

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 9th December 2003 commencing at 7.00pm

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon (Chairman), R. A. Bowyer, G. Coulson, J. Geany, H. S. Guildford, A. Harling, A. Hiles, K. Robson, S. Rothwell and H. Tyler

Apologies:- Councillors F. Crow and M. Sands

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

There being no Police representative present the Chairman went straight on to the Agenda.

149/03 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2003

Signed as a true record signed by the Chairman.

150/03 MATTERS ARISING

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Draft Management Plan

The Clerk advised that the County Council's Cabinet had received a report recommending that this site be designated as a Durham Wildlife Site. A draft management plan was still awaited from Durham Wildlife Services (DWS).

Goal Posts

The Clerk advised that he had asked Alan Mace to remove the goalposts and backfill the holes.

134/02 Environmental Improvements

The Clerk's report was adopted and the action of the Chairman and Clerk confirmed.

Work had now started on site although a final cost had yet to be agreed with the Contractor.

026/03 Progress re appointment of Part Time Development Worker

It was reported that the vacancy should be advertised in early January 2004.

060/03 Library Service

County Councillor Armstrong advised the Parish Council that the various options under consideration were currently being costed by the County Council following which it was intended to have a further meeting, early in the New Year, with the Parish Council, the EQUaL Partnership and the Community Association.

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 Home Housing had now confirmed in writing that they would take back the site from the Parish Council.

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(10)/03 Christmas Trees

The Clerk reported on the following

- (a) The Lighting Up Ceremony performed by the BBC Look North Weatherman, Paul Mooney, for the Langley Park tree, was delayed at the last minute and for operational reasons was not transmitted live from Langley Park. Fortunately the Clerk had sufficient time to reorganise arrangements with all the helpers on the night.
- (b) Thank you letters had been sent out to all concerned
- (c) The Langley Park tree had been vandalised (boards removed and light bulbs screwed off) on 2 successive nights. The Clerk had arranged for Service Direct to attend to the lights and Wharton Landscapes to insert mesh netting behind the boards and to make the boards more secure.
- (d) The times for the Esh Lights had been amended in consultation with Cllr Sands.
- (e) Mr J. Hankey, Esh Hall, had donated one tree for Esh and provided another for Quebec for which he had asked for a nominal contribution to be made direct to St Michael and All Angels Church, Esh. The Clerk had suggested £25. Mr Hankey was grateful for the offer and a cheque had been released to Mr Hankey, payable to the Church. The Clerk's action was confirmed and it was agreed that a thank you letter should be sent to Mr Hankey.

090/03 and 108/03 Planning Matters

a) Esh Parish Hall

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.

b) Multi Use Sports Area

The Clerk advised that the Director of Environment and Technical Services, Durham County Council, was still awaiting details of the proposed floodlighting to the multi use games area.

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

Cllr Armstrong advised a further meeting had taken place and as a result of comments made by the Nursing Home re the possible interference to ambulances parking outside the home if the refuge was constructed in the position identified on the latest plan. It was now intended to move the refuge to a position near the temporary bus stop. In addition other changes were proposed to the limited waiting proposals and that part of the existing parking area outside the Pet shop would be converted to a loading bay area. It was intended to carry out a further consultation exercise.

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 accounts had now been sent to the Auditor for consideration.

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 134/02.131/03 Playgrounds

The Council had circulated a copy of the Zurich Municipal's comments re All Risks cover for the 2 sites owned by the Council and a further quote was awaited re the Langley Park site owned by the Cricket Club. Cllr Hiles advised the Council that the EQUaL Partnership Play Group was extremely pro active and had now obtained funding of £6500 towards a feasibility study. After considerable discussion on the matter it was agreed that for the Council to prepare a budget on each of these sites it would need further information on All risks cover compared with Public Liability cover only, clarification on the future 'ownership' of the play equipment a note of any terms and conditions attached to either the grants received or the lease to be offered by the Cricket Club. Cllr Hiles stated that some of this information would no doubt have been addressed on the Coxhoe and Lanchester sites and that she would make enquiries for this information to be made available to the Parish Council. In the meantime the Clerk to have further discussions with the Council's Insurers.

