

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **VILLAGE HALL, QUEBEC** on Tuesday 9th November 2004 commencing at 7.00pm

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

Apologies:- Councillors J. Geany and M. Sands

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk), G. F. Smith (Clerk Designate) and Co Cllr J. Armstrong

121/04 POLICE REPORT

PC Christopher Dover reported that 72 incidents have taken place since the last meeting, including the following:-

Langley Park

Youths causing a nuisance outside Spar shop / welfare ground.

Theft of a motor vehicle from Lambton Street.

Theft of giro at Davis Crescent – money repaid.

Two motor vehicle offences at Red Tiles filling station.

Criminal damage at Quebec Street.

Police monitoring speeding vehicles through the village – white Astra Belmont seized, driver arrested following foot chase.

Theft of vehicle from Oak Street.

Burglary at South View – ongoing enquiries.

Criminal deception at Spar shop (£74.99) – one person charged

Burglary at All Saints Youth Centre (£60 damage, £150 sweets)

Police monitoring car parking around the local school.

Damage to vehicle at Crossways.

Criminal damage at Clifford Street.

Incident in Front Street – 2 warrants for alleged drugs, number of mobile phones seized and an operational order for the recovery of firearms. One person arrested.

Ushaw College

Youths causing a nuisance in the grounds – police search, no trace.

Suspicious vehicle in grounds – youth ran off, caught, warned in front of parents.

Esh

No incidents reported.

Quebec

Vehicle causing an obstruction at the bus stop.

122/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12th OCTOBER 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting that the Council had observed one minutes silence in memory of the late Parish Councillor Doreen Cummings. In addition the Clerk advised that there had been an error with 095/04 Planning Applications which should read as follows:-

Other

The Clerk advised the Council that despite its objection the District Council had resolved at its Development Control Meeting on 7th October 2004 to grant planning permission for the proposed conservatory at the front of 24 D'arcy Street, Langley Park.

123/04 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES

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091/04 Police Report – Speeding

Response still awaited from the Chief Constable – reminder sent.

082/04 Proposed MUGA at Esh C of E School

No progress to report

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

Final draft of the map board awaited from the County Council.

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

Awaiting response from Derwentside District Council although the Council had received a sympathetic hearing at the Parish Liaison Meeting held on 13th October 2004.

033/04 Seats on Esh Village Green

Instructions still awaited from Mrs Williams re attachment of plaques to the seats.

058/04 Unaudited Accounts for 2003/04

See separate report on the external Auditor's report.

059a/04 Reports

(ii) Esh Leaves

Next edition due out next week. The Clerk advised that he had found a new delivery person – see under the Financial Statement minutes.

080/04 Correspondence

n) Donation now made to the Esh Treat Fund

081/04 Casual Vacancy

Public notice put on display on 4th November 2004. 12 notices displayed in total throughout the Parish.

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083/04 Reports

b) Parish

(i) Seat opposite the Quebec play area

Authority received from the Zurich Municipal to replace the seat. Purchase delayed pending report on the condition of the seat at the top of the Silly Steps – see item 127/04 on the agenda.

086/04 Offering www services to other Parish Councils

No further progress with Bearpark and Witton Gilbert Parish Councils. Clerk to update at next meeting.

094t/04 Parish Liaison Meeting 13th October 2004

Still awaiting the District Council's comments on a) Commuted Sums b) the Parish Precept and d) Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – October 2004 provisions re Outdoor Play Areas.

098/04 Annual Pantomime

Quotation received from the Panto Company of Bedlington to perform Aladdin using 6 cast members of date suggested - Saturday 18th December 2004 at 2.15 pm, Wood View Community Centre, Langley Park. This will be a two hour production plus break, at a cost of £500 + vat.

It was agreed to:-

- a) Sign the contract for the performance on 18th December 2004 at a cost of £500 + vat.
- b) Adopt the following admission charges £2 per adult and £1 per child.

101/04 Derwentside District Council Annual Contribution 2005/06

See report under item 133/04.

108/04 Garage roof

The Clerk Designate reported on the roof inspection carried out by local contractors. The roofing felt is in a state of disrepair and requires recovering and also the replacement of four water damaged roofing boards.

It was agreed to:-

- a) Obtain written tenders from three firms to carry out the necessary repairs.
- b) Select suitable contractors to supply the necessary method statement, health and safety policy and at least two trade references.

