

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon, (Chairman), R. A. Bowyer, C. Bloor, G. Coulson, H. Guildford, H. Tyler, M. Tyler, S. Rothwell, M. Sands and W. Tyrie

Apologies:- Councillors M. D. Cummings, A. Hiles and K. Robson

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and Co Councillor J. Armstrong (for part of the Meeting)

The Chairman welcomed PC N. Foster to the meeting

### **051/04 POLICE REPORT**

3 main incidents to report since the last Parish Council Meeting including a window broken in the Haven, a sneak in burglary in Quebec Street involving an elderly lady and money stolen from a bus driver near the Blue Star. There were no reported incidents for Esh and Quebec although it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the appropriate Chief Inspector to ask that in future a report is made available to the Council each month on any incidents in the remaining part of the Parish. PC Foster also said that he had reported the Parish Council's concerns over continuing speeding traffic to his Traffic Management section and that the police were trying to ease the 'school run' traffic problems in Esh.

PC Foster advised that the police have a 'ringmaster' recorded message to advise on particular problems and that the police are able to investigate incidents of abandoned vehicles and arrange for their removal, or to arrange for the removal of residents own vehicles if they were no longer roadworthy.

Councillor Coulson referred to a recent incident involving youngsters fighting in the Spa shop and the Chairman expressed his concern at children not wearing seat belts when being taken to/from the Langley Park School. PC Foster to contact the School on this problem.

PC Foster was thanked for his attendance and then left the meeting.

### **052/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2004**

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman.

### **053/04 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES**

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

The Clerk's advised that the grant had now been received from the County Council although he was awaiting the final invoice from the Contractor which would need to be approved by the Wildlife Trust before payment could be made.

Councillor M. Tyler raised the matter of bonfires on one of the fields to the north of main road and the untidy state of the land. The Clerk to make enquiries with the farmer involved.

#### 064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

Meeting held with the County Council's PPP Footpaths Officer and apportionment of costs provisionally agreed. The revised quote for the board from S. Taylor and Son was agreed in the sum of £738 plus vat and the PPP Footpath Officer had said that she would not object to £100 of this cost to be included in the PPP bid for 2004/05. See also under Minutes No 037d/04 and 040/04.

#### 092/03 Parish Transport Working Group

See under Minute No 041d/04.

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

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

#### 131/03 Playgrounds

The Clerk advised the Council that Mr A. Mace had filled in some the hidden holes being used by children as play areas.

See also under Minute No 157a/04.

#### 030d/04 EQUaL Play Group

The Clerk advised he had been in contact with the Council's Insurers who had indicated that skate parks were considered as a potential risk and that any premium for PL would reflect this. However the Clerk was awaiting some detailed proposals from the Play Group before obtaining a further quote from the Council's Insurers.

It was agreed that this matter should be placed on a future agenda once the Clerk had obtained some more up to date proposals from the Play Group and the Insurers comments obtained.

#### 033/04 Seats on Esh Village Green

As it had not been possible to arrange a suitable date when the Williams family would be available for a photograph to be taken standing next to the seats it had been agreed with Mrs Williams that the painting work would be commissioned as soon as possible.

#### 037b/04 Winged Fellowship

Email sent requesting further details. No response.

#### 037d/04 PPP Applications

Meeting held with PPP Footpath Officer and Mr Cassidy. Estimate requested of any work required on the Parish Walk footpath, which will be included in the Parish Council's bid for 2004/05 together with any costs connected with the Parish Walk on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2004 and the £100 bid towards the new noticeboard for Langley Park.

#### 040/04 Langley Park Noticeboard

Confirmation received from the Council's Insurers that the County Council's Indemnity Form was acceptable

#### 042e/04 Seminars

Quotation received for £85 from NEREO to hold a 1½ hour in house Training Seminar for Esh Parish Councillors. It was agreed to proceed with the quote, with the seminar to be held in September or October when the new Clerk should be in post. The seminar not to be held on a Parish Council Meeting night.

#### **054/04 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items had already been circulated with the Agenda.

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) Traffic Advisory Leaflet – Village Speed Limits. Copy given to each Councillor present at the meeting
- b) Section 137 limit increase. Minor increase in the formula from £5 per resident to £5.14 per resident
- c) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2004  
Durham County Council
- d) Pension Fund FRS17 Calculations
- e) Pension Scheme LGPC Circulars Nos 147, 148 and 151
- f) Pension Scheme Actuarial Valuation 2004
- g) Cabinet Member for Strong, Healthy and Safe Communities – Extra Care Housing developments  
Derwentside District Council
- h) Charity Evening 7<sup>th</sup> May 2004  
Other
- i) The Countryside Agency – Good Practice from North East Parish Plans
- j) Letter from GONE – Stopping Up of small area of land at Woodside Farm, Bridgeway. Copy already given to Councillor Robson
- k) Membership of the Local Society of Councils – Membership. Defer until appointment of new Clerk resolved
- l) NEREO – QPC Courses. See under 042e/04
- m) One Voice Network