146/03 Grass Cutting Contract 2004

The Clerk advised that he had written to Wharton Landscapes confirming arrangements for 2004. In addition Cllr Sands had confirmed that the residents would like the raised flowerbed to be removed.

151/03 CORRESPONDENCE

040/00 Car parking at Quebec

Letter from the Estates Division, Durham County Council, enquiring if the Parish Council was still looking for land in Quebec Village for car parking purposes. It was agreed that this had now been overtaken by events as additional car parking had now been created within the highway verge opposite the Village Hall.

108/03 Footpaths in Esh Village

Letter received from the Deputy Area Engineer commenting as follows:-

Cross Keys Public House to Former Police House

Recent reinstatements by Utility Companies are satisfactory. There has been some deterioration of old reinstatements and by now these will have been made good.

Esh to Esh Laude

This footway is essentially a rural footway and as such attracts only a low priority in terms of maintenance. Funds do not permit otherwise. It is inspected on a regular basis and essential maintenance to dangerous defects is carried out. There is no rolling programme of improvement. Patching work to the at grade footpath between Esh Laude and Quebec has been scheduled and will be completed when work of a similar nature is carried out in the area.

152/03 Langley Park OAP Treat Fund Christmas Tea and Concert

Invitation for 2 to attend the Tea and Concert. The Clerk said he would like to attend with David Rider to take some photographs and report for Esh Leaves. The letter also went on to state that due to lack of helpers the Treat Committee would be winding down and in about 3 years the last Tea and Concert would be held. The Clerk said that it would be a great disappointment if this annual event was wound up. It was suggested that help might be offered from elsewhere but nothing definite had been agreed. The Clerk said that he would like to include in his article on the Christmas Tea a plea for helpers for this much appreciated event. This was agreed. In addition the Clerk also said that when he stepped down to a more minor role at the end of 2004/05 he would be prepared to assist the Treat Fund Committee with this event as one of his ongoing duties. This was also agreed as it should be seen as contribution by the Council towards a very popular local annual event.

153/03 MINOR CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils
 - (i) 2002/2004 Local Government Work programmes and Fees Consultation
 - (ii) Fly tipping. The Clerk to identify sites at the Recreation Ground, Davis Crescent and along Kaysburn Road.
- b) Derwentside District Council
 - (i) Date of future Derwentside Parish Liaison Committee Meeting 25th February 2004 and 28th April 2004. Meetings to commence at 6.30p.m.
 - (ii) Community Group Database Questionnaire
 - (iii) Crime and Disorder Strategy – Review of Policies and Procedures to tackle anti social behaviour. Referred to Cllr R. A. Bowyer.
- c) Durham County Council
 - (i) Confirmation of successful application for Tree Week 2004.
 - (ii) Local Government Review-Consultation meeting to discuss area boards
 - (iii) Winter Salting Routes for 2003/2004
 - (iv) LGPS Stocktake Consultations
- d) Other
 - (i) Invitation from the Army Presentation Team to a Army for Today Presentation on 12th January 2004 at the Gala Theatre, Durham.
 - (ii) Thank you letter from St. John Ambulance for £50 donation.
 - (iii) Letter from Youth Offending Team Officer on the work of the County Durham Youth Offending Service. Referred to the Langley Park and District Community Association
 - (iv) IR – Incentives for filing PAYE returns electronically.
 - (v) County Durham and Cleveland New Equality Legislation – Evening Briefing Thursday 11th December 2003 – County Hall, Durham
 - (vi) Letter from Mr. N. J. Cassidy offering timber and steel fencing/fabrication services
 - (vii) Charity Commission Newsletter Issue 19

154/03 PLANNING MATTERS

Approvals

- a) 1/2003/0436
Erection of two 10.3 metre high antennae, two 12 metre high transmission dishes on existing 15 metre mast, equipment cabin
- b) 1/2003/0442
Erection of one dwelling and detached garage on Plot 2 the former Rookstone Nursing Home, Langley Park
- c) 1/2003/0506
Barn conversion, granny flat and single storey extension, The Old House, Clifford House Farm, Quebec
- d) 1/2003/0539
Change of use to Police Training facility, former Compass Caravan site
- e) 1/2003/0647
Change of use of land for domestic garden, erection of fence on land to the south of 11 Herrington Close, Langley Park

Application

No SLJ/1/2003/1097/DMFP
 Applicant Mr S. Clark
 Proposed Two storey rear extension, single storey front extension and balcony to rear
 At 6 Elemore Close, Langley Park

155/03 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON LANGLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Letter received from the Director of Education advising that as ex Councillor J. Howard had resigned it fell to the Parish Council to nominate a replacement. Cllr Bloor expressed an interest in representing the Council on the Governing Body. This was agreed.