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085/04 Christmas Lights

Arrangements are in place for the contractors to install the trees and decorations for Thursday 25th November (Langley Park) and Friday 26th November (Esh and Quebec).

Members of the pantomime cast " Snow White " will be visiting the local schools about 2.15 pm staying for 1 hour (approx). Refreshments will be available in the Baptist Chapel, Langley Park from 3.30pm to 4.00pm. The lights on the tree at Langley Park will be switched on at 4.00 pm.

It was agreed to the above schedule and also to make a donation to the Baptist Church for the use of the refreshments and for Mrs P. Mollon to provide refreshments. Cllr Mollon declared an interest in these arrangements.

115/04 Doreen Cummings – Donation in lieu of flowers

£50 donation made to McMillan Nursing

116/04 Request to transfer the tenancy of ED 66

Transfer arranged with effect from 1st November 2004.

117/04 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – October 2004 Provisions for play areas

Awaiting advice from Derwentside District Council on a) the 2004 annual engineering inspections b) the implications of the above Act.

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118/04 Reports

a) County

- i) New Library provision – public exhibition to be held on 25th November from 1.30 – 7.30 pm

124/04 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) AGM 27th November 2004, 10.15 am County Hall, Durham. Parish Council to be represented by the Chairman and Vice Chairman/or Cllr Harling.

2 Signed by the Chairman.....

- b) Quality Parish Council booklet
- c) Local Government Pension Scheme

Derwentside District Council

- e) Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – access to play areas – Springwell Avenue.
The Clerk advised on his response.
- f) Papers re Casual Vacancy
- g) Community Safety Forum 28th January 2005
- h) Standards Board for England – Code of Conduct – Register of Interests and Freemasonry
- i) Audit of Crime and Disorder concerns in Derwentside District Council

Other

- j) Clerk and Councils Direct
- k) Society of Local Council Clerks
- e) Derwentside Young Peoples Task Group
- f) Ms L. Platt – Tribute to Sir Bobby Robson
Councillor Robson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the subsequent debate.

The Clerk advised the Council that Ms Platt was interested in setting up an action group to attract funding towards a tribute towards Sir Bobby Robson. It was agreed that before any fundraising began Sir Bobby should be asked for his views on the matter. Cllr M. Tyler suggested that one idea would be to sponsor some local sporting event under Sir Bobby's name.

- l) ODPM New Ethical Framework Regulations
- m) Durham City Council – appeal by Anderson and Young re land to the west of A & Y Coachworks.
- n) North East War Memorials Project
- o) Mr D. Cowie re proposed development at Wilks Hill.
The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr D. Cowie was going to write to the Parish Council regarding the proposed development and request an opportunity to address the Council. The letter had not yet been received although it was agreed that if Mr Cowie wished to address the Council it should be at a public meeting to enable local residents to raise any issues with him.
- p) Durham City Council – Appeal by Anderson and Young.
Clerk to contact Planning Authority regarding the appeal, concerns were made re a number of youths allegedly smashing cars in the compound
- q) Countryside Agency – Transfer of grant administration arrangements
- r) DEFRA – new publication Rural Services Review
- s) DCCTP Training Courses
 - i) Data Protection - 17th November 2004
 - ii) Freedom of Information Act 2000 – 8th December 2004

It was agreed that the Clerk Designate could attend this course. The fee was £30

- t) Local Council Review – November 2004
- u) The Pantomime Company – Contract
- v) Zurich Municipal – Revised Schedule
- w) Planning Aid North
- x) EQUaL PAT Business Plan

Councillors Bowyer and Hiles declared an interest in this item.

The Clerk advised the Council that he had been invited to pass comments on the draft plan. Some comments had been made although there remained the question of insurance cover. The Clerk had made certain suggestions on this in an email sent to the Community Capacity Worker. A copy of the email was tabled at the meeting. After considerable discussion of the matter it was agreed:-

- i) that the Council should have the opportunity of agreeing any scheme for which cover was being sought and on the potential costs involved. The Council was reminded that in addition to the £20,000 in the commuted sums budget for playgrounds it also had an annual revenue budget for playground maintenance which would need to be reviewed next year when some of the new play areas might come on stream.
- ii) that the Council continued to support EQUaL and its playgrounds initiative
- iii) to adopt the Clerk's email as the basis of a formal reply to the original enquiry from EQUaL.