#### **055/04 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- n) Sedgfield Town Council – Special Meeting to discuss the future of the DAPTC. To be held at 10.30am, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2004 in County Hall, Durham
- o) County Treasurer- various LGPS publications – including invitation to meeting in County Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2004 in County Hall, Durham
- p) Request for donation received from All Saints Youth Centre. Deferred until the next Parish Council Meeting subject to financial statement being received.
- q) Request received from NEDL to carry out minor works under some overhead lines running through the ED allotments. The Clerks action in signing the agreement form was confirmed.

#### **056/04 PLANNING MATTERS**

Councillors Coulson and Guildford declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the subsequent debate on the following 6 applications.

No LS/1/2004/0270/DMTP  
 Applicant Mr M. Urwin  
 Proposed Felling of one sycamore tree (section 211 Notice)  
 At Esh C of E Aided Primary School, Front Street, Esh  
 Already considered under the delegated powers arrangements

No objection subject to confirmation from the County Council's Landscape Officer that the works are necessary under normal forestry management

No CS/1/2004/0313/DMT6P  
 Applicant Mrs Carrey  
 Proposed Crown lifting, felling, thinning and removal of deadwood from various trees (TPO23)  
 At Esh Glebe House, Esh

Already considered under the delegated powers arrangements

No objection subject to confirmation from the County Council's Landscape Officer that the works are necessary under normal forestry management

No LS/1/2004/0322/DMTP  
Applicant Mr and Mrs K. Gibson  
Proposed Pruning of one sycamore tree  
At 11 Eldon Close, Langley Park  
Already considered under the delegated powers arrangements

No objection subject to confirmation from the County Council's Landscape Officer that the works are necessary under normal forestry management

No FJC/1/2004/0332/DMFP  
Applicant Mr D. Jacobs  
Proposed Re-siting of conservatory to rear  
At 11 South View, Street, Langley Park  
Already considered under the delegated powers arrangements

No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration

No SL/1/2004/0341/DMFP  
Applicant Mr A. Briscoe  
Proposed Second storey side extension, pitched roof to rear  
At 11 Pine Street, Langley Park

As an objection had been lodged with the Planning Authority it was agreed to note the application and ask that the District Council consult with adjacent occupiers and note any comments received by them in connection with this application.

Application submitted to the City of Durham Council

No 404/00341/FPA/PGH  
Applicant Anderson and Young Coachworks  
Proposed Erection of 13 residential dwellings, associated garages, roads and access  
(revised and resubmitted proposal) (Adjoining Authority Consultation)  
At Old Station yard, Langley Park

The application related only to development within the Coachworks site and did not now include the field to west of the track leading into the Rec.

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had considered the original application in January and whilst not objecting to residential development on the main site it did have serious reservations to any development within the adjacent field.

After giving the matter careful consideration it was agreed that the Council should not object to the proposal subject to

- a) appropriate traffic calming measures being used at the junction of the Walkway and the entrance into the proposed site
- b) the Parish Council's access over the track leading into the Rec being protected

The Clerk was also asked to ascertain details of the ownership of the field to the west of the track which had been included in the previous application.

#### **041d/04 PARISH TRANSPORT GRANT**

The Clerk advised the Council had been successful with the grant application and that the County Council was discussing the new service details for the Service 767 with Stanley Taxis. It was likely that the start date would be mid to late June 2004. Publicity would be prepared in conjunction with the Parish Council, possibly including a special edition of Esh Leaves Extra.

The Clerk advised that he had been asked to sign a copy of the letter of consent, which included certain

commitments by the Council. The relevant extracts were read out to the Council and it was agreed that the Clerk be authorized to sign and return the document subject to any comments from the Council's Insurers on the Indemnity clause contained within the letter.

In addition the Clerk had been asked to confirm that as part of the bid an amount of £1250 had been included for extra fares generated by the new collection points and additional journeys. The Countryside Agency had sought confirmation that the Parish Council would meet any possible shortfall under this heading. Having consulted with the County Council and the Chairman the Clerk had confirmed the Council's agreement to this. The Clerk's action was confirmed by the Parish Council.

Councillor M. Tyler advised the Council that the Rural Transport initiative had been transferred to DEFRA,

#### **057/04 HANGING BASKETS**

The Clerk advised the Council had been in contact with the Highway Authority re the baskets and had been advised that they should have a 2.7 m high vertical clearance and a method statement of hanging and watering provided by the Parish Council together with appropriate insurance indemnity. The Clerk had contacted the Council's Insurers and had been advised that the Council's policy had been extended to include PL cover and 3<sup>rd</sup> party damage.

To make progress it was agreed to commission Mr N. J. Cassidy to prepare a schedule of the existing brackets in order to advise the Council on the height and condition of each bracket, together with the estimated cost of adjusting the height (where necessary) and making secure any loose brackets.

In addition the Clerk to discuss with

- a) the Highway Authority any shortfall with the criteria set down for the baskets where they adjoin a public footpath/highway.
- b) Mr P. Snowdon the preparation of a method statement for hanging and watering the baskets

It was further agreed that any decision to proceed with works on the existing brackets and purchase of baskets should be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

#### **058/04 UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2003/04**

The accounts submitted with the Agenda papers were approved by the Council. It was also agreed to include a summary of the accounts, with either a bar chart or pie chart illustration in Esh Leaves.

#### **059/04 REPORTS**

##### **a) Parish**

- i) Parish Walk on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2004 starting 1.30pm from the Lanchester Valley Walk, Langley Park – Leader Chris Bloor
- ii) Esh Leaves – next edition July 2004
- iii) Councillor Tyler referred to the Gate It initiative for alleyways, to be administered by Groundwork Trust and to the new gate on the western boundary of the Board Inn near the road junction at the top of Hill Top. Needs clarification.
- iv) 2 dog bins had disappeared in the Parish
- v) Concern over the narrow access into the Recreation Ground next to the new development off Bridgeway. It was understood that the access should be at least 8' 0" once the permanent boundary fences were in place. In addition it was also reported that the old boundary wall to the rear of this development (the eastern boundary) had been demolished by the Builders. Councillors Coulson and Guildford agreed to raise the matter with the Planning Officer.
- vi) Meeting of the Society of Local Council Clerks 24<sup>th</sup> May 2004, Sedgefield. Clerk, new Clerk and possibly Cllr Rothwell to attend.

##### **b) District**

Councillor Tyrie raised the following matters

- vii) The Parish Liaison Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004
- viii) Increase in Right to Buy applications – from 117 in 2001/02, 224 in 2002/03 to 375 in 2003/04
- ix) Rewarding Good Council Tax payers – had been mentioned at a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Board
- x) CCTV programme for the installation of CCTV's in Derwentide. All cameras installed in the areas covered in Phases 1, 2 and 3. Langley Park was in a later Phase although Councillor Coulson said that there might be some progress in this area

Councillor Coulson raised the following

- xi) Appointment of further Community Service Officers
- xii) Building a Safer Community Fund

##### **c) County**

Councillor Armstrong raised the following

- xiii) Good reports on the Speed visor, other poles in place in the Parish for the visor. County Council considering purchasing more visors.
- xiv) Refuge in – good reports. Councillor Armstrong thanked for his efforts with this. The loading

bay and marking proposals are currently subject to a public consultation exercise.

- xv) Traffic signs ordered for Esh for the duration of the various building works in this area.
- xvi) Feasibility Study ongoing for a new library for Langley Park
- xvii) County Council looking at appointment of linesmen for various parts of the County. Clerk to make further enquiries.
- xviii) Further traffic schemes being considered by the County Council under the Urban Renaissance initiative.

d) EQUaL

- xix) Report on AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004. Mrs A. Hiles elected as Chairman to replace the existing Chairman who is moving out of the area. Mr R. Bowyer elected as Treasurer. Councillor M. Tyler praised the Playgroup for their work in connection with the proposed play area in Langley Park. Councillor Sands sought an assurance that Esh and Quebec would also be given consideration by the Group. This was confirmed by Councillor Bowyer.

e) Seminar on QPC's attended by the Chairman and Clerk on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004

- xx) The Clerk and Chairman reported on the meeting attended in County Hall which they had both found extremely useful.

**060/04 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT**

After receiving details of the financial statements (V16 - 42) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action for issuing any cheques in advance of the Meeting.

**061/04 REQUESTS FOR DONATION**

Requests received from the following together with current financial statements

(a) Goodwill Association

Proposed summer outing to South Shields in August 2004.

It was agreed to donate £200 under the powers contained within Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(b) Durham Partially Sighted

Request towards general funds for additional equipment. 15 clients within Esh Parish

It was agreed to donate £200 under the powers contained within Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**062/04 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS OF INTEREST**

There being no Members of the Public present the Chairman moved onto the next item on the Agenda

**063/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 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.

**119/03 AND 132/03 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK**

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

5 Signed by the Chairman.....