

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 11th November 2003 commencing at 7.00pm

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

Apologies:- J. Geany, A. Harling, K. Robson and M. Tyler

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

137/03 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Community Safety Officer (Mr B. Donkin) addressed the Council on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. A copy of a guidance note was left with the Council. Mr Donkin said that Schemes were concentrating on smaller areas. He said that whilst crime in general was falling fear of crime was increasing. It was intended to give more support to the vulnerable and elderly by providing long life light bulbs and time clocks at much reduced prices to encourage additional safety measures in the home. Mr Donkin also drew attention to a new type of crime 'distraction burglaries' where youngsters as young as 5 are being used as decoys. He also made reference to con men dressed as Council or Waterboard officials. It was agreed that Mr Donkin should write a further article in Esh Leaves on these types of burglaries and what steps residents should take to protect their property. The Chairman thanked Mr Donkin for his presentation and he then left the Meeting.

138/03 POLICE REPORT

The Chairman welcomed PC Elizabeth Liddle, Beat Officer for Langley Park, to the Meeting. PC Liddle reported on various incidents since the October Meeting including:- 117 telephone calls to the Consett Police Station from Esh Ward, 2 children missing from home (now safely returned) 2 Burglaries, 7 youths causing annoyance, a serious affray in Langley Park resulting in 2 policemen sustaining injuries, a fixed penalty on a car parked in the bus turning area near Stringer Terrace, a non domestic burglary, and a criminal damage incident. In addition there had been a traffic accident in Esh Village.

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

139/03 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 14th OCTOBER 2003

Signed as a true record signed by the Chairman.

140/03 MATTERS ARISING

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Draft Management Plan

Still awaited from Durham Wildlife Services (DWS) although the Clerk said that he had been advised that a report was going to the County Council's Cabinet recommending that this site be designated as a Durham Wildlife Site.

Heather cut

The Clerk advised that a revised quote of £200 plus vat had been received from Marleys. This had been agreed and the work now carried out.

Goal Posts

The Clerk advised that quotes of £ 80 plus vat (Marleys) and £50 plus vat (Alan Mace) had been obtained to take out and remove the goal posts from the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to accept the quote from Alan Mace.

134/02 Environmental Improvements

The Clerk advised that Trina Barrett from DWS had now met with Clare Heaps from Durham County Council together with Mr J. Atkinson to discuss the proposed tree planting and hedgerow initiative along Kaysburn Road. Quotations had now been invited from 3 contractors with a closing date of 12th November 2003. A copy of the scheme proposed was circulated at the Meeting.

The Clerk advised that DWS had quoted a fee of £350 plus vat to prepare a scheme, invite quotations, let a contract and supervise works on site. The total net costs to Esh Parish Council anticipated in implementing this scheme was around £1000 plus vat. It was agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, should be authorised to agree any final scheme and costings with DWS within this estimate.

026/03 Progress re appointment of Part Time Development Worker

It was reported that the vacancy had been advertised in Esh Leaves. It was agreed that the post should be filled as soon as possible and that any Worker appointed should be available to advise all local community organisations in addition to the Parish Council and the EQUaL Partnership.

038/03 Broadband

The Clerk advised that a local resident was contacting various businesses to ascertain if they were interested in a satellite broadband system which could offer broadband to clusters of 5 users at a fee of £105 per month. It was understood that some residents had now signed up to Broadband but it was likely than some were too far downstream from the New Brancepeth Exchange to receive the system.

060/03 Library Service

The Clerk advised that a visit had taken place to the Wingate and Trimdon Libraries attended by 17 residents (including representatives from the Parish Council and the EQUaL Partnership). Various matters were raised by Councillor Coulson following the visit, particularly on the question of size and toilet facilities.

Cllr J. Armstrong advised that a further report should be submitted in the next few weeks to the County Council's Cabinet outlining possible options for a new static library following which it was agreed that an information sheet should be sent to every house in the Parish outlining details of the options and inviting residents to select one of the options and for the forms to be placed in appropriate ballot boxes throughout the Parish by an agreed date. It was agreed to proceed on the basis with the information sheets being delivered early in the New Year.

Cllr Guildford thanked Cllr Armstrong for all his hard work on this project.

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The Clerk advised that costings were awaited from Durham County Council.

065/03 Land at Davis Crescent

The Clerk advised that he had written to Home Housing to terminate the lease on the Davis Crescent site. A response was awaited. The Council reaffirmed its decision to surrender its lease on this site.

077/03 Access to the Recreation Ground

The Clerk advised that he had now received a response from CISWO which, whilst containing some copy deeds, did not indicate any actual rights of access into this site. However it was possible that the Council had some obtained some acquired rights over some of the access points. In the meantime the Clerk had obtained the agreement of Anderson and Young to borrow keys for the 2 padlocked gates under their control, and was in contact with the County Council regarding the other padlocked gate off Wallnook Lane.

It was agreed not to pursue any further legal advice at this stage until the situation became clearer re the access used off Bridgeway following the proposed residential development at Woodside Farm.

080/03f(viii) Reports

The Clerk confirmed advised that he had not yet received a reply from the County Council re the possibility of the South Derwentside Access Bus Link being extended into the Parish.

089/03 Correspondence

10 Christmas Trees

The Clerk advised that he had agreed some amended hours with Cllr Sands for Esh.

Pupils from the Langley Park Primary School were painting boards to attach to the fence around the Langley Park tree with the assistance of the Schools handyman.

An estimate had been obtained from Service Direct to collect, erect and remove the fence for £187 plus vat.

In conversation with Gary Wharton of Wharton Landscapes an offer had been made to carry out this work plus collecting the boards from the School and attaching the fence in the sum of £60 plus vat. This was agreed by the Council, with thanks to Wharton Landscapes.

As to the barrier fences around the Esh and Quebec trees a quote of £128 plus vat had been obtained from Service Direct for the Quebec tree alone. The Clerk said that he had made enquiries re buying in barrier fences (2m x1.1m) had been quoted £22.50 + vat per barrier from Willowcrete based in Sunderland.

Cllr Hiles suggested that sheep hurdles could be just as good as barrier fences at a cost around £12.00 each from Carrs of Hexham. The Clerk to make further enquiries. It was however agreed that the Council should purchase up to 15 fences subject to the Council checking the matter with the Council's Insurers.

The Clerk also stated that, subject to no other Breaking News, Paul Mooney of BBC Look North (Weather) had agreed to visit Langley Park on 27th November 2003 to visit the School, read the weather forecast live and turn on the lights. It was noted that additional insurance cover might be required to cover this event. It was agreed to proceed with these arrangements and that the Council should buy treats for the children for the lighting up ceremony and use the Baptist Chapel in order to provide refreshments for Paul Mooney and the BBC. In addition the Headmistress at the LP School should be contacted to suggest that she invite the other Schools at Esh to take part in Paul Mooney's school visit.

090/03 and 108/03 Planning Matters

a) Esh Parish Hall and the Multi Use Sports Area

The Clerk advised the Council that he had requested details of the floodlighting proposals from the County Council – details still awaited.

A letter had also been sent to the Director of Education re the intended start dates for both developments together with a management plan for the site – again reply awaited.

Cllr Armstrong reported that work should start shortly on site initially by removing any asbestos from

the existing Hall before commencing demolition work on 5th January 2004.

Cllr Armstrong also advised that the detailed proposals for the multi use proposals would require planning permission although residents should note that any comments made should relate the detailed matters not the general principle of a games area with floodlighting which had already been

approved.

092/03 Reports

a) Parish Transport Working Group

Report awaited from Councillor Geany although the Clerk had ascertained that it should be ready before the next Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk had also contacted the Transport Section at County Hall and had been advised that there was still time to submit an application for grant under the Parish Transport Grant initiative. It was agreed to defer the matter until the next Meeting.

