

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **PARISH ROOM, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 10th June 2003 commencing at 7.30pm

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon (Chairman), R. A. Bowyer, C. Bloor, G. Coulson, F. Crow, H. S. Guildford, A. Harling, A. Hiles, K. Robson, S. Rothwell, M. Sands, H. Tyler, M. Tyler and W. J. Tyrie

Apologies:- M. D. Cummings

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and County Councillor J. Armstrong
4 residents from the Herrington Close/Maplewood Court area

There being no Police representative the Chairman suggested that as 4 residents from the Herrington Close/Maplewood Court area were present for item 6(b) were present that the Council should deal with item 6 (b) on the Agenda. This was agreed. The residents were reminded that they were not allowed to speak on this item.

073/03 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors Coulson and Guildford declared an interest in this item and took no part in the debate.

No	FJC/1/2003/0285/DMFP (Delegated application)
Applicant	Drawbridge Developments Ltd
Proposed	Temporary Fence (retrospective) between Herrington Close and Maplewood Court
At	Hospital Road, Langley Park

For the benefit of those Councillors not present at the earlier Special Meeting the Clerk gave a brief report on the Meeting attended by several residents from the Herrington Close/Maplewood Court area. The majority of the residents present had fully supported the application as the fence had removed many of the vandalism and safety issues which had arisen whilst there was an open thoroughfare between the new estates across Hospital Road.

Another resident from Langley Street had spoken against the application as she had used the original opening between the two estates when visiting friends in Herrington Close and for leisure walks/bike rides as an alternative to using the main road and old railway line. She also considered that it would be a more positive contribution to the whole community of Langley Park if the opening, now blocked up by the temporary fence, was reopened.

For a more detailed note of the Special Meeting see Minutes attached.

Councillor Tyrie made a further statement stating that since the fence had been erected the two estates had been returned to the residents and the vandalism and safety issues were much improved.

Following consideration of the matter, noting the comments made at the Special Meeting, and taking all issues raised into account Cllr Harling proposed that the application should be supported. The proposal was seconded.

RESOLVED by 9 votes to nil with 3 abstentions (excluding Cllrs Coulson and Guildford) to support the application.

The residents then left the Meeting.

Before returning to the Agenda the Clerk was asked by Cllr Rothwell on the situation re a Police representative at the Meeting. The Clerk said that as far as he was aware the position of Beat Officer was being advertised and for the time being the area was being covered by Sergeant Foster and PC Patterson

074/03 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY 2003

Signed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting that the Meeting finished at 9.50pm.

Under 061/03 Elections 2003 Cllr Tyrie queried if the Council had been made aware of the option to defer consideration of the co-option for the vacancy on the Quebec Ward until the June 2003 Meeting.

The Clerk reminded the Council that he had read out an email from the Returning Officer stating the options for co-option at either the May or June Meeting. This statement was supported by other Councillors present.

075/03 MATTERS ARISING

005/02 Proposed lay by opposite the Village Hall, Quebec

The Clerk advised that initial site investigation work should be carried out shortly. If any potentially abnormal costs were identified, to deal with the relocation of any public services then the Council would be advised accordingly. The cost of the initial investigations was in the order of £400 to £500, which

would have to be met by the Parish Council if the scheme was subsequently aborted. In addition as the existing seat was now reaching the end of its useful life a new seat would be provided – see item 028b(iii) below.

Cllr Sands suggested that as John Wilson, resident of Quebec and a former Parish Clerk and Parish Councillor, had died the previous day perhaps a suitably worded plaque could be attached to the seat. The Council was saddened to receive this sad news and it was unanimously agreed that a commemorative plaque should be attached to the seat.

085/02 and 039/03 Traffic Calming Measures

The Clerk advised the Council that he had written to the Area Traffic Manager (ATM) requesting that the survey is extended to include Esh and Quebec.

In addition an article had been prepared for inclusion in Esh Leaves on the Parish Council's action in this case and inviting the public to contact the County Councillor on their concerns.

Cllr M. Tyler referred to flashing warning signs in Barnard Castle which were a useful deterrent to drivers in that area.

Cllr Armstrong advised that he was pursuing a report with the ATM for potential traffic calming measures in this area.

088/141/02 Parish Transport Working Group

The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting comments from the Transport Section at County Hall.