156/03 ALLOTMENT RENTS 2004

Cllr Robson declared an interest in the following item. The Clerk advised that the rents for 2005 had to be fixed at this Meeting. The Clerk also reported that the current rent had been fixed at £18 since 1998. Sites on the former British Coal allotments at the eastern entrance to Langley Park were being let from £27 upwards per allotment without the benefit of water. The rent for 2005 had not yet been determined.

After giving the matter careful consideration, and noting that the rents had not been changed since 1998 it was resolved to increase the rent to £21 per annum for all sites. The Clerk said that he would try and provide more skips on these allotments in future.

157/03 REPORTS

a) Parish

Pantomime

Arranged for Saturday 10th January 2004, 2.15pm at the Wood View Community Centre. Posters to be displayed shortly.

Winter Gritting

The Clerk confirmed that the Northern Area Manager had now confirmed that the Parish Council could carry out the work subject to the same arrangements as for winter 2002/03. The Clerk to finalise matters with the NAM, the Council's Insurers and Wharton Landscapes.

Esh Leaves

The Clerk stated that he had asked Keith Reay to provide a quote to deliver Esh Leaves throughout the Parish. In addition enquired as to whether the Council would like him to approach Cornsay Parish Council with a view to Esh Leaves including 2 or 4 pages of Cornsay news funded by Cornsay Parish Council. It was indicated that Cornsay covered a large area and this could present delivery problems. The Clerk to make further enquiries before the Parish Council takes a view in the matter.

b) District

Cllr Coulson referred to the following

- (i) Urban and Rural Renaissance
- (ii) Sustainable Transport
- (iii) Local Transport Plan
- (iv) Members Allowances

Cllr Guildford referred to the following

- (v) The death of Mike Bonser
- (vi) Unitary Authorities
- (vii) The budget for 2004/05

c) County

Cllr Armstrong reported on the following matters.

- (i) See under 060/03 Library, 110/03 Pedestrian refuge and for various footpath works under 108/03
- (ii) Request for funding re emergency lighting at the Quebec Village Hall. Request already made to the Parish Council and letter seeking further information sent back to the Association.

d) EQUaL Partnership

Cllr Hiles said that the Partnership was regrouping although as was heard under the play area item the Play Group is particularly proactive.

e) 092/03 Parish Transport Working Group

Cllr Geany presented a most comprehensive report on the work undertaken/to be undertaken by her and the further consultations that she intends to carry out in the next few weeks. If the Council is looking towards a full grant of whatever final scheme is agreed then the gross cost of such a scheme should be in the order of £13,333 with £10,000 met from grant and match funding of £3,333 of which at least £666.65 would need to be in cash.

Cllr Geany confirmed that the grant was available until March 2005 although it could relate to a project which ran beyond that date.

Although some work had already been undertaken by the DRCC some further research and questioning was required to enable a Business Plan to be prepared to accompany any grant application to the Countryside Agency.

If the final project is to operate in bus service in the 3 villages say 2 or 3 times a week then any bid made would need to address such issues as how many residents would use the service, the route taken, where will it stop, the pricing structure (a 50p to £1 range had been suggested although this would depend on the journey distances and times), possibly destinations outside the Parish eg Drs surgeries, trips to Metro Centre etc and, following a question from Cllr H. Tyler, an exit policy.

Following a range of questions from Councillors it was agreed that when Cllr Geany had completed her enquiries she should meet with the Parish Transport Group with a view to making a recommendation to the Council.

Cllr Geany was thanked by the Council for her considerable efforts with this project.

A copy of Cllr Geany's report will be attached the official Minutes of the Meeting.

158/03 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 13th January 2004, 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.