these reports appear to be marked as closed, but one gully is still blocked, causing water to flow around the kerb side which in icy weather could be hazardous. Cllr J Singleton has agreed to liaise with LCC for further action.

1141/24 8. **Planning and Licensing**

No planning applications were received at the time of the agenda.

1142/24 9. **Amenities/Maintenance/Environment**

- Cllr Sandra Milton and Cllr Steve Milton left the meeting.

Amenity Cleansing Contract - following a verbal contract review summary delivered by Cllrs P Bull and G Stead, **it was resolved** to extend the contract into Year 2 as per the terms of the contract. The clerk will write to the contractor. **It was resolved** that the watering will continue as additional duties for 2024.

Cllr Sandra Milton and Cllr Steve Milton rejoined the meeting.

- Open Spaces Contract - following the verbal contract review summary delivered by Cllrs P Bull and G Stead, **it was resolved** to extend the contract into Year 2 as per the terms of the contract. The clerk will write to the contractor and add a contract variation to include one shrubbed area at Cartford Close, which has been agreed during contract review discussions with the contractor (note – the contractor has agreed to do this additional work at no extra cost to the Parish Council).
- Road Sweeping Quotation – having reviewed the costings for this additional service, **it was resolved** not to proceed. Fylde Borough Council does provide this service to the area on a bi-monthly basis.
- Barrel Planters – **it was resolved** to purchase 6 new barrels to replace the wooden ones throughout the village which despite numerous repairs and yearly maintenance now need replacement. Authentic looking self-watering barrel planters made from recycled plastic will be purchased. A budget of £500 was agreed from the Village Improvement reserve. Additional funding has been requested through the Parish Champion Grant scheme – should this grant be successful, **it was resolved** a further 6 barrels will be purchased.

1143/24 10. **County & Borough Council**

- FBC: Neighbourhood Development Plans - having considered background information provided by FBC, **it was resolved** not to pursue the development of a plan at the present time. The clerk will inform FBC.
- FBC: Development of a Town and Parish Council Training – **it was resolved** that the Parish Council had not identified any additional training sessions that could be included into FBCs training plan. The Clerk will inform FBC.
- A586 Roadworks: the Parish Council has over the past couple of months raised their concern with LCC Highways at the damage to grass verges and debris in the gutters and roads, which has been generated during the roadworks. Whilst the Parish Council understands that the works have been undertaken by utility contractors, they have requested LCC liaise with them on behalf of the Parish Council. **It was resolved** that the Parish Council will raise this matter further with MP Mark Menzies.

1144/24 11. **Lancashire Devolution Consultation** (lancashiredevolution.co.uk)

In November 2023, the Government announced it would be willing to enter into a devolution deal with Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackpool Council. A consultation on this proposal is running for eight weeks until 26 January 2024. **It was resolved** that the Parish Council would need to understand the long-term effects of this proposal in more detail and felt that they were not in a position to submit comments as a Parish Council at this time.

1145/24 12. **Internal Audit**

It was resolved to approve the Internal Audit Terms of Reference and suggested testing methodology.

It was resolved to appoint Jan Finch as the Internal Auditor.

1146/24 13. **Items for the Next Agenda**

Effectiveness of Internal Audit Controls Review

1147/24 14. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 8th February 2024