

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon, (Chairman), C. Bloor, G. Coulson, A. Harling, A. Hiles, K. Robson, S. Rothwell and W. Tyrie

Apologies:- Councillors Crow, Guildford, Sands and County Councillor J. Armstrong

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and G. F. Smith

091/04 POLICE REPORT

In the absence of the Police the Clerk gave the following information received via email from the Police:-
Esh

A small yellow digger was stolen from the compound of the Primary school after the padlock was cut. A shed was forced open but nothing stolen.

The speed inhibitor sign was mysteriously removed from its post and placed at the side of the road.

Wilks Hill

A motorbike was stolen from outside a house at Wilks Hill.

Ushaw College

A vehicle was stolen from the grounds.

On another occasion, paving slabs taken from a farm stables.

Laptop computer from a conference room within the College.

Langley Park

Two sheds were broken onto and property stolen. Attempt made to break into another shed.

A car was stolen from outside a house in D'Arcy Street

Another unlocked car was entered and property removed whilst parked unattended by the allotments.

Hardware Store broken into and property taken.

Drop-in Centre also attempted to be broken into.

House burglary in Railway Street-one person arrested.

Council Neighbourhood offices have had windows broken on three separate occasions.

Community Transport building again damaged to the rear. A suspect may be caught on camera, enquiries ongoing.

Hopefully a Beat Officer will be in position very shortly. Inspector Boyd may be able to update you on this matter.

Councillor Coulson referred to a meeting with the MP, County Councillor Joe Armstrong, Councillors Coulson and Guildford, Inspector Boyd and Sergeant from Consett Police to discuss an Audit of Crime including ongoing incidents at the old Fire Station, difficulties in contacting the Police by telephone, poor response times, including out of date tax cars, and poor feedback from reported crimes. One item of progress to report was a proposal to have a Police base in the old Fire Station.

Cllr Tyrie enquired when the speed visor was being returned to Langley Park.

Whilst on the subject of speeding traffic the Clerk was asked to write again to the Chief Constable on the possibility of speed cameras being installed at various hot spots in the Parish.

082/04 NOTES OF THE OPEN MEETING RE ESH C OF E SCHOOL MUGA HELD ON 13th JULY 2004

Accepted as a true record. Copies sent to residents present at the meeting and follow up letters sent to the County Council in accordance with the views expressed at both the Open Meeting and the Parish Council Monthly Meeting which followed shortly thereafter.

The Clerk informed the Meeting that he had received an email from the County Council advising that they now have a workable solution to the floodlighting problem and that a report had been submitted to Sport England substantiating a claim for additional grant support.

The Clerk also stated that Sport England has indicated that it would not provide any funds at all for the MUGA if floodlighting was not provided.

092/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 13th JULY 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman.

093/04 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES

Page 1

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

Cabinet maker instructed to manufacture the board which should be ready shortly.

The Clerk had asked for the Council's instructions on

a) the installation position and b) the possible date of erection

The Council resolved as follows:-

a) Installation

With the map facing north and the notices to the south side.

b) Date of installation

Whilst noting that CCTV cameras might be in place by Spring 2005 it was agreed that the board should be installed when ready.

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

A response had been received from the District Council who were not in agreement with the sum being released to the Parish Council as (a) once the sums are received they are not necessarily spent in the Parish Council the same area (reference was made to the District Council's Play Strategy) and (b) the Parish Council had opted out of the District Council's Play Strategy several years ago.

It was agreed that as the amount of capital received from commuted sums was considerably higher than originally anticipated and that the Parish Council, through EQUaL, was committed to better play facilities for its residents and that the matter should be raised at an early meeting of the District Parish Councils Liaison Group.

119/03 and 132/03 Appointment of new Clerk

Mr Smith commenced duties on 1st August 2004

030d/04 EQUaL Play Group – Insurance details

The Clerk had circulated a detailed note with the Agenda (copy attached to the minutes). It was agreed to note the report which would need to be considered when preparing the Council's budget for 2005/06.

Page 2

033/04 Seats on Esh Village Green

Seats now painted. New plaques made and to be attached to the seats shortly.