125/04 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Applications made to Derwentside District Council.

No CC/1/2004/0865/DMFP
Applicant Mr C. Fenwick
Proposed Erection of single storey rear extension
At 7 Finings Street, Langley Park

No SL/1/2004/0902/DMFP
Applicant Nomad Housing Group Ltd
Proposed Erection of 2 dwellings on land between 8 and 14 Park Drive and
11 dwellings between 40 and 54 Park Drive, Langley Park
At Land between 8 and 14 Park Drive and between 40 and 54 Park Drive, Langley Park

No FJC/1/2004/0977/DMLB
Applicant Ushaw College
Proposed Listed Building Consent to replace leadwork to flat roof areas
At Ushaw College

No objections to the above subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into account.

No CS/1/2004/0943/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Padgett
Proposed Conversion of redundant building into one dwelling
At Stobbilee Farm, Langley Park

No objections to the above subject to (i) adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into account and (ii) a detailed bat survey being carried out and to a satisfactory outcome from that survey.

No CS/1/2004/0942/DMFP
Applicant Reuben Page Ltd
Proposed Erection of single storey rear extension and new shop frontage
At 26 Front Street, Langley Park

The Clerk advised the Council that the Planning Officer was concerned at the scale of the rear extension and that discussions were ongoing with the applicant. It was also mentioned that there might be some architectural features to the front elevation which should be retained if possible within any alterations. In the circumstances it was agreed to note the application.

No CS/1/2004/0962/DMFP
Applicant Mr M. Speight
Proposed Erection of single storey rear extension
At 22 Maplewood Court, Langley Park

No objections to the above subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into account.

No SL/1/2004/0959/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Howe
Proposed Erection of single storey rear extension
At 28 Hill Crest, Esh

No objections to the above subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their views being taken into account.

126/04 CLERKS EXPENSES – DELEGATION

Agreed to adopt the Clerk's report (copy attached to these minutes). It was further resolved to delegate up to £50 for the purchase of any one item by the Clerk and Clerk Designate, and up to £150 for any other item in consultation with the Chairman. Any other expenditure to be authorised by the Council unless already agreed as part of a normal expenditure item contained within the Council's budget.

4 Signed by the Chairman.....

104/04 PURCHASE OF LAP TOP COMPUTER

Agreed to adopt the Clerk's report and to include an appropriate item in the 2005/06 budget for the purchase of a lap top computer.

127/04 SEAT AT THE TOP OF THE SILLY STEPS

It was reported that the seat was in a poor state of repair and should be replaced. It was resolved to purchase a new seat under the powers contained the Parish Councils Act 1957 section 1, Local Government Act 1972 section 101 and that in order to save further expense on transport costs it should be purchased from bpi recycling together with the seat to be purchased for installation opposite the Quebec play area. The Clerk advised that he had received a quote from Wharton Landscapes of £95 plus vat for the removal of the existing seat and the installation of a new seat. It was also resolved that a plaque should be purchased to dedicate the seat to the late Doreen Cummings.

128/04 WINTER GRITTING

It was resolved to invite Wharton Landscapes to provide a limited amount of winter gritting for 2004/05 for the areas agreed for 2003/04 subject to an appropriate formula being agreed with the Highway Authority and the Council's Insurers. The fee payable to Whartons to be set at the 2003/04 level of £95 (midweek) + 5% = £99.75 and £110 (weekend) + 5% = £115.50 + vat in both cases. The budget for 2004/05 included £1000 for this work – but due to the potential underspend on the grass cutting budget of a few hundred pounds it was resolved that the sum of £1350 inc vat) be set aside for this work. The public to be advised of the Council's proposals through notices to be displayed at various locations through the Parish.

129/04 ONGOING MAINTENANCE WORKS ALONG KAYSBURN ROAD

The Clerk advised the Council that he had met Mr G. Wharton regarding some repair work on the recent planting work carried out in this area and for future maintenance on all the work. A quote had now been received to supply and plant 30 linear metres of hedging @ £7.10per 1m and to apply herbicide to hedge lines and trees @ £135.00 per visit.

130/04 REPORTS

a) E.Q.U.a.L Partnership Meetings

The meeting was updated on the money raised from the ball race. Partnership to send out pre-Christmas leaflets informing the community of what they have been doing.

b) Parish Council

a) Presentation by EDF Energy on the Proposed Wind Farm at Langley near Burnhope on 12th October 2004 (report attached)

b) Report on Parish Liaison Meeting 13th October 2004

b) Training Session 26th October 2004 (report attached to the minutes)

The Council adopted the report prepared by the Clerk Designate and noted the action proposed by him.

c) (Minute No 106/04) Meeting re the Intermediate Labour Market project.

The Clerk advised the Council that a meeting had taken place with the Funding Officer from Derwentside District Council, Mrs A. Spenceley from the Langley Park Community Association, Cllr M. Tyler and Mr D. Rider re the possibility of the LPCA submitting a bid to the County Durham Foundation for funding towards the cost (wages) in running the CIP in the Tute. It was understood that the LPCA had now agreed to submit a bid for up to £2750 to the Foundation which would cover the wages element of manning the CIP. It was noted that the Parish Council would still be responsible for funding Mr Rider's wages for assisting the Parish Council with the web site, Esh Leaves and also in maintaining the IT equipment.

d) The Parish Council to be represented by the following members at Remembrance Day Services to be held at:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Langley Park | Councillor Mrs Tyler |
| Esh | Councillor Sands |
| Quebec | The Clerk |

c) District

Cllr Coulson reported on the following:-

a) Statement of Licensing Policy (draft) to be issued soon, Parish Council will be involved in the consultation process.

b) Personal Development (training) Interview taken place

c) Discussions ongoing on issue around scrutiny committee

d) Profile of achievement

e) Neighbourhood Offices

 Lanchester / Leadgate – lease expired

 Langley Park – lease extended for twelve months

Cllr Tyrie reported on the following:-

- a) Update on the housing stock option
 - b) Right to buy – appointed in-house legal executive
 - c) E-Government grant - £350,000 + £150,000 to be spent on equipment and software within two years
- d) County
Cllr Armstrong reported on the following:-
- a) Public meeting re library, Chair of meeting yet to be decided
 - b) Temporary library – awaiting agreement with Derwentside College
 - c) Exhibition to be arranged re – traffic calming proposals, Cemetery to Front Street
 - d) Bus shelters to be erected in the near future – Councillors said that if any were to be provided it was felt that there should be 2 at Quebec/Wilks Hill and 1 in Esh Village.
 - e) MUGA area subject to negotiations
 - f) Safe route to school scheme – stop off point at Esh Village

131/04 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

After receiving details of the financial statements (V162 – 190) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerks action for issuing any cheques in advance of the meeting.

The Clerk also advised that after exhaustive enquiries he had finally found a person to deliver Esh Leaves – a Mr T. Hall who delivers leaflets etc for Durham City Council. A fee of £200 had been agreed to deliver nearly 2100 copies in Esh, Langley Park and Quebec. This arrangement was agreed by the Council.

101/04 DISCUSSIONS WITH DERWENTSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL RE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

The Clerk and Clerk Designate attended a meeting on 5th November 2004 to discuss with Council Officers the position of the annual contribution made by Derwentside District Council to the Parish Council. Awaiting a response from the District Council. Members will be informed of the decision.

132/04 ANNUAL AUDIT – REPORT FROM THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

- a) Fidelity Insurance
Recommendation to increase cover. The Clerk advised that this was carried out last year (£65,000 to £80,000) but suggested that it should increase by a further £5,000 for 2005/06. This was agreed.
- b) Risk Management Plan
Recommendation that the Council should prepare a more detailed Plan to incorporate low, medium and high risk areas. This was agreed. The Clerk Designate to carry out the review.

132/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 14th December 2004 in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm.

133/04 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.

No confidential items raised on the agenda

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

135/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting for the following matters raised by Councillor Tyrie.

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The attendance list was incomplete as it should have included the following:-

Cllrs Bowyer, K. Robson and H. Tyler.

Cllr Sands name should be deleted from the apologies list as she also was in attendance

Amend eternal to external at the foot of page 2.

Pages 5 and 6

Delete sub paragraphs d) and e) from under Cllr Coulson's report on Page 5 and add them under Cllr Tyrie's report on Page 6.

7 Signed by the Chairman.....