

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park on Tuesday 13th November 2007 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor A. Mollon (Chairman), B. Armstrong, C. Bloor, G. Coulson, A. Harling, A. Hiles, L. Looby, P. Mollon and S. Rothwell.

Apologies: Councillors R. Bowyer, H. Guilford, M. Sands, M. Tyler and W. Tyrie.

Also in attendance: County Councillor J. Armstrong, PC Jacklyn Laws and GF Smith (Clerk)

216/07 Declaration Of Interest

Councillor Coulson and Rothwell declared an interest in item 16 – Planning Matters they took no part in the debate other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in item 13 – review of the Allotments Tenancy Agreement he took no part in the debate.

217/07 Police Report

PC Jacklyn Laws gave a verbal Report to the Meeting followed by a question and answer session.

218/07 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th October 2007

The Minutes of the Meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

219/07 Clerk's Report including observations from Councillors to the Minutes

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132/07 Reports b) – Parish

Langley Park Recreation Ground

Quotations Received:-

1 Fencing + Gate – N. J. Cassidy £3900.00

2 Footpaths – Wharton Landscape 512 metres @ £18.39 per metre = £9415.68

It was agreed that Councillor Hiles and the Clerk to review the Pricing and to report to a Future Meeting of the Parish Council.

010/07 Correspondence

e) LGPS – Flexible Retirement Policy Agenda item no 6

f) LGPS – Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy Payments Agenda item no 6.

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169/07 Correspondence

a) Parish Paths Partnership 2007 – Erection of new Noticeboard at Langley Park new lock and keys have now been ordered.

Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting

170/07 Parish Garage

Members agreed to advertise the vacant Parish Garage, rent £120.00 per month.

172/07 Financial Matters

Alternative Supplies of electricity for the Christmas Trees lighting Clerk reported on no further progress, Members agreed to continue with the present supplier (NEDL)

200/07 Correspondence

Derwentside District Council

g) Meeting with Chief Executive Officer – 9th November 2007 unfortunately the CEO was unable to attend the meeting but had arranged for a number of Directors to be present. The Parish Council was represented by Councillors Coulson, Mollon, Rothwell and Tyrie and also the Clerk. It had been agreed that the District Council would support the Parish Council's letter of intent for the neighbourhood office at Langley Park.

Others

L) Meikles Solicitors – Lease of Land at Langley Park Members agreed (after discussion with the District Councillors) for the Clerk to meet with the Parish Council's Solicitors to progress the arrangements for the signing of the lease. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

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202/07 Reports b) – Parish

Pantomime 2008

Members agreed for Jack Drum Arts to present "Red Riding Hood and her Amazing Grandmother" on Saturday 12th January 2008 at Wood View Community Centre, Langley Park at a cost of £600 + Vat plus cost for some of the cast to visit the local Schools in the week prior to the production.

Esh Parish in Photos, Word and Verse

Awaiting a possible grant application to cover reproduction costs, Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

202/07 Reports – c) District

Neighbourhood Office at Langley Park

Letter of intent required to Derwentside Homes by Friday 16th November 2007 (The date had now been changed to Friday 30th November 2007). The Clerk to report to the next Meeting.

209/07 Financial Risk Assessment – Transfer of Funds

Agenda Item No 7

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211/07 Correspondence

f) Charity Commission – Langley Park Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground.
Agenda Item No 12

212/07 Planning Matters

b) Esh Hall Farm, Esh

Members were circulated details of the Application prior to the Meetings Members raised concerns around the opening in the existing hedge and the access roadway into the main road as a matter of a Highway issue. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to the Planning Officer expressing these concerns about the proposed development.

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213/07 Reports – b) Parish

Esh Play Area

The cost of repairing the soft play area (2Mz) under the swings was:-

Wharton Landscape £250.00 + vat

Batsons Leisure Ltd £500.00 + vat

Members agreed to accept the quotation from Wharton Landscape to carry out the repairs.