037d/04 PPP Applications

Letter received from DCC advising that bid for 2004/05 had been successful

042e/04 Training Seminar for all Councillors

Date now fixed – 7.00pm Tuesday 26th October 2004 at the Parish Room.

055n/04 DAPTC – Payment of annual subscription

Now paid

057/04 Hanging Baskets

Loose brackets repaired and remaining baskets hung.

058/04 Unaudited Accounts for 2003/04

To be submitted to the Auditors on 20th September 2004

Internal audit carried out on 8th September 2004 by Mr S. Harris no major problems identified – see also under Minute No 082/04 on page 1 of these minutes.

059a/04 Reports

(ii) Esh Leaves

Delivered mid July. Some problems with delivery – to be reported at the Meeting. Assistance required re article on retired member – Clerk to speak to Councillor Guildford.

Page 3

(iii) Development at the Board Inn

Retrospective planning application now submitted – see under planning matters – Minute No.....

080/04 Correspondence

m) Deborah Events - donation to be made to the Esh Treat Fund

Page 4

081/04 Casual Vacancy

Wording of public notice agreed with the Returning Officer. To be advertised next week at various locations throughout the Parish and on the Council's web site.

Page 5

082/04 Planning Matters

Application made to Durham County Council

Regulation 3 Application

No 928/1/168 (2)

Applicant Durham County Council

Proposal Regulation 3 Application for new Multi Use Games Area with floodlights

At Esh C of E School Primary School, Front Street, Esh

See Minute No 082/04 on page 1 of these minutes.

Page 6

083/04 Reports

b) Parish

(i) Seat opposite the Quebec play area

Progress report at the Meeting. Claim made to the Council's Insurers. Estimates received from bpi for a recycled seat (£195 and delivery £60 both plus vat) and Whartons to install the seat with a flagged area in front (£65 plus vat). It was agreed to fund a plaque (to be agreed with the Gowland family) and the £100 excess under the Council's Insurance policy.

084/04 Quality Parish Council Accreditation

Application made and now received for the Working with Local Councils document

086/04 Offering www services to other Parish Councils

Progress report at the Meeting. 3 Parish Council's have shown an interest in discussing the Councils approach and meetings will be arranged to make a presentation of the Council's site and to discuss a possible partnership initiative.

094/04 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) Details of 58th AGM in mid to late November 2004. Nominations invited for various officer posts
- b) NALC Conference 1-3 October 2004, Scarborough
- c) Statutory Dismissal, Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

Durham County Council

- d) County Durham Waste Local Plan Inspector's Report
- e) Comprehensive Performance Assessment
- f) Development of a Charter with Durham County Council
- g) County Treasurer's Operational Plan
- h) County Durham Structure Plan

Other

- i) NJC Circular 4/04 – 2004/05 Payscales and Allowances
- j) Local Policing Plan 2004/05 – Durham Police Authority plus leaflet
- k) Thank you letter from Mrs D. Cummings
- l) Coalfield Communities Campaign – Conference 8th to 10th November 2004 – Matlock
- m) Local Council Review
- n) SLCC – Regional one Day Conference Monday 25th October 2004, Shotton Hall, Peterlee
 "Funding and Managing Community Projects" - £30 for members of SLCC.
 Agreed to send the Clerk Designate to the conference plus expenses.
- o) DEFRA CSS Scheme – grant application form for the lowland heath area on the Rec
- p) Derwentside District Council Development Control Committee 16th September 2004 which included the application for a proposed conservatory at 24 D' Arcy Street, Langley Park – see under Minute No 095/04 on page 6 of these minutes.
- q) Durham County Council – extension to the temporary closure of footpath 56/57 Woodside Farm
- r) DRCC AGM 14th October 2004
- s) Mrs M. Saville re fund raising for All Saints Youth Centre. Confirmation that the Centre has now raised all the funds required for the proposed electrical works to the Centre from EQUaL and Durham County Council. It was agreed that if there was any minor increase on the original estimate received by the Centre for these works it should be funded by the Parish Council.
- t) Parish Liaison Meeting 13th October 2004. Items to raise include play area commuted sums and the District Council's annual contribution – see also under Minute No's 110/03 and 101/04 on pages 1 and 8 of these minutes.
- u) Durham County Council Pension Scheme Regulations – Abatement scheme
- v) County Durham Waste Local Plan – Proposed Modifications – CD provided

095/04 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors Coulson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the subsequent debate Applications made to Derwentside District Council and dealt with before the Parish Council meeting under the delegated powers procedure.

