

Esh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Parish Room Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park on Tuesday 9th January 2007 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor A Mollon (Chair), C Bloor, G Coulson, A Christie, A Harling, A Hiles, L Looby, S Rothwell, M Tyler and W Tyrie.

Apologies: Councillor H Guildford, M Sands and H Tyler. Inspector McConnell and PCSO Brown, Durham Police.

Also in Attendance: County Councillor Armstrong, G.F.Smith (Clerk) and M Ackroyd (Assistant Clerk).

001/07 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Coulson declared an interest in Item 10 – Planning Matters, he took no part in the debate other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor Mollon declared an interest in Item 11 o) – Correspondence, he took no part in the debate.

Councillor Hiles declared an interest in Item 11 m) - Correspondence, she took no part in the debate.

002/07 Police Report

Report circulated at the meeting. (Copy attached to the minutes).

003/07 Setting the Parish Precept 2007/2008

Following careful consideration of the options tabled it was proposed and seconded that the Parish Council:-

- a) Should increase the Precept from £26,035 to £31,035.
- b) Should set up a Scrutiny Committee to look at the income/expenditure figures, with an aim to reduce expenditure by up to £1000. Meeting to held on Thursday 15th March 2007 at 9.30am in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park.
- c) Should call a Special Parish Council Meeting to discuss future financial planning. Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3rd April 2007 at 7.00pm in Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park.

004/07 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th December 2006

Agreed as true record and signed by the Chairman.

005/07 Clerks Report including Observations from the Councillors to the Minutes

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082/06 Garage Tenancy

The Clerk reported that Mr Cassidy had withdrawn his tenancy application. A notice had been displayed on Parish Notice boards from 22nd December 2006 to 9th January 2007.

One application had been received from Mr Christopher Owers, 7 Ash Street, Langley Park. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Mr Owers to invite him to a meeting with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, one other Council member and the Clerk to discuss the terms etc of the tenancy.

Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

101/06 Reports – b) Parish

Roadside seats at Kaysburn Road, Langley Park.

Details had been passed onto a reporter for the Northern Echo.

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117/06 Correspondence

s) EQUaL-Playground Equipment

Clerk had requested a letter from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd regarding the storage and insurance arrangements for the equipment once they had been manufactured (works reopened 8th January 2007).

Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

132/06 Reports – Parish

Langley Park Recreation Ground.

Awaiting news on further grant application, it was agreed to install a robust metal fence (to include a kissing gate).

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136/06 Review of Tenancy Agreement for Allotments

Agreement had been amended, Clerk to issue to all allotment holders.

145/06 Minutes of a Special Meeting held on 4th December 2006

Esh Leaves Extra

Preparing draft, expecting to deliver in early February 2007.

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148/06 Reports – b) Parish

Quebec, Esh and Langley Park Play Areas

Agenda item 12b Parish Report.

Allotment Site, Bridgeway, near Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Meeting with Officers from Derwentside District Council arranged for Thursday 11th January 2007. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Parish Walk – 2nd January 2007

14 people attended the walk, members wished to thank Councillor Bloor for organising the event.

Pantomime – 27th January 2007

Members agreed:-

- a) For the contract to be signed by the Chairman and one other Councillor.
- b) To accept the cost of £20.00 + VAT for one character to visit the schools prior to the event.
- c) To provide helpers/assistance on the day.

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006/07 Quality Parish Council

Clerk updated the members with the compiling of the portfolio. He wished to thank Councillors Looby and Rothwell for their assistance. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

007/07 Local Government White Paper

Members agreed to receive the correspondence from Derwentside District Council and Durham County Council.

008/07 Financial Statement and Report

Members agreed to the financial details (V252 – V275) should be paid and where appropriate the Chairman/Clerks action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting (Councillor Coulson asked for further clarification on V275 – Pension Increase Recharge – Clerk to respond).