Christmas Trees at Langley Park, Esh and Quebec

Members agreed the Following costs:-

a) Decorating and connection of lights at Esh £458.00 + vat from Service Direct

b) Decorating and connection of lights at Quebec £458.00 + vat from Service Direct

c) Decorating and connection of light, install and connect five Motiffs and attend switch on ceremony £1388 + vat from Service Direct

d) Provide and assist in the delivery of two 20ft trees and one 25ft tree £600.00 from Leo Moralee, Blackburn Farm, Langley Park

e) Members agreed for the Clerk to make enquiries for the costs of obtaining “Living Trees” and to report to a future Parish Council Meeting.

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220/07 Local Government Pension Scheme – flexible Retirement Policy

Members agreed to accept the Policy Document previously circulated

221/07 Local Government Pension Scheme – early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy payment policy

Members agreed to accept the policy document previously circulated.

222/07 Financial Risk Assessment – Transfer of Funds

Members were informed on a scheme that was available from Standard Life for up to £10,000 deposited for 12 months at an interest rate of 6.5%

Members asked for the Clerk to check the following:-

a) Was the % interest based on a Calendar year or 12months from date of deposit.

b) would the Parish Council have any less of interest from the present Bank when withdrawing this amount.

c) all Councillors should be cheque signatories (with two from the number registered with the bank.

223/07 Review of Financial Arrangement

Members agreed to:-

a) Accept the report from the Assistant Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer and the Internal Auditor

b) The internal Auditor submitting a written mid term and end of Financial year Report to the Council.

- c) Carry out a Financial Risk Assessment of the Council's Banking Arrangement
- d) Authorise the Clerk to Maintain a Petty Cash float of up to £20.00
- e) Consider a possible direct debit arrangement with British Telecommunications for the telephone line rental/other changes.
- f) To review all fees and charges annually during the Budgetary process.
- g) The Clerk discussing with Northern Electric the wayleave payments received from them and on the feasibility of entering into a 5 year agreement on any payments to be received on order to save on administration costs.
- h) Review the need to ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted, including the adequate security and safety of the individuals banking (i.e. collection of allotment rents).
- I) clarify the wording of the Financial Regulations with the County Durham Association of Local Councils re any expenditure to be incurred between £150 and £1000 bearing in mind the arrangements already approved under the Council's Standing Orders.

224/07 NLDC Grant and additional Hovns

Item deferred until next Meeting (Tuesday 11th December 2007).

225/07 Draft Budget 2008/09

Members noted the report and requested a more detailed income/expenditure accounts showing up to date monthly costings.

226/07 Annual Audit 2006/07 – Report of the Council's External Auditor

Members agreed:-

- a) to note the External Auditors Report
- b) That the Council disclose to the Charity Commission that they are Sole Trustees (rather than naming individual Councillors as Trustees) of Langley Park Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground Charity.
- c) For the Clerk to display the Conclusion of Audit Notice at various locations throughout the parish (including an article in Esh leaves).

227/07 Langley Park Recreation Ground Trust and the Annual update

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return would be reported to the AGM of the above Trust in May 2008 (prior to the Council's AGM).

228/07 Review the Allotment Tenancy Agreement

Members agreed for the Clerk to meet with Councillor Harling to discuss the proposed clause around poor condition and not being properly cultivated garden for 6 months would nullify the agreement to rent the allotment immediately. Also the recovery of costs for compensating the Council in clearing an unused allotment garden.

The Clerk to prepare a draft additional terms of agreement clauses based on the recent inspection of allotments and the above suggestions made by Council Members for discussion at the next appropriate Parish Council Meeting.

229/07 Financial Statement

After receiving details of all Financial Statements for 2007/08 (vouchers v200 to v240) should be paid and where appropriate confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action in issuing cheques in advance of the Meeting.