110/03 Proposed Pedestrian Refuge, Front Street, Langley Park

Cllr Armstrong advised the Council of the discussions which had taken place on site shortly after the previous Meeting and that it was now proposed to slightly modify the proposed siting of the refuge to a position opposite the boundary between 31 and 32 Front Street, Langley Park, directly opposite the footpath leading to the Nursing Home on the other side of the road. The new scheme provided better residential parking than the original scheme. In addition to the proposed refuge Officers from the County Council were looking at another pedestrian refuge being sited further east along Front Street. Cllr Armstrong was thanked for his report and it was agreed to support the current proposals.

Cllr Rothwell raised the question of traffic calming measures elsewhere in the Parish and Cllr Armstrong advised that the Police were considering some electronic device speed checks at the western end of the Village and that in order to improve visibility out of Davis Crescent, near the Stringer Terrace bus stop, a mirror placed in a strategic location was being considered.

111/03 Commuted Sum for the erection of 25 dwellings at Woodside Farm, Woodside Terrace Langley Park

Letter sent to the District Council re application of the commuted sum. Reply awaited.

114/03 Annual Audit

Clerk advised that the internal audit had been carried out on 27th October 2003 by Mrs J. Brown prior to the accounts being sent to the external auditor. A copy of Mrs Brown examination, and other statements outlining the 2002/03 finances, were attached to this report. It was agreed that the Clerk could reply YES to each of the questions raised on the Statement of Assurance.

126/03 National Tree Week 2003 – Trees Matter, Plant Them

The Clerk advised that he had applied for funding under this initiative which would be used towards the Kaysburn Road hedgerow and tree planting scheme. See under 134/02.

127/03 Community Highways Worker

The Clerk had obtained details from the County Council which showed a potential contribution of £11850 from the Parish Council towards the partnership suggested. It was agreed that this matter should be deferred until the Council was in a position to seek accreditation under the Quality Parish Council initiative.

131/03 Playgrounds

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the EQUaL Partnership Playground Group requesting that the Council be kept informed on the dates of future meetings of that Group. In addition he had contacted the Council's Insurers seeking advise re the financial implications of the Parish Council being asked to assume responsibility for any playground upgrades carried out the Councils play areas.

141/03 MINOR CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) Papers for 57th AGM
- b) BIFA Award

(ii) Derwentside District Council

- a) Parish Liaison Meeting 6th November 2003. Cancelled due to lack of items
- b) Talk by the Environment Agency 6.30pm, Wednesday 19th November 2003 on a new initiative for parish and communities to deal with flooding at a very high level – FLOODPACT.

- c) Code of Conduct Seminar 21st November 2003
- d) Comprehensive Performance Assessment
- (iii) Durham County Council
 - a) Tree Week
 - b) Fire and Rescue Authority IRMP
 - c) Local Agenda 21 Autumn 2003 Newsletter
 - d) Notification of the Public Inquiry into objections to the County Durham Waste Local Plan
 - e) County Durham Tourism Meeting postponed from 6th November 2003
 - f) Local Policing Plan – available on www.durham.police.gov.uk
 - g) Best Value Review Business Support Services – Property Services Questionnaire
- (iv) Zurich Municipal – Terrorism Exclusion

142/03 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that Councillors Coulson and Guildford had an interest in all the following applications.

Applications

No LS/1/2003/1004/DMFP
 Applicant Mr and Mrs Laverick
 Proposed Two storey rear extension
 At 3 Hylton Close, Langley Park
 No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted.

143/03 REPORTS

- a) Parish
 Esh Leaves delivered during period 1st to 11th November 2003. Next one due out March 2004.
 Meeting of Society of Local Council Clerks attended by the Clerk.
- b) District
 Cllrs Coulson and Tyrie spoke on the recent Police changes with a streamlined management structure, CCTV initiatives and working with the Community.
- c) County
 See under 060/03 Library and 110/03 Pedestrian refuge

144/03 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 9th December 2003, 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 10.