

Present Councillors:- A. Harling (Chairman), C. Bloor, R. A. Bowyer, G. Coulson, H. S. Guildford, A. Hiles, S. Rothwell and W. Tyrie

Apologies:- Councillors F. Crow, A. Mollon, K. Robson, M. Sands, H. Tyler and M. Tyler and Durham Police

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

011/04 POLICE REPORT

There being no Police presence (clash of Parish Council Meetings) the Clerk read out a brief list of incidents logged by the Police dwellinghouse burglary (forced window), 4 incidents of criminal damage (2 in Hill Top View, one in The Crescent and a Langley Park School bench seat). There had been some youth nuisance incidents including a disturbance at a School function. During this period there had been no reports of cars broken into or damaged. It was also reported that PC Liddle was still absent and in the meantime a PC Norman Forster would be looking after the Langley Park Beat.

Cllr Bloor referred to damage being caused by a Council vehicle on the highway verge near the entrance into Cedar Court. Cllr Coulson advised that the District Council was aware of the situation.

012/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting that Cllr W. Tyrie was also in attendance and that under Minute 131/03 EQUaL Partnership Play should read Playgroup.

119/03 AND 132/03 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY 2004

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

013/04 MATTERS ARISING

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Draft Management Plan

The Clerk advised that a letter was awaited from the Durham Wildlife Trust to advise on the next stage of the Management Plan.

134/02 and 126/03 Environmental Improvements along Kaysburn Road

The Clerk's advised that the work was now completed and that he had discussed with Durham Wildlife Services the various matters raised at the previous Parish Council Meeting. The Council also endorsed the Clerk's action in completing the grant application forms for both Tree Week and the Hedgerow Grant initiatives.

026/03 Progress re appointment of Part Time Development Worker

Councilor Hiles advised that a local resident, Ken Bradshaw had been appointed as the Part Time Development Worker with effect from early April 2004.

060/03 Library Service

County Cllr Armstrong advised the Parish Council a further report had been approved by the County Council's Cabinet which ruled out the Langley Park Primary School option but authorised officers to verify the situation regarding 1) a possible transfer of the Church Street Community Centre lease to Durham County Council and 2) the potential cost of the purchase of land for a new building within the car park attached to the old Fire Station site.

Cllr Armstrong said that the County Council would be contacting the Parish Council, the Community Association and the EQUaL Partnership to discuss the options further.

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The Clerk advised that the County Council had agreed to transfer the Parish Paths Partnership grant to 2004/05. The scheme could not yet be finalised as certain costings were awaited the County Council.

090/03 Esh Parish Hall

Cllr Armstrong reported that work had started on 26th January 2004 and that he would be contributing £2000 to the 2 Schools for the purchase of equipment from his Members' Community Fund.

105/03 BT Payphones

Despite the letter received from BT advising that it did not now propose to remove the phone box near 27 Park Drive, Langley Park it had now been removed. The Clerk had contacted BT on the matter and they had agreed to reinstate the box.

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

County Cllr Armstrong advised that following the consultation exercise the County Council proposed to proceed with an Order to carry out the following Traffic Management measures in Front Street, Langley Park:-

- 1) a No Waiting At Any Time area fronting the Nursing Home, Surgery and 10-11 Browney Court

2) a Loading Bay - Loading Only, 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday – Saturday between 32-34 Front Street

3) a Pedestrian Refuge between No 25 Front Street and 10-11 Browney Court

The most easterly of the two possible refuges suggested in the most recent consultation, opposite No 13 Front Street, has been abandoned following comments from the Police, and the County Council's Public Transport Group, in relation to its position with the bus stop, and also from residents.

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

Reply still awaited from the District Council re application of the commuted sum.

114/03 Annual Audit

Clerk tabled a revised draft notice for public display and an article for Esh Leaves re the Annual Audit and the 2004/05 Budget. Subject to one minor amendment this was agreed.

119/03 and 132/03 Appointment of a new Clerk

Agreed to proceed as per the Minutes of the Special Meeting. The full Council to be convened to discuss the short listing of candidates and any subsequent appointment at separate meetings to the normal Monthly Meetings.

131/03 Playgrounds

EQUaL Partnership Play Group

Cllrs Bowyer and Hiles gave a progress report on the work being undertaken by Group. A meeting had been arranged for the following evening. There was a suggestion made that the site could incorporate land within the Cricket ground (to the east of the football pitch) and part of the grassed area adjacent to Lambton Street. This however needs further discussion by the Group and others. A public event had been arranged for Saturday 20th March 2004, 10.30am to 1.30pm – venue to be determined.

Site inspections

The Clerk tabled a copy of a file note re meeting with the Chairman and Mr Cassidy. Copy attached to the minutes. The arrangements outlined were agreed. The cost to be met from the Playground budget for 2004/05, and to start with immediate effect.

147/03 Allotments

The Clerk advised that the Notices to Quit had been served with no counter notices submitted by any of the tenants concerned.

156/03 Allotment Rents 2004

All rents collected on occupied sites. Letters sent to the top 10 names on the Waiting List re the vacant allotments. Two expressions of interest to date. One person had now moved out of the Parish but was still interested in taking an allotment. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue with its policy of offering allotments only to those persons residing in the area. The Clerk to advertise the Council's Waiting List in the next edition of Esh Leaves.

157(a)/03 Parish Reports

Winter Gritting

The Clerk advised that a trigger point formula had been received from the Northern Area Manager and this was now in place. Wharton Landscapes had already gritted on one occasion and the Council thanked for the work around Browney and Rutherford Courts.

Esh Leaves

The Clerk advised that had now agreed a price with Keith Reay of £100 to deliver Esh Leaves (assuming 32 pages) throughout the Parish. The Clerk had also contacted Cornsay Parish Council and their reply was awaited. A price of £75 to £100 had been suggested to 'buy' 2 pages for their own articles in Esh Leaves on the basis that they would arrange for delivery at no cost to Esh Parish Council. Next edition due out either over the week ending 6th or 13th March 2004.

001/04 Speeding in the Parish

A copy of the Chief Inspector's reply on the Parish Council's continuing concerns with speeding traffic had been circulated with the Agenda. The Chief Inspector advised that the Constabulary has a casualty Reduction Department which takes all speeding complaints seriously, with each addressed through a Traffic Data unit installation, and subsequent enforcement procedure where appropriate. The Chief Inspector asked the Council to identify appropriate locations and to whom future correspondence should be addressed.

There was considerable debate on this matter and many Councillors felt that what was on offer was the bare minimum and that the Chief Constable should actively pursue the installation of speed cameras in appropriate locations. It was felt that TDU's were not really addressing the serious concerns that Councillors and residents had in respect of vehicles speeding through the Parish at various locations. The Clerk was asked to contact the Chief Constable for a copy of the Authority's Traffic Management Policy, with particular reference to speeding and speed cameras. It was also agreed that the matter to be placed on the March Agenda for further discussion.

2 Signed by the Chairman.....

010/04 Request for Donation Quebec and District Village Hall Association

The Clerk advised that the Village Hall Association had been awarded £600 under the Community Chest initiative towards emergency lighting. In the circumstances the Parish Council were not required to make a contribution towards this work.

014/04 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) Review of Local Government in County Durham
- b) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on 3rd December 2003
- c) Parish Liaison Meeting 26th February 2004

County Durham and Darlington NHS

- d) Development of Mental Health Services in the North of Durham
- e) County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership Training Day

Invitations received to various Training Days

It was agreed that Cllrs Hiles and Rothwell and the Clerk be delegated to attend the following:-
Launch event, Saturday 20th March 2004 – The Clerk. Fee £13.50 + vat.

AQA Certification, The Glebe Centre, Murton – Cllr Hiles + The Clerk. Fee £13.50 + vat.

AQA Certification, The Dolphin Centre, Darlington – Cllr Rothwell. Fee £13.50 + vat

015/04 RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMITTEE CONSULTATION

It was agreed to leave any response to individuals rather than make a Parish Council response.

016/04 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Applications

No SL/1/2003/1227/DMFP
 Applicant Nomad Housing Group
 Proposed Erection of 9 dwellings
 At Land to the south of Park Close, Langley Park (4 dwellings)
 Land between 57-67 Park Drive, Langley Park (5 dwellings)

A couple of objections received by the District Council re the type of tenants that might be using these properties.

No CS/1/2004/0003/DMFP
 Applicant Mr and Mrs Cheal
 Proposed Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension
 At 56 Davis Crescent, Langley Park

No FJC/1/2004/0032/DMFP
 Applicant Mr A. Rose, Elite Property Services
 Proposed Change of use to retail unit with first floor flat
 At 10 Quebec Street, Langley Park

Original application scaled back to a more appropriate size as a result of comments made by the Planning Officer.

Regulation 3 Applications (County Council applications)

No RA/928/1/178
 Applicant Durham County Council
 Proposed Erection of 1500mm high vertical bar fence
 At Community Centre, Wood View, Langley Park

and the following additional application:-

No RA/928/1/164(3)
 Applicant Durham County Council
 Proposed Erection of fences
 At Langley Park Primary School

No objections made to any of the above subject to adjacent owners being consulted.

017/03 PARISH WALK, SUNDAY 16th MAY 2004

Request received from the local branch of the National Childrens Homes to invite local residents to be sponsored on the walk on behalf of the NCH. This was agreed. Item to be included in Esh Leaves. Cllr Bloor had agreed to lead the walk.

018/04 REPORTS

- a) Parish
Nothing further to report

b) District

Councillor Tyrie referred to:-

- a) The new Contracts for GP's which comes into force in April 2004 and reminded the Council that as from 31st December 2004 GP's will no longer be required to provide medical services for patients in an evening, at weekends or on Bank Holidays.
- b) Pilot Incentive Scheme for Tenants with a possible twice yearly draw for all tenants with a clear account.
The number of collections of household waste to be reduced to encourage more people to recycle, with one week for recyclables and the next for general refuse.
- c) Problems with the collection of plastic bottles. Lack of local recycling Contractor.

Cllr Coulson referred to:-

- d) A Sex Discrimination Seminar
- e) Equal Opportunities Seminar

c) County

In addition to the matters raised earlier at the Meeting Cllr Armstrong reported on the following matters.

- a) Works to the cemetery turning area start on Monday 16th February 2004 and should be completed within a fortnight
- b) The speed visors to be used for a trial period near Stringer Terrace
- c) A request from residents in Quebec for the Councillors to hold a Monthly Meeting in Quebec. It was agreed to consider the request at the AGM in May.
- d) Other matters raised by the residents included dog bins (already provided per Cllr Hiles), salt bins and parking on the Village Green (Durham County Council land)
- e) Proposal by Langley Park Association to provide a multi use games area in the grounds of the Wood View Centre.

d) EQUaL Partnership

The main item related to the work of the Playgroup – see Minute No 131/03 above.

e) 092/03 Parish Transport Working Group

In view of the advice received from the County Council that funding for this scheme might finishing in March 2005 it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange an urgent Meeting with the Transport section at County Hall and that all Councillors should be invited to that meeting.

019/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 10th February 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.