230/07 Correspondence

Derwentside District Council

a) Chairman's Christmas Carol Service – 10th December 2007 at 7.00pm Christ Church, Parliament Street, Consett.

Durham County Council

b) Consultation on 2008/09 Budget proposals – views by 30th November 2007

c) Consultation of the proposal to close Hamsteels Primary School – statutory notice 6 weeks from 25th October 2007 (Notices placed on the Council Notice Boards)

d) Local Government Pension Scheme – round up of recent news.

e) National Tree week 2007 – 21st November to 2nd December Clerk to meet with Councillor Hiles to discuss the possibility of a group of trees for the Nature Reserve, Langley Park Recreation Ground. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Others

f) North East Assembly – Annual Report 2006/07

g) Derwentside Homes – Neighbourhood Office at Langley Park, Expression of interest. Members agreed for the Clerk to work with officers of Derwentside District Council to complete the Parish Council's application form for the office at Langley Park. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

h) Meikles Solicitors – lease of land at Langley Park. Members agreed for the Clerk to meet with the Council's Solicitors to discuss the Terms of the lease and for the Clerk to report to the next Parish Council Meeting.

i) County Durham Association of Local Councils – Nominations for the Queen's Garden Party 2008. Members agreed to nominate Councillor Sue Rothwell.

j) C D A L C – Annual Report 2006/07

k) Inspector Andrew Mc Connell, Durham Police – Invitation to attend a Meeting on Tuesday 20th November 2007 at the Demi, Consett commencing at 7.00pm Members agreed for Councillor Barbara Armstrong to attend to represent the Parish Council.

l) Derwentside District Council – strategic flood risk assessment questionnaire. Clerk to circulate copy of document to all councillors for their comments.

231/07 Planning Matters

A

No TA/1/2007/0843/DMFP

Applicant Mr R Todd

Proposed Erection of Garage

At Garage site to the rear of the Hamsteels Inn, Front Street, Quebec

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 this development.

Signed By The Chairman.....Page 5

B
No CC/1/2007/0916/DMFP
Applicant Andrea Blenkinsop
Proposed Conservatory to side
At Kingsway Nursing Home, Kingsway, 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 this development.

C
No CC/1/2007/0912/DMFP
Applicant Mr & Mrs Dobbin
Proposed Conservatory to front
At 16 Elm Street, Langley Park

Members agreed to raise no objections (Clerk to check with Planning Officer if this is the first Application for this type of Development in this Street) subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on this development.

232/07 Reports

A) Equal Partnership

- a) ITV filming in Langley Park 14th November “No Park in Langley Park”
- b) Voting Day Tuesday 27th November
- c) Each telephone caller can register 10votes
- d) ITV millions will donate £80,000 to winning entry

B) Parish

No Report

C) District

Councillor Coulson Reported:-

- a) Funding from Derwentside District Council to the Sir Bobby Robson Park
- b) Neighbourhood Office at Langley Park (Meeting with Chief Executive Office)
- c) Unitary Status for County Durham

Councillor Rothwell Reported

- a) Proposed Housing Development at Consett (Old Steel Works Site) of 341 dwellings

D) County

Councillor Armstrong Reported:-

- a. Unitary Status for County Durham – Timetable
- b. Grasscutting has now finished for the 2007 season
- c. Ongoing problems at Finnings Street
- d. Detached Youth Work in Langley Park (Funding)
- e. Drop Kerb required outside the Co-operative Store

233/07 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th December 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 this item there could be disclosure of them of exempt information as defined in section 100.

234/07 Pay Award 2007/08

Members were circulated copies of correspondence from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services regarding the agreement reached on Rates of Pay from 1st April 2007. The agreed pay award was an increase of 2.475% with a new minimum Rate of £6.00 per hour.

Members agreed for the New Rates of Pay to be paid to all the Council's Employees as from 1st April 2007.

The Meeting Finished at 8.30pm.

Signed By The Chairman.....Page 7