Cllrs A. Harling and M. Tyler expressed concern at the lack of a detailed analysis in the report and the Clerk was asked to contact the DRCC for this information.

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

The Clerk advised that the Council's "expression of interest" bid, under the Doorsteps Green initiative, had been turned down by the Countryside Agency as "it does not seem to be an area of community focus". Cllr Hiles referred to possible funding from CDENT.

The Clerk had also contacted English Nature and the RNSC but in both cases only a limited amount of funding. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk should arrange to meet with Durham Wildlife Trust to consider a possible management scheme for the site in accordance with their original report and to contact Durham Wildlife Services concerning their offer to prepare a detailed budgeted schedule of works, investigate additional funding, select and appoint a Contractor and supervise any subsequent contract.

134/02 Environmental Improvements

b) Gateway Planting initiatives

Site inspection carried out that day, schedule of work prepared by Cllr Sands and estimate was awaited from Paul Snowdon.

026/03 Progress re appointment of Development Worker

It was reported that the Development Worker post for the Esh Ward was to be re-advertised.

028b(iii)/03 Replacement Seats for Esh Village Green

The Clerk advised that he contacted Ebony Products and had been informed that the hardwood bench seats were no longer produced. The Clerk and also contacted several Prisons in the area and Finchale Training College but none of these outlets were making hardwood garden seats. In addition the Clerk had contacted several Garden Centres and had been quoted between £300 and £1400 for similar seats.

Following this disappointing response the Clerk had been in touch with Kirby Lonsdale Parish Council who had acquired several items of furniture from the bpi.recycled products catalogue referred to at the previous Parish Council Meeting, which listed various standard plaswood product ranges.

Photographs of the sloper bench seat were tabled at the Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council should acquire 4 black coloured seats, 3 for Esh Green, 1 for the new lay by in Quebec, at an estimated cost of nearly £200 each plus vat, plus £10 for longer legs (for concreting in the ground) plus £60 delivery costs (max). The seats for Esh Green to be installed by Keith Parker.

038/03 Broadband

The Clerk advised that the Trigger point had dropped to 350 and registration numbers had risen to well over 300.

039(ii)/03 Service 767

Article prepared by Durham County Council Transport Section for inclusion in Esh Leaves.

056a/03 Requests for donation

Thank you letter received from The County Durham Society for the Blind

059/03 Correspondence

a)(ii) Compost Awareness Week

The Clerk advised the Council that Mr. P. Snowdon had now taken the twenty free bags of compost (35 litre bags) to the Langley Park Garden Society.

n) Reply received from the Director of Environment and Technical Services (DETS), Durham County Council re herbicide spraying to the path verges on the Witton to Bearpark section of the Lanchester Valley Walk. The letter outlined the current difficulties with the maintenance budget and that other options had to be considered. The option of doing nothing had been considered and it was felt that the route might be abandoned by users. The herbicide option was therefore considered the best of a number of options.

After giving the matter careful consideration the Council **RESOLVED** that the DETS should be requested not to carry out any further spraying in this area and to review the matter again if the weeds get out of control.

060/03 Library Service

The Clerk advised that he had been unable to obtain a reply from the E.Q.U.A.L. Partnership re the meeting to be convened to consider what action should be taken for the provision of a static library in Langley Park. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should now fix a date for a meeting and invite representatives from the Langley Park and District Community Association, the E.Q.U.A.L. Partnership to attend together with the County Councillor Armstrong and a representative from the IT@theTute Centre. In addition the Clerk to write yet again to the Director of Cultural Services expressing concern over the lack of a static library and the continuing deterioration of the Trailer Library. County Councillor Armstrong advised that he was arranging a visit by officers from Durham County Council to inspect both the Church Street Community Centre and the old Fire Station. A visit was taking place on 13th June 2003.

062/03 Planning Matters

Letter sent to the Planning Officer in accordance with the decisions reached at the Meeting.

063/03 Hanging Baskets

The Clerk advised that Paul Snowdon should be making a start in hanging the baskets next week.

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The Clerk advised the County Council was obtaining a further estimate for the provision of a noticeboard for Langley Park. The question of a site was raised and after taking a vote on the matter it was **RESOLVED** that the noticeboard be erected in the vicinity of the Langley Park Post Office subject to the Clerk discussing the matter with the County Council and the adjacent residents.

065/03 Land at Davis Crescent

The Clerk advised that Home Housing was due to start work on site on Monday 16th June 2003.

066(i)/03 Play Areas

Engineers report still awaited. In the meantime the Clerk had obtained an estimate from the District Council for the cost of providing play park under each of the remaining items of equipment on the Esh and Quebec sites. The estimate was £427.50 + vat.

Subject to the reports confirming that there were no other major problems on these sites it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk finalise arrangements with the District Council for the supply and installation of playpark on each of the sites concerned.

066(ii)/03 Sycamore Tree on Esh Village Green

The Clerk advised that a Section 211 Notice had been served on the District Council to remove the sycamore tree adjacent to the boundary wall of Esh Hall.

076/03 CORRESPONDENCE

a) DAPTC

- i) Executive 5th March 2003
- ii) Good Councillors Guide (copies ordered by the Clerk – to be collected by Cllr Harling)
- iii) Audit Guidance Publication
- iv) National Code of Conduct
- v) Section 137 changes – increase for £3.50 per elector to £5.00 per elector
- vi) Conference details

b) Derwentside District Council

Standards Committee – Representation (Cllr Rothwell interested)

c) Thank you letter from the County Durham Society for the Blind (item 056a/03 refers)

d) Invitation received by the Clerk to address the Langley Park Primary School Children's School Council

e) County Durham Waste Local Plan – Revised Deposit Draft

f) Zurich Annual Health and Safety Seminar

g) Community News June 2003

077/03 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that Councillors Coulson and Guildford had an interest in all the following applications and that Councillors Bowyer and Robson had an interest in Planning Application No 1/2003/0491

Councillor Coulson took no part in the discussion on any of the applications received although Councillor Guildford did pass comment on Planning Application No 1/2003/0491

Applications

Application No 928/1/167 (2)
Applicant Durham County Council
Proposal Regulation 3 Application for new Sports Hall and Arts Building (Revised Design)
Location Esh Parish Hall

Plans of the proposed development had been displayed in Esh Post Office. Cllrs Crow and Sands had received several comments expressing concern at the latest proposals. These mainly related to traffic implications, the design of the building and potential uses of the building. Cllr Armstrong said he was in discussions with the County Council officers on the possibility of a small area of parking being included on site within the play area.

The Clerk advised that further discussions were taking place between County Council officers on the design of the building and that a report would not now be going to the relevant Committee on 18th June 2003.

It was agreed to advise the County Council that the Parish Council had serious reservations on the application and that it wished to be consulted on any amendments to the plans.

No FJC/1/2003/0444/DMFP (Delegated application)
Applicant Mr Weston
Proposed Single storey extension to rear
At 21 Eppleton Close, Langley Park

No FJC/1/2003/0442/DMFP (Delegated application)
Applicant Mr P. Forsyth
Proposed Erection of one dwelling and detached garage
At Plot 2, Former Rookstone Nursing Home, Langley Park

No CS/1/2003/0456/DMFP
Applicant The Governing Body of St Michael's School
Proposed Extension to building to provide new stairwell
At St Michael's RC School, Esh

No objections to any of the above subject to adjoining occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account

No CS/1/2003/0491/DMFP
Applicant Newton Moor Construction Ltd
Proposed Erection of 25 dwellings
At Woodside Farm, Woodside Terrace, Langley Park

Although outline planning permission had already been granted on this site the Clerk advised the Council that an additional area of land had now been included and therefore a new application was required.

Several issues were raised concerning vehicular access to the Recreation Ground, the access arrangements to plots 23-25 and the size of the hammerhead.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would note the application and request that if the District Council was minded to approve the application that it would confirm with the Highway Authority that all access arrangements into the site, including to plots 23-25, were acceptable and that the hammerhead specification is adequate.

In addition any final development should incorporate an adequate access point into Plot 1 to enable maintenance vehicles to gain access into the Recreational Ground.

No CS/1/2003/0506/DMFP
Applicant J. Kirby
Proposed Barn conversion, granny flat and single storey extension
At The Old House, Clifford House, Quebec

No plans available. As comments likely to be required before the next Parish Council Meeting the matter to be delegated to the Clerk, Chairman and Cllrs Crow and Hiles.

