

Esh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park on Tuesday 9th October 2007 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor A Mollon (Chairman), B Armstrong, G Coulson, A Harling, P Mollon, S Rothwell, M Sands, M Tyler and W Tyrie.

Apologies Councillors H Guildford, L Looby and C Bloor.

Also in Attendance: County Councillor J Armstrong, PCSO Steve Brown and GF Smith (Clerk).

205/07 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.

206/07 Police Report

PCSO Brown gave a verbal report to the meeting (copy of the report attached to the minutes) followed by a question and answer session.

PCSO Brown informed the meeting that he would be leaving on 6th November 2007, members thanked him for his service to the Parish and wished him every success with his new employment.

207/07 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 11th September 2007

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

208/07 Clerks Report including observations from Councillors to the Minutes

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132/07 Reports – B) Parish

Langley Park recreation ground

A meeting with the contractors for the fencing and the paths had been arranged for 11/12 October. 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 payment policy. Copies of the documents had been circulated to all council members. It was agreed to place these items on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.

169/07 Correspondence

a) Parish Paths Partnership 2007

Erection of new notice board at Langley Park. The notice board was now in place unfortunately the key had been misplaced. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

170/07 Parish Garage

Clerk to write to Mr Elliot to ask him if he is still interested in renting the property, if not the Clerk to place an advert on notice boards and in local shops asking for any interested persons to contact him. Clerk to report to the next parish Council meeting.

172/07 Financial Matters

Alternative suppliers of electricity for the Christmas Tree lights. No further progress, Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

200/07 Correspondence

Durham County Council

a) Corporate Policy – improving working relationships with Town and Parish. Councils. Mapping services (double taxation).

The questionnaire was to collect information for the new unitary authority for County Durham to ascertain the problem of double taxation throughout County Durham. It was agreed for the Clerk to complete the questionnaire and return it to Durham County Council.

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200/07 Correspondence

Durham County Council

b) Environment – Bus Shelter

Clerk had responded to Durham County Council (copy of reply to County Councillor Armstrong).

Derwentside District Council

g) Chief Executive Officer – Quality Parish Status.

A meeting had been arranged for Friday 9th November 2007 at 10.00am at the Civic Centre, Consett (Councillor Coulson, A Mollon, Rothwell, Tyrie and the Clerk to attend). Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

Other

l) Meikles Solicitors – Lease of land at Langley Park

Defer until next Parish council meeting.

n) EQUaL – Play Equipment

The two items of play equipment have been ordered with Wicksteed Leisure Ltd and are to be stored there until required on site.

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201/07 Planning Matters

h) Advertising consent for a notice board at Langley Park Industrial Estate – Mr NJ Cassidy.

The size of the board was 1200mm x 600mm to be placed at the entrance to the Industrial Estate.

Members agreed to raise no objection.

Page 7202/07 Reports – b) ParishPantomime 2008

Members agreed for the pantomime to be held at Wood View Community Centre on Saturday 12th January 2008. Clerk to report the costs to the next Parish Council meeting.

Page 8202/07 Reports – b) Parish

Esh Parish in photos, words and verse.

Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

Funding for the intermediate labour market scheme.

Agenda Item 13

Inspection of Allotments

Agenda Item 10b – Parish Report

Clerk's office at Wood View Community Centre

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had moved office on Monday 8th October 2007 (although he was still transferring files from Church Street Community Centre for the next few days).

202/07 Reports – c) District

Neighbourhood Office – Langley Park

Clerk had written to Mr Sherb at Derwentside Homes requesting a meeting to discuss the possibility of office accommodation for the Parish Council. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

202/07 Reports – d) County

Turning circle at Langley Park Cemetery

Letter had been sent to the bus company regarding parking of the buses in this area. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

209/07 Financial Risk Assessment – Transfer of Funds

That this matter be deferred to the next Parish Council meeting.

210/07 Financial Statement

After receiving details of all financial statements for 2007/08 (voucher V168 to 199) should be paid and where appropriate confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

211/07 CorrespondenceDerwentside District Council

- a) Licensing Act 2003 – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy
- b) Parish Liaison Meeting – 25th October 2007 Civic Centre, Consett commencing at 6.30pm.

County Durham Association of Local Councils

- c) Training session “Meetings, Agendas & Minutes – The Law and Best Practice and update” Half day session 7th November 2007, 3.00 – 5.30pm at County Hall, Durham (for Councillors and Clerks). £27 per delegate.

- d) Training sessions “The Four Modules – five sessions” held during October/November 2007, 6.30 – 8.30pm at Durham County Cricket Club, Chester le Street. Cost £27 per delegate or £120 for all five sessions.
- e) AGM on Saturday 20th October 2007 at 10.30am in County Hall, Durham.

Other

- f) Charity Commission – Langley Park Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.
- g) Langley Park Goodwill Association – Thank you letter.
- h) Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust – details on the Foundation Trust.
- i) District Councils of Durham – Government consultation on the approach to implementing proposals for Unitary Local Government.
- j) County Durham Local Action 21 Newsletter; Autumn 2007; Issue 35
- k) Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter; Summer/Autumn 2007.
- l) County Durham Association of Local Councils Newsletter; October 2007; Issue 15.
- m) Durham Rural Community Council Newsletter; Summer 2007; Issue 105.
- n) The Standards Board for England – Town and Parish Standards Newsletter; September 2007.

212/07 Planning Matters

A

NO

SW/1/2007/0536 & 0564/DMCA

APPLICANT

Mr E BALDWIN

PROPOSED

CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT FOR DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DOUBLE GARAGE AND CREATION OF ONE NEW DWELLING WITH INTEGRAL AND DETACHED GARAGE.

AT

STAPLEFIELD HALL ROAD, 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.

B

CC/1/2007/0766/DMAF

APPLICANT

KEITH ADAMSON RIDLEY

PROPOSED

AGRICULTURAL DETERMINATION FOR THE EXCAVATION OF TOP SOIL TO FARM COMPLEX, FORMATION OF HEDGE OPENING AND ACCESS ROAD, ERECTION OF GATE AND MAKE GOOD FENCE AND HEDGE.

AT

ESH HALL FARM, ESH

Members requested more information. Clerk to contact the Planning Officer and circulate the details to all Council members.

C

NO CC/1/2007/0842/DMFP

APPLICANT MR J ATKINSON

PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING

AT LAND NORTH OF WALLNNOOK LANE,
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.

213/07 Reports

- a) EQUaL – No report
- b) Parish
- i) Esh Play Area.

Damage had been caused to the wet pour area under the swings (approx 2m squared), awaiting quotations for the repairs. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting and also place a notice in Esh post office informing residents of the damage and to ask anyone who knows anything about the incident to report it to the police.

- ii) Christmas Tree – Langley Park, Esh and Quebec

Members agreed for DCC Service Direct to carry out the electrical work. Clerk to report estimates for electrical works and cost of the trees to the next Parish Council meeting.

The tree lights at Langley Park to be switched on at 4.00pm Thursday 29th November. Members requested that the board's around the trees to be lowered (subject to health and safety concerns), Clerk to contact the contractor (N J Cassidy).

- iii) Allotment Committee held on Monday 17th September 2007.

Members agreed: -

- a) To review the rules for allotments at the next Parish Council meeting.
- b) Letters to be sent to the following allotment holders asking for the allotment holders to tidy up the site: -
 - Cross Fell site No's 4,5,6,11,12,13,15 and 16.
 - Earl of Durham site No's 2, 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 46, 47, 54, 61, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 76, 79, 80 and 81.

Clerk to send a stronger worded letter if any of the above allotment site holders were written to regarding the condition of the allotment last year. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.
- c) To hold another allotment committee inspection within the next six months.

c) District.

County Councillor Coulson and Rothwell reported:-

- 1) Health and Environment committee.
- 2) Play areas.
- 3) Public health.
- 4) Housing – Social landlords.
- 5) Recycling.

Councillor Tyrie reported: -

- 1) Closure of Consett cashiers department.
- 2) Tenancies of allotments.

d) County

Councillor Armstrong reported: -

- 1) Internet connection at Wood View Community Centre.
- 2) Library.
- 3) Finings Street.
- 4) Railway Street.
- 5) Langley Park Play Group.
- 6) Youth Provision Funding.
- 7) Shotley Bridge Hospital.
- 8) Local Government Review.

214/07 Date and Time of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th November 2007 in 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.

Monthly Information for Langley Park/Esh Parish Meeting.

Information regarding incidents and crimes in the area.

Number of calls for the area:- 70

Number of community related calls:- 38

No alcohol seizures.

There have been no reports on dwelling burglaries.

There has been one burglary other on the Langley Park Industrial Estate.

Bogus Callers:- 1

There has been one bogus call in the area. The males stated that they were builders and that the victims roof needed fixing. The builders had said that they needed the money up front.

This is a common method used by bogus callers at the moment. Many are stating that they are builders and telling mainly elderly people that parts of their house need fixing. Others also state that they can block pave yards etc. It is very important to tell residents that they MUST ask for ID. If anyone is acting suspiciously in the area, then it is a good idea to ring for the police to attend so the person can be stop checked.

Anti Social Behaviour/Motorcycle Incidents:-

There have been no calls in relation to off road motor cycles. However, there have been a few calls in relation to youths causing an annoyance in Finings Street and Front Street. Regular patrols are being made in the area. A warning letter has been issued to one individual regarding their behaviour.

Criminal Damage/Thefts

One person in the area has been arrested for an offence of criminal damage. Fortunately there are no hotspots or patterns. There appears to be a pattern of theft of diesel emerging in the area.

Warrants Executed.

One warrant has been executed in Langley Park. There was nothing found on the premises and no arrests were made.

Worthy of Note.

As we can see, the dark nights are fast approaching. Unlit houses are an easy target for thieves especially when victims are at work. It is a very good idea to invest in a timer switch which can be put on whilst you are out the home.

At this time of year, there is always the problem of fireworks. If this is a problem in the area, please let us know straight away. This means we may be able to find the persons responsible and find out who is selling the fireworks.

Myself and Steve would like to do a walkabout in the area so we can identify any areas of concern or improvement. If anyone is interested then just let me know and we can make some arrangements.

Since the Langley Park housing office is now closed, is there any suggestions as to where we can put the Streetsafe box?