No CS/1/2004/0491/DMFP
 Applicant Mr and Mrs K. Hayden
 Proposed Conservatory to rear
 At 32 East Clere, Langley Park

No SL/1/2004/0569/04
 Applicant Mr A. Emery
 Proposed Erection of pitched roof
 At 9 Palm Street, Langley Park

No SL/1/2004/0596/DMFP
 Applicant Mr C. Harle
 Proposed Conservatory to the rear
 At 74 The Crescent, Langley Park

No SW/1/2004/0657/DMFP
Applicant Mr A. Wiencierz
Proposed Erection of single storey rear and side extensions
At 6 Stargate Close, Langley Park

No SL/1/2004/0675/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Galea
Proposed 2 storey rear extension and erection of balcony
At 2 Hylton Close, Langley Park

No SW/1/2004/0698/DMFP
Applicant Mr B. Hogg
Proposed Erection of second storey side extension and single storey rear extension
At 33 Eppleton Close, Langley Park

No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration by the District Council.

Applications considered by the Parish Council at the Monthly Meeting

No SL/1/2004/0720/DMFP
Applicant Vodafone Ltd
Proposed Erection of 20 metre high telecommunications mast, three antennae, two microwave dishes and telecommunications equipment
At Heugh Farm, Quebec

No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration by the District Council.

No CS/1/2004/0748/DMFP
Applicant Broseley Homes Ltd
Proposed Erection of 21 dwellings
At Bob Smith Travel Ltd, Kingsway Garage, Front Street, Langley Park

The Clerk advised that although no objections had been received to date the Highway Authority had commented that if permission is obtained, and the development takes place, the existing access road off Front Street into the premises should be grassed over. It was assumed that as this land was not shown as being owned by the applicant that it was owned by the Highway Authority, Durham County Council.

Also a letter had been received from a resident in Esh Terrace supporting the application but seeking an assurance from the Planning Authority that there would be a proper check on any possible contaminants and solvents, on or within, this site. In addition the same resident enquired of the Parish Council if any action could be taken re the dumped vehicles and the general state of the site adjacent to the subject land.

Whilst there was some discussion on the future use of the large area of grassland in front of the premises, including car parking or general open space use, it was agreed that this was not the matter immediately under consideration at this stage.

It was resolved to:-

- a) raise no objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration by the District Council.
- b) contact Durham County Council re the ownership of this land and the possible future use of this site.
- c) write to Derwentside District Council re the other matters raised by the resident from Esh Terrace.

No TW/1/2004/0763/DMFP
Applicant EDF Energy
Proposal 4 Wind Turbines, Control Room and Associated Access Roads
At High Hedleyhope Farm, East Hedleyhope

The Clerk advised the Council that he had that day been advised that a Public Exhibition had been arranged for Tuesday 21st September 2004 at the Tow Law Community Centre from 11.00am to 7.30pm.

No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration by the District Council and to satisfactory arrangements being made re any footpaths which might cross or be adjacent to this site.

No SL/1/2004/0768/DMFP
Applicant Philadelphia Estates Ltd
Proposed Amendment of condition 2 of application 1/1997/0933/DMOP for the approval reserved matters to be extended to 5 years from the date of permission
At Land to the west of Esh Winning Industrial Estate

No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration by the District Council.

No SL/1/2004/0770/DMFP
Applicant Mr J. O'Conner
Proposed Provision of overflow car park, childrens play area, beer garden, storage containers, staff rest room, toilet block and marquee with disabled access (retrospective)
At Board Inn, Hill Top, Esh

Whilst not objecting to the majority of the proposals the Council was concerned at the level of noise emanating from the marquee from recent events. It was noted that the application was for permanent approval for all the development covered by the application excepting for the marquee where approval was being sought for 12 months from the date of any approval being issued.

The Clerk advised the Council that he had received an email from Councillor Geany expressing concern over the potential noise levels from the marquee and the possible vehicular use of the access gate adjacent to the road junction. Councillor Hiles advised that this access was limited to maintenance vehicles only and that it was not used as an access to the main part of the site.