009/07 Planning MattersA

No.	G/1/2006/0960/DMFP
APPLICANT	A Bainbridge
PROPOSED	ERECTION OF DOUBLE GARAGE
AT	GARAGE PLOT TO THE SOUTH OF 4 WILKS HILL, QUEBEC

Agreed that no objection to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

B

No.	CC/1/2006/1027/DMFP
APPLICANT	MR & MRS ABBS
PROPOSED	ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY FRONT EXTENSION
AT	7 SPRINGWELL AVENUE, LANGLEY PARK#

Agreed that no objection to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

C

No. SW/1/2006/1028/DMAD

APPLICANT REUBEN PAGE LTD

PROPOSED ADVERTISING CONSENT FOR THE
INSTALLATION OF ONE ILLUMINATED
FASCIA SIGN

AT 26 FRONT STREET, LANGLEY PARK

Agreed that no objection to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

D

No. SW/1/2006/1011/DMRM

APPLICANT GEORGE WIMPY NORTH EAST

PROPOSED RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATION FOR
THE ERECTION OF 71 DWELLINGS

AT HILLTOP VIEW, LANGLEY PARK

Members raised the following concerns:-

- a) The small amount of social housing.
- b) The size of the dwellings.
- c) Lack of play area provision (incorporating land at Springwell Avenue).
- d) Lack of fencing on the perimeter of the estate/edging the Recreation Ground.

It was agreed:-

- a) For the Clerk to write to the Planning Officer/Developer raising the above concerns.
- b) Await the outcome of a special meeting with the three District Councillors and Officers/Leading Members of Derwentside District Council.

010/07 CorrespondenceDerwentside District Council

- a) Chairman's Grand Charity Night – 26th January 2007.
- b) Mr. K. Bradshaw – Woodland Trust Community Tree Planting Fund.

Durham County Council

- c) Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) – New look for 2008.
- d) County Durham Environment Awards 2006 – Closing date for entries 16th February 2007.

County Durham Association of Local Councils

- e) LGPS – Flexible Retirement Policy.

Clerk to check the adapted policy document and report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

- f) Details of more secure measures for voting.
- g) Parish Councils and Licensing Authorities.
- h) Election Pack 2007
- i) Amendments to the Council Tax Billing Regulations.
- j) Awards for 2007.
- k) LPGA – Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy Payments.

Clerk to check the adapted policy document and report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Others

- l) Quebec and District Village Hall Association – Request for a donation towards the cost of new PVC Guttering.

Awaiting financial details, Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

- m) Durham Wildlife Trust – Request for a donation towards the work of the Trust.

Awaiting financial details, Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

- n) Natural England – Response to rabbit complaint at the Earl of Durham allotments.

Clerk to contact the appropriate Officer and report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

- o) Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Services – Response to letter re Future of the Post Office Network.
- p) NALC – Policy briefing – The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill.
- q) NALC – Policy briefing – The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill (Second briefing).
- r) Inspector Andrew McConnell – Response to Parish Council concerns.

Members agreed to invite Inspector McConnell and PC Jacklyn Fenwick (New Beat Officer) to the next Parish Council Meeting.

- s) PCSO Steve Brown – Feedback on Monthly Police Report.

Members requested:-

- a) Number of incidents as apposed to number of calls.
- b) Comparison numbers within Derwentside District Area.
- c) To show location (i.e. village) of calls/incidents.
- t) Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter; Issue 23; Winter 2006/07
- u) Derwentside District Council – Open Space and Recreation needs assessment.

Members agreed for the Clerk to complete the questionnaire.

- v) Derwentside District Council – seminar Wednesday 10th January 2007 at 5.00pm Civic Centre, Consett. Re Local Government and public involvement in Health Bill for Parish Councils. It was agreed for the Chairman, Councillor Coulson and the Clerk to attend.
- w) Durham County Councils – seminar Saturday 13th January 2007 at 10.30am County Hall, Durham. Re Local Government White Paper for Town and Parish Councils.

It was agreed for the Chairman and the Clerk to attend.

- x) Derwentside District Council – Response from Executive Director to Parish Council letter re; Quality Parish Council Status and Local Government White Paper.

011/07 Reports

a) EQUaL Partnership

- i) Planning permission has been granted for the Sir Bobby Robson park (phase 1).
- ii) Negotiations are ongoing with Langley Park Sports and Social Club.
- iii) Public meeting to be arranged.
- iv) Litter pick at Recreation Ground, Langley Park on 10th February, also planting of Juniper Bushes and removal of some Rhodendrom shrubs, removal of rubbish and clearing of old footpath.
- v) Newsletter to be published.
- vi) Awaiting a meeting re; new library facilities.

b) Parish

Quebec

Wind damage to three posts and rails, cost to repair approx £50.00. Members agreed to accept the quotation from NJC Wrought Iron and for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Site visit regarding possible car parking provision will take place with Officers from Durham County Council on either Monday 15th or Tuesday 16th January. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Esh

Picnic table to be fixed.

Langley Park

Ongoing negotiations with Meikles Solicitors regarding cost of legal services, Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

c) District

Councillor Coulson reported:-

- i) Public participation in future planning meetings.
- ii) Meeting with District Councillors and Chief Executive and Political Leaders from Derwentside District Council.
- iii) Wind farms – funds.

Councillor Tyrie reported:-

- i) Finance Department presentation on Revenues and Benefits Project Team.
- ii) Derwentside Citizens Advice Bureau.
- iii) Council Mortgages.

Councillor Armstrong reported:-

- i) Post box at Quebec.
- ii) New library - public meeting to be arranged.
- iii) Proposed car park at Quebec (will attend the site meeting).

012/07 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th February 2007 in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm.

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 ITEM LISTED BELOW ON THE GROUNDS THAT IF THEY ARE PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS THERE COULD BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 100.

No Confidential Items.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.



POLICE REPORT

For the period 11th December 2006 – 7th January 2007:

Esh Parish Area: 76 calls (65 calls for previous period)
(There may have been more than one call about the same incident).

Criminal Damage	: 14 calls
ASB / Nuisance / Under Age Drinking / Rowdy	: 10 calls
Vehicle / Motorcycle Nuisance	: 6 calls
Suspicious Persons	: 9 calls
Domestic	: 5 calls
Drugs Related	: 1 call
Concern for safety	: 4 calls
Crime Burglary	: 1 call
Theft	: 3 calls
RTC – Injury	: 1 call
RTC – Damage Only	: 2 calls
Violence (Against the person)	: 3 calls
Firearms Incidents	: 2 calls
Road Related Incidents	: 3 calls
Other Incidents	: 12 calls

(Alarm activations, police reported problems, sudden deaths, animals etc)

Current Anti-Social Behaviour Hot Spots:

Bus stop on Quebec Street (Youths congregating)

Front of Langley Park Community Transport (Youths congregating)

Diggerland (Motorbike problems)

Ongoing:

- Criminal damage and Anti-social behaviour calls are still causing concern. We have increased patrols, particularly on evenings when such problems are occurring
- Walkabout opportunities are always available with me to identify hot spots or to pass on intelligence
- Beat Surgeries (dates advertised on poster within Housing Office), Streetsafe box (Housing office) for intelligence; anonymously if preferred
- All Langley Park CCTV Cameras are fully working and have become an invaluable resource in identifying local criminal activities and anti-social behaviour

We are continuing to show a visible presence to deter youths from purchasing alcohol for consumption on the streets and we will work with our licensing unit with regards to under-age sales. During this period we have not seized any alcohol on the streets.

Youth provision – Still working with the EDDY project recruiting youths aged 12-17 year old who are perhaps at risk of offending, have low self esteem etc. Offering them personal development courses. Those who complete the course are offered a place on a one-week residential consisting of sailing, mountain biking and the like. Any youths interested can contact me at Lanchester police office.

Contact Details:

Steve Brown
Langley Park PCSO 6654
Lanchester Section Office
Telephone: 0845 6060365 Ext. 664 4420