

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **PARISH ROOM, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 8th July 2003 commencing at 7.30pm

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon (Chairman), R. A. Bowyer, G. Coulson, F. Crow, H. S. Guildford, A. Harling, H. Tyler, M. Tyler and W. J. Tyrie

Apologies:- C. Bloor, M. D. Cummings, J. Geany, A. Hiles, K. Robson, S. Rothwell and M. Sands

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and County Councillor J. Armstrong

084/03 POLICE REPORT

The Chairman welcomed PC Elizabeth Liddle, Beat Officer for Langley Park, to her first Meeting. PC Liddle introduced herself to the Council and said that she hoped that there would always be a Police presence at future meetings even if she was unable to attend in person.

PC Liddle then reported on the following incidents since the May 2003 Meeting.

7 youths causing problems, 6 criminal burglaries, 2 vehicles damaged, 2 confirmed bilking cases, 2 thefts from vehicles, 1 caution and 1 drugs related conviction, fireplace stolen from Ushaw College, criminal damage to a dwelling, bricks thrown through 2 dwellinghouse windows and a false alarm incident in Esh.

Cllr Armstrong said that he had spoken to Inspector Hall re policing in the area.

The Chairman thanked PC Liddle for her comprehensive report. PC Liddle then left the Meeting.

085/03 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 10th JUNE 2003

Re Proposed Temporary Fence (retrospective) between Herrington Close and Maplewood Court Signed as a true record signed by the Chairman.

086/03 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that he had advised the District Council of the Parish Council's decision in this case.

087/03 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10th JUNE 2003

Signed as a true record signed by the Chairman, excepting that Councillor Tyrie sought clarification on the question of abstentions particularly under item 061/03. The Chairman said that on future occasions he would call for abstentions to be recorded when any votes were taken.

088/03 MATTERS ARISING

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

The Clerk advised that no abnormal works were identified during the initial site investigations and that the work had now been completed.

A new seat had been ordered, together with a plaque in memory of John Wilson, and delivery was anticipated shortly.

Cllr. J. Armstrong said that the works were virtually completed.

085/02 and 039/03 Traffic Calming Measures

Still under consideration.

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

The Clerk advised that the Chief Executive of Durham Wildlife Trust had agreed to a meeting, with the Chairman and Clerk, and that this should include Durham Wildlife Services. The meeting had not yet taken place.

134/02 Environmental Improvements

b) Gateway Planting initiatives

Estimate awaited from Paul Snowdon.

026/03 Progress re appointment of Development Worker

It was reported that the Development Worker post for the Esh Ward had been re-advertised.

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

The Clerk advised that he had ordered 3 seats for Esh Green in addition to the one for Quebec (see item 005/02 above). Delivery was expected in about 3 weeks.

038/03 Broadband

The Clerk advised that the trigger point of 350 had now been met, subject to verification by BT.

060/03 Library Service

Cllr J. Armstrong advised that a major report was going to the Council's Cabinet shortly and included a recommendation that the County Council takes steps to replace the trailer library service in Langley Park with a static library. This could now mean that the County Council carries out a feasibility study on the Church Street Community Centre.

In the meantime residents were complaining that the mobile library currently on site 'swayed' when there were several people walking around in the vehicle.

Cllr M. Tyler expressed concern at the reduction of one hour (6.00pm closing time rather than 7.00pm) for the library hours. Cllr Armstrong agreed to investigate.

061/03 Elections 2003

The Clerk had received a breakdown of the costs which showed a reduction of well over £100 for the all postal ballot in Esh compared with the conventional system (ballot box) for the election 2002 in Esh.

063/03 Hanging Baskets

The Clerk advised that Paul Snowdon had installed most of the hanging baskets.

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The Clerk advised that he had now received an estimate, from the County Council, of around £1500 for a new board (anodized aluminium display case with shatterproof polycarbonate). A copy of the catalogue used by the County Council was displayed at the meeting. The Clerk also confirmed that he had contacted the local Sub Post Office who had expressed concern at the possible siting of the board outside the Post Office.

Several Councillors expressed the view that a timber based board might be more attractive than the one suggested by the County Council. The Chairman called for a vote on using a timber based board rather than the anodized aluminium version. Following the vote it was agreed to proceed with a timber board.

065/03 Land at Davis Crescent

The Clerk advised that Home Housing had carried out some initial work on site and more was proposed to deal with some of the hidden debris adjacent to the eastern boundary fence.

066(i)/03 Play Areas

Engineers report received. No real problems had been identified excepting for the lack of playbark, that the roller barrel should be greased on a regular basis and that some minor attention was needed on some of the wooden equipment on the Quebec site. The Clerk advised that he had accompanied Mr G. Wharton of Wharton Landscapes around the 2 sites involved in order for him to provide an estimate to carry out the remedial works required on these sites. Any price quoted could be compared with the one received from the District Council. It was agreed that the matter be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

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

The Clerk advised that there were only 2 days to run on the Section 211 Notice and no objections appear to have been raised. Once the 6 week period had lapsed the Clerk intended to instruct Oliver's to remove the tree.

077/03 Planning Matters

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

Re the following:-

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

Cllr Bowyer advised that in conversation with a member of the Dixon family (owners of Woodside Farm) who commented that the Council would not be able to take access into the Recreation Ground through the proposed development and that it would need to revert back to the original access point off Wallnook Lane. The Clerk advised that he had already raised this matter with the Agent dealing with the sale of this site. It was agreed that the Council would await the Agents comments although it might be necessary to take legal advice in this instance.

078/03 Bus Shelters

Reply received from Durham County Council indicating that there were no plans to improve bus stops in Esh Parish as the Council is concentrating on the major towns and corridors between these towns.

Reference was made to the Parish Transport Grants.

As yet no comments had been received from the District Council.

080/03f(viii)Reports

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the County Council re the possibility of the South Derwentside Access Bus Link being extended into the Parish.

089/03 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 DAPTC
 - a) National Training Scheme – County Training Partnership
 - b) Participation Allowance
 - c) Quality Parish and Town Councils
- 2 Durham County Council
 - a) Invitation to PPP 10th Anniversary Award Ceremony
 - b) Customer Survey – Contract Services

2 Signed by the Chairman.....

- c) Local Government Pension Schemes 1997 and ill health retirement procedures
- 3 Houghall Enterprises Limited – Information requested re carnivals
- 4 North East Rural Affairs Forum Conference Invitation – Thursday 17th July 2003
- 5 Standards Board for England – Video
- 6 DEFRA – Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme
- 7 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Brigade – Integrated Risk Management Plan and Best Value Performance Plan 2003/2004.
- 8 Tina Cook. Copy letter to Planning Officer, Derwentside District Council re Diggerland Vehicles penetrating onto the banks of the River Browney.
- 9 Service Direct, Durham County Council.
- 10 Estimates received for the three Christmas Trees at Esh (£450.00 plus vat) Quebec £450 plus vat, Langley Park £1050. All these estimates are subject to any additional costs arising for fencing around each tree, electricity charges and the cost of supplying trees. These estimates represented an increase of roughly 1-2% on 2002 costs.
It was agreed to proceed with the provision of these trees.
- 11 The Boundary Committee for England.
Local Government Review of Two-tier areas in the North East.
- 12 James Doran – solicitor-Notice of Transfer Application for the Hamsteels Inn in the name of Valerie Barron.
- 13 ODPM – New Ethical Framework Regulations.
- 14 One voice network – mailing list
- 15 Charity commission – newsletter.
- 16 Dunelm Project Unit Newsletter – issue 5.

090/03 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that Councillors Coulson and Guildford had an interest in all the following applications. Councillor Coulson took no part in the discussion on any of the applications received.

Approvals

- a) Erection of one dwelling with integral garage, land to the west of West Holme, Front Street, Esh
- b) Disabled access ramp at the Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park
- c) Sun lounge extension at 18 Green Court, Esh

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

The Clerk advised that amended plans had been submitted that afternoon. The Chairman suspended the meeting for 5 minutes to allow Councillors an opportunity to inspect the plans. On resuming the Meeting several Councillors were still not satisfied that this was the best design achievable and in the circumstances resolved to note the amended application and to request that the Planning Authority take into consideration any comments which might be received from residents. Cllr Crow agreed to display the plans in the Esh PO and to advise residents that any comments should be lodged with the County Council by 29th July 2003. The Clerk also stated that the planning application should be considered by the District Council on the 13th August 2003 and by the County Council on 20th August 2003.

No FJC/1/2003/0574/DMFP
 Applicant Mr R. W. and Mrs T. Boyd
 Proposed Change of use of land to domestic curtilage
 At Land to rear of 16, 17 and 18 Maplewood Court, Langley Park

No LS/1/2003/0493/DMFP
 Applicant Mr Graham
 Proposed Single storey rear extension
 At 10 Middridge Road, Langley Park

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

Item deferred at the previous Meeting. Plans had been displayed at the Esh PO. No objections raised.

No objections to any of the above 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)

A copy the Clerk's file note on the visit to the Dragonville, Durham Training Centre had been attached to the Agenda.

A limited number of objections had been lodged with the Planning Officer and in the circumstances the Officer intended to report the application to District Council's Development Committee.

One of the objectors, a local resident, had attended the site visit on 12th June 2003 and had expressed serious reservations at the prospect of dogs being left on site, overnight and possibly unsupervised. It was agreed to note the application and that in the event of the District Council being minded to approve the application then it should give serious consideration to including the conditions recommended in the Clerk's report. However the Parish Council's response should stress the need for the kennels to be adequately supervised at all times.

No FJC/1/2003/0647/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Simms
Proposed Change of use of land for domestic garden erection of fence
At 11 Herrington Close, Langley Park

The application was to incorporate the waste ground at the end of the cul-de-sac next to the temporary fence in Hospital Road.

Bearing in mind the recent Public Meeting re the fence it was resolved that the Council would note the application and request the Planning Officer to consult with adjoining occupiers and any others who had responded to the application for the temporary fence.

091/03 QUALITY PARISH COUNCILS

The Clerk had tabled a copy of a report for information. 20 copies DEFRA's Explanation Notes (66 pages) had been ordered for distribution to Councillors.

The Clerk had contacted the DAPTC and had been advised that the National Association were likely to hold some seminars on this later in the year. The Clerk advised that he was looking into the question of qualification for competent Clerks but had concerns re the extra work, which could be generated by the proposals. Agreed to defer consideration of the matter until further information available and seminar arranged by the DAPTC for Councillors to have a better understanding as to what was involved here.

092/03 REPORTS

a) Parish Transport Working Group

The Clerk advised that 2 meetings had been held to discuss the initial report received from the DRCC. The latest meeting had taken place earlier that day attended by the DRCC, DCC, Cllrs Coulson, Mollon and Tyler together with the Clerk. Further information was to be provided by both the DRCC and DCC but the main work identified was to obtain more anecdotal evidence. It was agreed that this should be carried out by an appropriately qualified person and could take several days in interviewing residents, Church leaders, Youth Organisations, Recreational Groups etc. It was agreed that Cllr M. Tyler would contact Cllr Geany to ascertain if she would be prepared to carry out such a survey and present a report to the Council for use with any PTG bid on a fee paid basis subject to the Clerk clarifying the probity of the Council employing one of its own Members in such an arrangement. The Clerk said that the cost of the work could be anything from £250 to £500 or more. It was further agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Parish Transport Working Group, could finalise arrangements with a consultant with a budget of around £250 to £500.

The Clerk also to check on the possibility of any additional grant being identified for this work.

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

No report received

c) www site

Cllr Bloor had offered to prepare a short note after each Meeting, to cover any interesting local issues considered by the Council, for inclusion on the web site. This was agreed subject to any note being approved by the Chairman and Clerk.

d) Parish, District and County Councillor reports

Parish Council

- i) Census 2001 population details now available. Latest figure for Esh Ward is 5023
- ii) Request received from the Director of Cultural Services, on behalf of Age Concern, to use the Parish Room for a Benefits Session. This was agreed subject to the Director obtaining the agreement of the Community Association.
- iii) Esh Leaves
Next edition due out in the next few days. The issue included a "Rubbish" Newsletter provided by the Council.
Cllr M. Tyler suggested that an article be included in the next edition for the Free Smoke Alarms on offer through the Fire Service.
- iv) Barking Dogs on Allotment ED34
Complaint received re dog barking on this site. This is not the first complaint received. If the tenant does not remove his dogs then it was agreed that the Council should serve a Notice to Quit.

e) District Council

Councillors Coulson and Tyrie reported on various issues and in particular the future of Hill Top and the impact of the Anti Social Bill on the District Council services.
Cllr Coulson said that Mrs Taylor (widow of the former Groundsman) had died recently. It was agreed to write a letter of condolence to her son, Mr T. Taylor (21 Park Drive) and advise the County Treasurer.

f) County Council

Cllr Armstrong reported on the following:-

- (i) An estimate of £11,000 had been received to upgrade the surface on the lower part of Hall Road
- (ii) Problems re parking outside the shops in Front Street opposite the Nursing Home. Discussions taking place shortly with the Nursing Home for additional parking spaces to be provided for staff on part of the RC Church car park to the rear.
- (iii) Request that highway issues are referred to him and not directly to the County Council officers.
- (iv) Bollards under consideration as per discussion at previous Meeting

g) Community Association

Cllr M. Tyler reported on the following:-

- i) There were now no problems with finding a builder to quote for the construction of ramp outside the Church Street Centre. The initial quotes were well in excess of the original estimate.
- ii) £5000 donation from the Carnegie UK Trust towards new furniture and kitchen equipment.

093/03 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 9th September 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.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm

5 Signed by the Chairman.....

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