No CS/1/2003/0505/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Johnson
Proposed Erection of single storey side and porch extensions
At 5 Stargate Close, Langley Park

No objections subject to adjoining occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account

No SL/1/2003/0536/DMFP
Applicant J. Tate
Proposed Two storey extension
At Springwell, Front Street, Langley Park

No objections subject to adjoining occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account

No SL/1/2003/0539/DMFP
Applicant Chief Constable
Proposed Provision of Police Training facilities and dog kenneling utilising existing buildings and grounds at the former Compass Caravan factory
At Riverside Industrial Estate, Langley Park (letter attached)

Deferred until the July 2003 Meeting. Site visit arranged for Thursday 12th June 2003.

No JH/1/2003/0545/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Dinsdale
Proposed Conservatory
At 23 Langley Street, Langley Park

No objections subject to adjoining occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account

No CS/1/2003/0549/DMFP
Applicant Esh Parish Council
Proposed Felling of one sycamore tree (Section 211 Notice)
At Esh Village Green, Hall Road, Esh

The Parish Council was unable to comment on this application as it was one submitted by the Parish Council

078/03 BUS SHELTERS

Cllr Sands had received an enquiry re a bus shelter being provided at the Bus Stop near the hollybush, outside Esh C of E School, opposite the entrance to the graveyard. Cllr Sands suggested that any shelter could possibly be set back into the adjacent School play area. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the District Council on this site and one at opposite 1-3 Wilks Hill (next to Quarry House Farm). Other options could include grant through the Countryside Agency, E.Q.U.A.L. Partnership and possibly the Parish Council providing capital for the District Council to construct and thereafter maintain the shelter(s).

079/03 TRANSFER OF TENANCY ED 84

Letter received from Mr Foster requesting that due to his age he would like to transfer the tenancy to another local resident, Mr W, Charlton, who had been helping him on this site for nearly 3 years. This was agreed.

080/03 REPORTS

a) Parish Transport Working Group

Awaiting comments from the County Council and a detailed analysis from the DRCC.

b) E.Q.U.A.L Partnership

Brief report given by Councillor Hiles

c) www site

Cllr Bloor said that he had spent some time with Mr Rider to offer some advice in improvements to the site

d) Parish, District and County Councillor reports

Parish Council

Esh Leaves

Next edition scheduled for July 2003.

Garage Licence

The Clerk advised the Council that the licensee had given notice of his intention to terminate the licence at the end of June. The licensee was however to remain the keyholder to look after the premises until the end of July 2003. The Clerk said he would start to make enquiries to find a new licensee for the property.

e) District Council

Councillors Coulson and Tyrie reported on their first weeks on the Council.

f) County Council

Cllr Armstrong reported on the following:-

- (i) Keep clear sign to be painted outside the Church of England School
- (ii) Looking into cost of carrying out some road surface improvements in Hall Road near the small Green
- (iii) Potholes to be repaired in East Clere and D'Arcy Street
- (iv) Hill Crest to be resurfaced
- (v) Discussions taking place with the Northern Area Engineer re the bus turning area adjacent to the the Langley Park Cemetery
- (vi) Request for bollards opposite Quality Fare as some vehicles were reversing right across the road and two had actually impacted front doors in Church Street. The request was supported by the Parish Council.
The Clerk advised Cllr Armstrong that a similar request had been received from the Manager of the Drop in Centre. Cars had been left without the handbrake being engaged, had crossed the road from outside the Coop, and run into the front window of the Drop In Centre on 2 occasions.
- (vii) Reported on falling School roles. Schools near to Langley Park under threat. Need to keep this under review.
- (viii) Leaflet on the South Derwentside Access Bus Link starting 8th May 2003 with pick ups at East Hedleyhope, Esh Winning, Cornsay and Satley. Clerk to check if this service can be extended into the Parish.

g) Community Association

Cllr M. Tyler reported on the following:-

- (i) Having problems finding a builder to quote for the construction of ramp outside the Church Street Centre
- (ii) £500 donation from DUCK
- (iii) Discussions taking place with various fundholders in order to continue Mr Rider's employment beyond October 2003

Cllr Coulson referred to the CIP open days in the TUTE

081/03 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 8th July 2003 in the Parish Room commencing at 7.00pm.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded for the remainder of the Meeting during consideration of the items listed below on the grounds that if they are present during the discussion of these items there could be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100.

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm