

Esh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Ushaw College, Esh on Tuesday 11th September 2007 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present; Councillor A Mollon (Chairman), B Armstrong, C Bloor, R Bowyer, G Coulson, A Harling, L Looby, S Rothwell and W Tyrrie.

Apologies; Councillors H Guildford, M Sands, M Tyler and PC Jacklyn Laws.

Also in Attendance; Mrs P. Mollon, County Councillor J Armstrong and G.F. Smith
(Clerk)

194/07 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Coulson and Rothwell declared an interest in Item 9 Planning Matters, they took no part in the debate other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor A Mollon declared an interest in Item 9 J – Planning Matters, he took no part in the debate.

Councillor P. Mollon declared an interest in Item 9 J – Planning Matters, she took no part in the debate.

Councillor Bowyer declared an interest in Item 8 F – Correspondence, he took no part in the debate.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in Item 10 B (7) Parish Report, he took no part in the debate.

195/07 Police Report

The local beat officer was unable to attend the meeting. The report for the period 10th July to 8th September 2007 was circulated at the meeting (copy attached to the minutes). Concerns were raised regarding dwelling burglaries in the area.

196/07 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th July 2007

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

197/07 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor by Mrs P Mollon

Members accepted the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor by Mrs P Mollon, 14 Front Street, Langley Park DH7 9SG, duly signed by Mrs Mollon and the Clerk and the Proper Officer of the Council.

Mrs P Mollon was now a Councillor for Esh Parish Council.

198/07 Clerks Report including Observations from Councillors to the Minutes

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132/06 Reports Parish

Langley Park Recreation Ground

Clerk to arrange a site meeting with the Contractors for the fencing and paths. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

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010/07 Correspondence

e) LGPS – Flexible Retirement Policy

f) LGPS – Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy Payments.

Clerk to circulate copies of the above policy documents to all Council members for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

135/07 Reports b) Parish

b) Book of Poems

Assistant Clerk obtaining further competitive prices. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

141/07 Minutes of a special meeting held on 15th March 2007

Parish Room

Agenda Item 10 b) Parish Report.

169/07 Correspondence

a) Parish Paths Partnership 2007

Erection of new notice board at Langley Park

An order has been placed with Service Direct, Members instructed the Clerk to chase up this outstanding work and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

170/07 Parish Garage

Date to be agreed with Mr Elliot. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

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172/07 Financial Matters

Alternative suppliers of electricity for the Christmas trees lighting. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

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187/07 Planning Matters

b) 2 Beamish Close, Langley Park

The Clerk informed members that the County Arborist had recommended slight pruning to the trees at this property, members noted the report.

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199/07 Financial Statement and Reconciliation Bank Statement as at 11/09/2007

After receiving details of all financial statements for 2007/08 (voucher V116 to V164) should be paid and where appropriate confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

Members also accepted the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 11th September 2007.

200/07 Correspondence

Durham County Council

a) Corporate Policy – Improving working relationships with Town & Parish Councils; Mapping Services (double taxation).

Member agreed for the Clerk to write to Ann Armstrong, chair of the steering group asking for further clarity (with particular reference to grass cutting) on services provided by the Parish Council and what happens to the information once it has been collected from each Parish/Town Council. Clerk to report to the next Parish council meeting.

Signed by the Chairman Page 2

- b) Chief Executive's Office – Local Government Reorganisation.
- c) Environment – Bus Shelters.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the Integrated Transport Unit regarding:-

- a. The state of the bus shelter at Marley Houses, Quebec.
- b. The state of the bus shelter at Esh Hill Top.
- c. No bus shelter at Front Street, Esh.
- d) Environment – Parish Paths Partnership; invitation to an event on Saturday 29th September 2007, 10.00am to 2.30pm at County Hall, Durham.
- e) Northern Area Office – notification of works ordered for construction of 13 no. disabled access ramps on C62 Low Moor Road, Langley Park.
- f) Northern Area Office – notification of works ordered for replace defective footway gully o/s 11 Hawthorn Terrace, Langley Park.

Derwentside District Council

- g) Chief Executive Officer – Quality Parish Status.

Members agreed the for the Clerk to contact Mr Clark to arrange a suitable meeting date.

- h) Electoral Services – review of polling districts and polling places.

Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Mr Hole regarding the use of the New Parish Hall, Esh (not to disrupt the childrens education).

County Durham Association of Local Councils

- i) Durham Association News; August 2007; issue 14

Others

- j) City of Durham Local Development Framework – consultation period 17th August to 28th September 2007.
- k) Quebec and District Village Hall Association – letter of thank you for donation.
- l) Meikles Solicitors – Lease of land at Langley Park.

Members agreed for the Clerk to meet with the Council's Solicitor to progress this matter and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

- m) Durham Police Authority – Policing Plan 2007/08
- n) EQUaL – request to purchase further play equipment for Langley Park play area at a cost of £494.00 plus VAT.

Members agreed to purchase the two items of play equipment at a cost of £494.00 from Wicksteeds Leisure Ltd, who would manufacture the goods and store until required on site.

201/07 Planning Matters

The following applications had already been dealt with under delegated powers.

Members agreed to raise no objections subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on these developments.

A

No. SW/1/2007/0602/DMFP
APPLICANT GEORGE WIMPEY NORTH EAST
PROPOSED RESERVE MATTERS APPLICATION FOR
THE ERECTION OF 71 DWELLINGS
(RESUBMISSION)
AT HILLTOP VIEW, LANGLEY PARK

B

No. CC/1/2007/0656/DMFP
APPLICANT MR P HILL
PROPOSED ERECTION OF TWO STOREY SIDE AND
REAR EXTENSION
AT 11 PHEONIX CLOSE, LANGLEY PARK

C

No. CC/1/2007/0596/DMFP
APPLICANT L RIDLEY
PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE TO GROUND FLOOR TO
HAIR/BEAUTY SALON AND FIRST FLOOR
TO BEDSIT
AT 34 QUEBEC STREET, LANGLEY PARK

D

No. CC/1/2007/0473/DMFP
APPLICANT MR & MRS R TODD
PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE REPLACEMENT
DWELLING (RETROSPECTIVE)
AT 8 FRONT STREET, QUEBEC

The following applications were considered at the meeting:-

E

No. CC/1/2007/0710/DMFP
 APPLICANT MR & MRS HALL
 PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING WITH
 DETACHED DWELLING
 AT WOODBINE COTTAGE, FRONT STREET,
 ESH

Members agreed to raise no objections subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on these developments.

F

No. TA/1/2007/0742/DMLB
 APPLICANT TRUSTEES OF USHAW COLLEGE
 PROPOSED LISTED BUILDING CONSENT TO
 REPLACE TIMBER PANELS IN TWO
 GEORGIAN DOORS
 AT USHAW COLLEGE, ESH, CO. DURHAM

Members agreed to raise no objections subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on these developments.

G

No. TA/1/2007/0743 & 0744/DMFP & DMLB
 APPLICANT TRUSTEES OF USHAW COLLEGE
 PROPOSED LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AND THE
 INSTALLATION OF 3 CCTV CAMERAS
 AT USHAW COLLEGE, ESH, CO. DURHAM

Members agreed to raise no objections subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on these developments.

H

No. CC/1/2007/0674/ DMAD

APPLICANT MR N J CASSIDY

PROPOSED ADVERTISING CONSENT FOR THE SITING OF ONE NOTICE BOARD

AT LAND TO THE NORTH WEST OF 1 DEAN STREET, LANGLEY PARK

Members agreed to request further details (size and position of board). Clerk to contact the Planning Officer and circulate the details to all Council Members.

I

No. SW/1/2007/0723/DMFP

APPLICANT A SNOWDON

PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING

AT GARAGE SITE EAST OF 39 EAST CLERE LANGLEY PARK

Members agreed to raise no objections subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on these developments.

Councillor A Mollon vacated the chair while the next item was discussed. Councillor Bloor chaired the meeting.

J

No. SW/1/2007/0597/DMFP

APPLICANT ZENITH DEVELOPMENT HOMES LTD

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DISUSED YOUTH CENTRE AND ERECTION OF 27 DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING

AT ALL SAINTS YOUTH CENTRE, LANGLEY PARK

Members raised the following concerns:-

- 1) The size (small) of the properties on the site.
- 2) The number of properties (27) on the site.
- 3) Access to/from the site.
- 4) Position (if any) of the bus stop area.
- 5) Preservation of the sign and some of the trees on the site.
- 6) The local residents are fully consulted on the proposed development.

K

No.

TB/928/1/164(4) – DURHAM COUNTY
COUNCIL

APPLICANT

MISS D BRENNAN

PROPOSED

CYCLE STORAGE/PARKING SHELTER

AT

PRIMARY SCHOOL, MAY TERRACE

Members agreed to raise no objections subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on these developments.

202/07 Reports

a) EQUaL

- i) Mining Memorial Group.
- ii) Nature Reserve – action Plan.
- iii) Community IT – Funding.
- iv) Women’s Health Group.
- v) Young Peoples Project.
- vi) Sir Bobby Robson Park.
- vii) Peoples Millions.
- viii) Commuted Fund.

b) Parish.

- i) Members agreed to confirm the action of the Chairman/Clerk in making a donation of £200.00 to the Goodwill Association Langley Park towards the annual trip held on 6th August 2007.
- ii) Members agreed to confirm the action of the Chairman/Clerk in making a payment of £437.50 plus VAT to Simply Sport Ltd for providing a training coach for the summer football coaching at Langley Park in August 2007. The event organisers were the Langley Park branch of Sunderland AFC Supporters Association.
- iii) Pantomime 2007 – Members agreed to fund the pantomime in Langley Park. The Clerk to provide further details (costs etc) to the next Parish Council meeting.
- iv) Article in the Guardian – “The end of the tracks”. Members agreed to endorse the response by the Council’s Vice Chairman.

- v) Costs of producing a book “Esh Parish in Photo’s, Words and Verses”. Clerk to report to the next Parish council meeting.
- vi) Funding for the Intermediate Labour Market Scheme – IT Officers contract. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.
- vii) Members agreed to inspect the allotments on Monday 17th September 2007, meet at the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre at 9.30am.
- viii) Earl of Durham Allotment. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.
- ix) Moving the Clerk’s office to Wood View Community Centre. Members agreed to the following expenditure:-
 - a) Purchase of a new office desk £58 plus delivery plus VAT.
 - b) Transfer of the telephone line.
 - c) Purchase of a new telephone/fax machine.
 - d) Purchase of a new photocopier.
 - e) Cost of clearing, cleaning and decoration of new office £63.49.

Members noted that the Clerk was expecting to move into the new office in October and that the old files from the Parish Room at Church Street Community Centre had been stored in the garage premises at the Earl of Durham allotment site.

c) District.

Councillor Coulson reported:-

- 1) Neighbourhood Housing Office at Langley Park.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to Derwentside Homes advising of the Parish Council interest in renting the premises. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

- 2) Unitary Authority for County Durham.

- 3) Bus passes for 2008.

Councillor Rothwell reported:-

- 1) An article for the publication Inside Derwentside.

Councillor Tyrie reported:-

- 1) Unitary Authority for County Durham.

d) County

Councillor Armstrong reported:-

- 1) Internet connection at Wood View Community Centre

- 2) Update of Library provision for Langley Park.

- 3) Turning circle at cemetery, Langley Park.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the bus company regarding parking of the buses in the turning circle particularly when cars are parked in that area while people visit the cemetery.

203/07 Date and Time of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th October at 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 OF THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 100.

Police Report.

For the period of 10th July to 8th September 2007.

Total number of calls for Esh Parish Area: 164

Community Related Calls: 72.

Dwelling Burglaries:-

3 dwelling burglaries have occurred in Esh. All three properties were examined by CSI.

In relation to crime prevention advice regarding dwelling burglaries, it is important to maintain security within the home. Due to hot weather, make sure that doors are not left wide open as any body could walk in! If you have a house alarm then please use it. Christmas will be approaching in a few months time and valuable presents will be in people's homes so make sure that they are well hidden. The dark nights will be soon approaching us so make you do not leave your house in darkness.

Burglary other:-

There have been no reports. Basic crime prevention will assist with this.

Anti-social Behaviour and motorcycle incidents:-

In relation to youths causing annoyance, the main problems are occurring on the Front Street, Durham Street and Springwell Avenue. Please call in if you are suffering from anti social behaviour. This will mean I know which areas to target with high visibility patrols. If possible, it is helpful to obtain descriptions of the youths so officers know who to look out for.

One youth in the area continues to be on an acceptable behaviour contract. There have been no issues so far.

I am continuing to monitor the problems of off road motor cycles in the area. There continues to be a reduction in this problem.

Criminal Damage, Thefts:-

There continues to be problems regarding criminal damage within the Langley Park area. These range from damages to vehicles and windows broken. There appears to be a pattern of thefts occurring on the Riverside Industrial Estate. These range from theft of wheels and theft of a caravan.

No warrants were executed during the month of August.

Bogus Callers:-

Fortunately, we have had no reports of any bogus callers in the Esh area. However, bogus callers are still operating in the Durham area. Some of the callers state they can re block yards, fix broken drains etc. Some take deposits but then do not return to finish the job. Please be vigilant in the area and report any incidents where persons are acting suspiciously in the area.

Notes:-

The closure order for the house in The Crescent continues. The house remains boarded up.

Walkabout opportunities are always available. This is where we can identify hot spots and see how problems can be resolved.

The Streetsafe box continues to be in the Housing Office for any information or complaints.

Many Thanks

PC 1975 Jacklyn Laws
Langley Park/Esh Beat.
Consett Police Office.
0845 60 60 365