

ULNES WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on 13 November 2023 in The Old School, Ulnes Walton Lane, Ulnes Walton commencing at 7.00 pm.

Present Councillors P Doddenhof (Chairman), J Dalton, E Doran, P Kelly and N Watkinson.

Also present 1 Member of the public.

88/23 Apologies for Absence

None received.

89/23 Declarations of Interests

None declared

90/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 October 2023

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

91/23 Residents Surgery

It was reported the Average Speed Camera System along the A581, between Euxton and Rufford, which includes Southport Road, is now operational.

A static caravan at a property on Holker Lane was mentioned.

92/23 Planning Matters

No applications for consideration.

The lodging of an appeal against the refusal of permission for the change of use of a field from agricultural land to secure dog walking and training field, and erection of 1.8m high fencing along with associated car parking (retrospective) dog walking facilities at Land at Holker Lane (application 22/01094/FUL) was noted.

The dismissal of an appeal against an Enforcement Notice served in respect of the unauthorised material change of use of the land and associated unauthorised operational development consisting of raised land levels and installation of hardstanding to facilitate that material change of use to a use for parking and storage purposes at Land of Culshaws Farm, Holker Lane (application EN709) was also noted.

93/23 Finance

- i) Resolved: the current Monitoring Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman.
- ii) Due to issues with the bank account, no payments were made.

94/23 Banking Arrangements

Despite several attempts to provide information requested by Barclays Bank, the Council's accounts have been closed. Councillors discussed alternative arrangements with Unity Trust, a bank specialising in providing facilities for parish councils and charities, which is used by several local parish councils. Authorised signatories were nominated and a complaint to Barclays Bank is to be raised.

Resolved: banking facilities are to be arranged with Unity Trust Bank, with Councillors Doddenhof, Kelly, Sloan and Watkinson and the Clerk nominated as signatories.

95/23 2024-25 Precept

A draft of 2024-2025 budget requirements was presented for discussion. The draft budget would result in the parish part of the council tax bill for residents remaining unchanged. Councillors are to provide details of any suggestions for major expenditure in time for inclusion within a finalised budget for presentation for approval at the next meeting.

96/23 Litter Picking Contract

The litter picking service provided by Eccleston Parish Council was reviewed. The hourly rate for 2024-25 will increase in line with inflation.

Resolved: the contract is to continue for the 2024-25 financial year.

97/23 Reports from Outside Bodies

No reports.

98/23 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11 December 2023.

99/23 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the exclusion of members of the press and public for the following item was considered on the grounds that the item comprises information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, in accordance with Part 1 (3) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, is exempt from public disclosure.

Resolved: due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, Members of the press and public were excluded for the consideration of the following item.

100/23 Personnel Matters

The Clerk's salary was increased in accordance with the National Joint Council for Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.