It was resolved to raise no objections to the main proposals but to ask that if the Council is minded to approve the marquee then it should be for not more than 12 months and that the potential noise levels are adequately controlled and monitored to minimise any disturbance to local residents.

In addition it was understood that no major access arrangements are proposed from the access gate from the adjoining road junction on the western side of the subject premises.

No SL/1/2004/0779/DMFP
Applicant Mr D. Cowie
Proposed Erection of stable/kennel block and siting of temporary mobile home (resubmission)
At Allotment land to the south of Wilks Hill, Quebec

The Clerk reminded the Council that this application had been considered by the Council at its Monthly Meeting held on 13th July 2004. The decision at that meeting was:-

“The Council gave careful consideration to the application and resolved to object to the application on the grounds of the scale of the development and its potential intrusion into the countryside”.

From the plans made available it appeared that there was very little difference to the original application excepting that it was not now proposed to erect a permanent dwelling but a mobile home. It was agreed that if the application was approved then it was possible that at a later date a further application could be made for a permanent dwelling if such a need could be clearly demonstrated at that time.

The Council resolved that if there were no major changes to the original application, other than the mobile home for the permanent dwelling, then the Council should continue to object to the proposal for the reasons stated at the July 2004 Meeting.

Councillor Robson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the subsequent debate.

Application submitted to Durham City Council

No 4/04/00877/OUT/PGH
Applicant Anderson and Young
Proposal Outline application for the erection of one dwelling house
Location Land to the west of Anderson and Young's Coachworks, Old Station Yard, Wallnook Lane, Langley Park

The application related to the detached plot included in the larger application considered by the Council at its Meeting held on 13th January 2004 when:-

"..there was general support for the principle of residential development on the main area but strong reservations on the field to the west of the footpath being included as it lay outside the boundaries of the existing developed area".

It was resolved to object to the application on the same grounds as previously agreed by the Council.

In addition to the applications tabled for discussion the following were also raised by the Council.

No SW/1/2004/0772/DCOP
Applicant Derwentside District Council
Proposed Residential development (outline)
At Hilltop View, Langley Park

No CS/1/2004/0796/DCFP
Applicant J. Turnock
Proposed Conservatory
At 12 Netherton Close, Langley Park

No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration by the District Council.

No SW/1/2004/0551/DMFP
Applicant Mr Edward Layton
Proposed Conservatory to front
At 24 D'arcy Street, Langley Park

This application had previously been considered by the Council at its Meeting held on 13th July 2004. The decision taken at the Meeting was as follows.

"If the proposal related to a possible extension over the adjacent open area then the Council considered that this would detract from the area and set an unacceptable precedent. It was resolved therefore to object to the proposal.

However should the application relate to an extension on the other side of the property then it was resolved to raise no objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration".

It had subsequently been ascertained that the proposal was for a conservatory over the open space area.

The Clerk advised that the matter was to be considered by the District Council's Development Control Committee on 16th September 2004 (extract tabled at the Meeting). However the Planning Officer had since discussed a modification to the design of the conservatory from a 4 metre projection to one of 3 metres. In addition the Planning Officer had noted a similar development in Lambton Street. The Planning Officer was recommending therefore to the District Council's Development Control Committee that the modified scheme could be approved.

It was resolved to note the Planning Officer's report and not to withdraw the objection already made. Not a planning application yet but the applicant was initiating preliminary discussions with interested parties on the following.

Applicant EDF Energy
Proposal 4 Wind Turbines.
At Langley near Burnhope

The applicant had arranged a Public Exhibition for Thursday 23rd September 2004 at the Wood View Community Centre between 11.00am and 8.00pm.

In addition the applicant was prepared to come and address the Council on its proposals. This was agreed, the Clerk to finalise arrangements.

096/04 PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

(a) Residents personal events

Following a demonstration by the Clerk it was agreed to provide a facility for residents to incorporate family photographs onto the Council's web site, using a unique access code, subject to:-

- (i) The Clerk, Chairman and Mr Rider finalising details, including any charges that might be levied,
- (ii) The Council's host, Derwentside District Council, raising no objections to the proposal.

(b) Access to google search engine

Agreed to incorporate a Google search engine into the Council's web site subject to Councillor Bloor Clarifying whether any permission was required to use such a facility.

097/04 FENCE TO ESH VILLAGE GREEN

The Clerk had obtained a quote to replace the existing fence adjacent to Hall Road. The cost for a similar but more robust fence was around £1000. Resolved not to take any further action in this case.

098/04 ANNUAL PANTOMIME

It was agreed to host a pantomime in December 2004/January 2005 but a different production than 2004. A budget of £400 had been allowed for this event although it was resolved that this could be increased to £500 if necessary – dependant upon the admission charge to be made.

099/04 REPORTS

a) EQUaL Partnership

Cllr Hiles referred to a newsletter printed and now distributed by EQUaL outlining the work or projects undertaken by the Partnership.

b) CCTV presentation on 5th August 2004

Notes of the meeting had been circulated with the Agenda. The Clerk Designate gave a progress report. Sites to be agreed with the Police and local District Councillors and subject to various consultations being carried out, including planning permission, it was anticipated that the equipment should be installed in Spring 2005.

c) Parish

The Clerk Designate tabled a report from the annual allotment inspection carried out on the previous evening. It was resolved to proceed with the action outlined in the report and to write to the six tenants concerned requesting them to tidy up their gardens prior to another inspection later next month. A copy of the Clerk Designates report is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk Designate also informed the meeting of an abandoned motor vehicle on a Cross Fell allotment site. The Police have been informed and arrangements were being made to have the vehicle removed from the site. The Council also agreed to the provision of a skip on the western end of the ED site. The Clerk Designate to make the necessary arrangements.

d) Development Charter Meetings with Durham County Council

The Clerk Designate reported on 3 meetings held by the County Council and attended by various Town and Parish Council representatives, on the possible devolution of powers under the Quality Parish Council initiative. A copy of the Clerk Designates report is attached to these minutes. The County Council was looking for a number of Councils to develop the Charter further. It was agreed that the Parish Council should be part of the pilot scheme.

e) District

Cllr Coulson reported on the following:-

- (i) Annual reports
- (ii) Crime and Disorder Meeting to be held in October 2004
- (iii) The favourable cost of the District Council's waste collection service
- (iv) Council housing to be built on the Airey housing sites in Langley Park
- (v) The excessive use disposable nappies which are a major user of landfill sites

Cllr Tyrie reported on new type of waste collection vehicle purchased for bottle collection

f) County

No report. However the Clerk was asked to write and thank the County Council re the provision of dropped kerbs in Esh and Quebec.

100/04 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

After receiving details of the financial statements (V87 - 138) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action for issuing any cheques in advance of the Meeting.

The Clerk also tabled a Reconciliation Statement of the Council's balances as at 9th July 2004.

101/04 DERWENTSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION 2005/06

The Clerk advised the Council that he had spoken to the Financial Officer at Derwentside District Council re next years Contribution. As far as the Financial Officer was concerned the District Council had resolved to withdraw the Contribution after the 2004/05 payment. The Clerk had expressed concern at this statement and had agreed that he would write to the District Council asking it to reverse it's decision and that if necessary the matter would be raised at the next Parish Liaison Meeting. The Clerk's action was confirmed.

102/04 ANNUAL AUDIT 2003/04

(a) Report of internal audit

The Clerk advised that Mr S. Harris had carried out an internal audit on 8th September 2004. No problems to report. See note attached.

(b) Statement of Assurance

The Council resolved to accept the Clerk's report (copy attached) and agreed that the Statement of Assurance could be signed.

(c) Asset Register

The Clerk advised that the Register was almost completed.

103/04 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE CLERK AND CLERK DESIGNATE

The Clerks report was noted (see Minute Book for details). It was resolved to adopt the following:-
Home Allowances

As stated in the report (£10pa or pro rata as may be the case), with the Clerk, and Clerk Designate, having permission to use the computer for their own personal use.

Equipment

Councillor Rothwell proposed that the Clerk should obtain prices for a second lap top computer for use by the Clerks. This was agreed.

104/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 12th October 2004 in the Parish Room, commencing at 7.00pm.

105/04 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

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.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm.