

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held at the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park on Tuesday 10th March 2009 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors, B. Armstrong, R. Bowyer, G. Coulson, H. Guildford, A. Harling, A. Hiles, P. Mollon S. Rothwell. M. Sands and M. Tyler.

Apologies: County Councillors J Armstrong and M. Campbell, Councillors A. Mollon (Chairman), C. Bloor and W. Tyrie.

Also Present: PcsO Pearsall (Durham Police), L Rowland (Assistant Clerk) and GF Smith (Clerk)

Election of Chair proposed by Councillor Rothwell seconded by Councillor Armstrong that Councillor A. Harling be Chairman for this meeting all Members agreed.

COUNCILLOR HARLING IN THE CHAIR

028/09 Declaration of Interest

Councillor G. Coulson declared an interest in item 9 Planning Matters; he took no part in the discussion other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor S. Rothwell declared an interest in item 9 Planning Matters; she took no part in the discussion other than to clarify any matters of fact.

029/09 Police Report

PcsO Pearsall presented the report to the meeting (copy attached to the minutes), followed by a question and answer session.

030/09 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th February 2009

Members agreed that the minutes were a true record and signed by the Chairman.

031/09 Clerk's Report

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011/08 reports - b) Parish

2) Esh Village Green

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a price for the rail fencing for the village green from Service Direct. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

068/08 Report – b) Parish

1) EDF Energy-Wind farm – 3 Parish Councils meeting

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to EDF/County Foundation regarding a further meeting of the Parishes to discuss when the funding was to be made available from this project and to resolve some of the concerns raised at the previous meeting. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

2) Litter bin – donation by Langley Park Primary School the Clerk informed the meeting that he was arranging to meet with the Headmistress of the School in week commencing 16th March 2009. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

120/08 Planning Matters

c) SCA/1/2008/0727/DMFP-Tarves, Esh

A copy of the Arborist’s report had been send to all Councillors. Members agreed with the recommendations for works to be carried out to the trees at the above property.

130/08 Minutes of a Special Meeting held 2nd December 2008

Items a) and d)

The laptop was now working. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were still working with the Banks on the necessary changes required and hoped to complete all transactions by the end of March 2009.

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131/08 Report – b) Parish

ii) Winter Gritting

The Clerk informed the meeting that he (and County Councillor Armstrong) would be meeting with Mr Dave Wilcox on Monday 16th March 2009 to discuss salting and winter gritting routes for the Parish Area. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

134/08 Planning Matters

b) SCA/1/2008/0806/DMFP- Land to the North of the Aged Miners Homes, Quebec.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the application was to be referred to the next meeting of the Development Control Committee to be held on 19th March 2009. Copies of the proposed details were sent to all Councillors.

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019/09 Reports – b) Parish

1) Pathway to the allotments Clerk to arrange a meeting with groundwork trust to discuss the work and to report to the next Parish Council meeting

2) Boulders at the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk had received details with regards to the contractor for the supply of the boulders to this site. He will arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

County Councillor Campbell had arranged £300 pounds from the Councillors imitative fund (cheque now received).

3) Trim allotments paths, Clerk to arrange competitive quotations, details to be reported the next Parish Council meeting.

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021/09 Correspondence

a)Dog fouling at Langley Park

The Clerk was arranging to meet the Officer (Lynne Copeland) from Derwentside District Council to discuss the problems of dog fouling in the Parish Area. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting. Awaiting the publication of the County wide Protocol.

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021/09 Correspondence

b)UK On-Line Centre

Confirmation has been received that the IT Centre is now registered with UK On-Line. Members agreed that publicity for the IT centre should be increased (ie article in next edition of Esh Leaves and posters to be displayed in local shops).

d) Steps detached Youth Project. The Clerk had tried to contact Louise Wilson and Dave Emmerson (DCC) and was waiting a response. Clerk to report any progress to the next Parish Council meeting.

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023/09 Car Parking at Quebec Play Area

Meeting with residents, Officers of DCC and County Councillor Armstrong. There will be a Public Exhibition of suggested works for the scheme prior to the next Parish meeting (Quebec Village Hall).

025/09 Sir Bobby Robson Park

Agenda Item No. 12.

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026/09 Area Action Partnerships

Agenda Item No. 13.

032/09 Reports

a)EQUaL Partnership

The capacity worker (Karen Gibson) is leaving at the end of the March the present trustees will continue until the AGM in May. Finance for the MUGA is still available (Councillor Hiles to contact Alan Cassidy). Possible wind-up of EQUaL if no volunteers come forward at the AGM. Brambledown to carry out some work at the Recreation Ground.

B)Parish

i)Power of Well Being. Members agreed to attain the Power of Well Being, the criteria required:-

a)A qualified Clerk (the present Clerk will have to submit a 200 word report to the SLCC at a cost of £15).

b)A minimum of two thirds of vacancies on the Council filled at the last Ordinary Election.

c)At least 80% of Councillors trained in the use of the Well Being Power. Members agreed that the training sessions (which last 2hours) should be arranged for Tuesday 28th April (1st choice) or Tuesday 5th May (2nd choice) the training session to be held in the Harry Guildford Centre commencing at 7.00pm.

Item

d)The Council to publish a Statement of Community Engagement. Clerk to prepare a report for the next Parish Council meeting.

e)Once the above conditions have been met the Council (at the AGM) will pass a resolution to adopt the Power of Well Being.

ii)BDO Stoy Hayward – Local Council briefing; Spring 2009

Copies of the document had been sent to all Councillors. The Members agreed the following:-

a)Approval of the Annual Return by 30th June 2009

b)How to reduce the risk of a Qualified Audit Opinion

c)Fixed scales fee until 2011

d)Key issues arising from previous Year’s Audits

Members also agreed to send a copy of the document to the Internal Auditor (Mr Stuart Harris).

iii) Grass cutting Contract 2009/10

Members agreed to accept the report of the Clerk to:-

a)Extend the current grass cutting contract for a further year (1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010)

b)Accept a 4% increase on prices for 2009/10

c)Await the report on the review on grass cutting services by the new Unitary Authority, which is to be carried out during 2009/10

iv)Parish Walk Sunday 17th May 2009 commencing at 1.00pm

Members agreed to:-

a)To produce some posters to promote the event (to be placed on the Council’s notice board, local newspapers, next edition of Esh Leaves and the local shops).

b)Refreshments to be made available for participants (Assistant Clerk to make the necessary arrangements).

C)District

Councillor Coulson reported:-

a)End of Derwentside District Council on 31st March 2009

b)One more full Council meeting to attend

c)Next meeting of Development Control Committee (19th March 2009)

Councillor Rothwell reported:-

a)Staffing concerns at Derwentside District Council

b)Attending the Chairman’s Ball (DDC) on Friday 13th March

D)County

The Clerk read out the report from Councillor Armstrong, which included the following:-

- a)Meeting with Residents of Quebec on 25th February 2009 (re: Car Parking)
- b)Urban Rural Renaissance has started at Esh
- c)Bus Shelters and Bus lay-by's at Langley Park
- d)Meeting with Residents of Quebec on 27th February 2009 (re Planning Application behind the Aged Miners homes)

Concerns were raised on the following (Clerk to pass details onto Councillor Armstrong)

- i)State of Bus stop sign at Esh Laude (Councillor Sands)
- ii)Bus service from Langley Park to Durham (Councillor Tyler)

033/09 Financial Statement

After receiving details of all Financial Statements for 2008/09 (vouchers 271 to 289), Members agreed they should be paid and where appropriate confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

034/09 Correspondence

Items for discussion:-

- a)Mr R Davison, Junior Match Secretary, Langley Park Angling Association – Application for Funding Fishing Trips (No financial information received).
Clerk to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting when the financial information (bank statement) has been received.
- b)Mavis Dixon, resident of Langley Park (e-mail) concerns regarding dog fouling in Langley Park. The Clerk to mention this concern with others received from local residents when he meets with the appropriate officer (Lynne Copeland) of Derwentside District Council.
- c) Mavis Dixon, resident of Langley Park (e-mail) concerns regarding the state of the Lanchester/Langley Park Railway walk, Members noted the concerns but the area concerned was a public right of way. Clerk to contact the Countryside Rangers (DCC) regarding the litter problem.
- d)Derek Snaith, DCC – Langley Park needs survey (copies of the documents had been sent to all Councillors). The Members agreed to support this project and for the Clerk to respond to Mr Snaith.
- e)UK On-Line Centres – confirmation of registration of IT Centre. Members agreed to arrange publicity of the facilities that were available in the IT Centre.
- f)Durham County Council – Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Application 2009. Members agreed for the Clerk to discuss with Councillors Bloor and Hiles any suggested works within the Parish and to complete the Application form. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

Item

g)CE Electric UK-Agreement for the connection of unmetered installations at Langley Park. Members agreed for the Chairman to sign the necessary documents

h)Spinal Injuries Association – Publication of forthcoming event “Great British Fish and Chips Supper on Friday 15th May 2009”.

Members agreed for the poster to be displayed on the Parish Notice Board.

i)Gateshead Council-Northumbria in Bloom Children’s Painting Competition, change of Presentation Date to Sunday 21st June 2009.

Members agreed for the Clerk to copy the letter to the local schools (previous correspondence had been forwarded to the local schools).

j)The Derwentside Partnership –wider stakeholder Forum meeting on 12th March 2009 at the Lamplight Arts Centre, Stanley, commencing at 4pm
Councillor Rothwell to attend, publicity poster to be displayed on the Council’s notice board.

Items for Information:-

k)County Durham Sustainability and Environment Partnership newsletter; February 2009;Issue no. 39

l) NEDL – unmetered supply certificate for festive lighting at Langley Park

m)Lumalite Ltd – brochure and price list for 2009.

n)Town and Parish standard newsletter; February 2009;Issue no. 4

o)Clerk’s and Council’s Direct Magazine; March 2009; Issue no. 62

p)Local Council Review magazine; March 2009;volume60;Issue no. 6

q)CE Electric UK – Community update 2009

r)CDALC – Special; AGM Saturday 4th April 2009 at County Hall, Durham, commencing at 10.00am

s)CDALC – 2008/09 pay award – arbitration outcome of 2.75% increase on pay scales for the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 (previous interim payment of 2.45% paid awaiting of the arbitration award)..

Members agreed for the necessary payments to be made to the Council’s members of staff.

035/09 Planning Matter

A

No.	PPS/1/2009/0079/DMFP
APPLICATION	MR E A CARTMELL
PROPOSED	ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSION
AT	DUNHOLME, FRONT STREET, ESH

Members requested further information on this development (ie site plans and drawings) before making a decision on this Application. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the District Council’s Planning Officer and copy the details to all Councillors.

B

No. GB/1/2009/0108/DMFP

APPLICATION MRS A JONES

PROPOSED SITING OF STORAGE CONTAINER FOR AGRICULTURAL USE

AT LAND TO THE WEST OF WILKES HILL, QUEBEC

Members requested further information on this development (ie site plans and drawings) before making a decision on this Application. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the District Council’s Planning Officer and copy the details to all Councillors.

036/09 Car Parking at Quebec Play Area

A public Exhibition of the proposed work to be carried out by Durham County Council will take place prior to the next Parish Council meeting (Time to be confirmed) on Tuesday 14th April 2009 at the Village Hall, Quebec.

037/09 Langley Park Library

No further details received regarding the possible sale of the Old Library premises (ex Fire Station) at Langley Park.

Also no further details received regarding the opening date for the new library premises at Langley Park. Item to be placed on the Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

038/09 Sir Bobby Robson Park

Concerns were raised regarding the amount of litter (including smashed glass) being dumped On and around the Park area. Members confirmed the Chairman/Clerk’s action regarding a Local Contractor to carry out additional litter picks and site clearance (bottles, cans, etc) during the month.

Members received a report from a local Landscape Contractor regarding the cost of cutting the grass inside/outside the perimeter fence. The Contractor also stated their concerns over Health & Safety issues which include:-

1. Grass seed has been sown on existing shale/ash containing high quantities of broken glass and pottery.
2. Lumps of brick and concrete are visible through existing grass.
3. Many areas are uneven.
4. Bricks, lumps of broken wall are just left lying.
5. Debris left lying.

Members agreed for the Chairman (or another Councillor) and the Clerk to meet with Mr Alan Cassidy (owner of the Sports and Social Club) to discuss the security of the site, litter picking and grass cutting of the Park and surrounding area. The price to be negotiated up to a cost of £250 per month. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting. Councillor Hiles informed the meeting that landscaping work was still outstanding (Brambledown)

039/09 Area Action Partnership (AAP)

Members were circulated a copy of a letter sent by the Clerk to all Parish Council's in the Mid Durham Rural West AAP.

Members agreed to nominate Councillor Bloor to represent the Parish Councils Committee (PCC) on the Area Board.

Members also agreed for the Clerk to continue to provide an Administrative service to the PCC until the Inaugural AGM (16th May 2009) and for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to represent the Parish Council on any future meetings of the PCC. Members also noted that the Inaugural meeting of the AAP was Wednesday 13th May 2009 at the Sir Bobby Robson Centre, Deerness School, Ushaw Moor (Date and time to be confirmed).

040/09 Review of Effectiveness of the Internal Audit 2008/09

Members agreed to accept the report of the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer with regards to the review of effectiveness of the Internal Audit for the year 2008/09.

The review included:-

1. Meeting the Standards (evidence of achievement and areas of development)
 - a) Scope of internal audit
 - b) Independence
 - c) Competence
 - d) Relationships
 - e) Audit Planning and Reporting
2. Characteristics of Effectiveness (Evidence of achievement and areas of development)
 - f) Internal Audit work is planned
 - g) Understanding the whole organisation its needs and objectives
 - h) Be seen as a Catalyst for change
 - i) Add value and assist the organisation in achieving its objectives
 - j) Be forward looking
 - k) Be Challenging
 - l) Ensure the right resources are available

Members agreed for the Clerk to copy the report to the Council's External and Internal Auditors and for the effectiveness of the Internal Audit to be reviewed on an Annual basis.

041/09 Policies

Members agreed to implement the following Policies:-

- (i) Risk Management Policy Statement
- (ii) Management of Records Policy
- (iii) Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- (iv) Protocol for Members/Officers relations (subject to grammatical errors (Councillor Tyler) being corrected).

Members also agreed that the Policies should be reviewed on an Annual basis and that they be published on the Council's Web Site.

042/09 Risk Assessment Statement 2008/09

Members agreed to accept the report of the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer dated 10th March 2009 reviewing the risk assessment statement 2008/09. Members also agreed for the Clerk to copy the report to the Council's external and internal auditors and for the risk assessment statement to be reviewed on an Annual basis and that the Statement should be published on the Council's Web Site.

043/09 Date and time of the next Meeting

The next meeting of the Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday 14th April 2009 in the Village Hall, Quebec immediately following the Annual Assembly which commences 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 ITEMS 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.

The Meeting Finished at 8.45pm



DURHAM CONSTABULARY POLICE REPORT



ESH PARISH WARD

This Month In Summary

01/03/09 to 31/03/09

- **March** has been a busy month for the Langley Park area with a **total of 92 calls** to the area which is an **increase of 27 calls** from February's figures. From the total calls to the area, 16 were community related issues which remains one of the lowest numbers in the area. As a similar sized ward, **Leadgate had 127 calls** to the area.
- This month saw an increase in the number of calls received regarding **Vehicle Nuisance**, and this not only includes Off-Road Motorcycles but also reports of speeding vehicles. We are looking into reports that a Quad and a Motorcycle are using the parkland to the rear of **Park Drive**, and over the coming weeks we have asked our own Motorcycle Section to take a look at the area.
- We have also started to receive complaints regarding **drug usage** in the Langley Park area, particularly in the area surrounding the **All Saints Community Centre** building. A visit to the building by our officers has revealed further attempts to alight the building from the inside, signs indicating that the building is being used regularly, and possible evidence that persons may have staying in the building overnight. We are making some enquiries to have the building secured again, however we would appreciate if the parish council could offer some support with this.
- Whilst on the topic of drug usage, officers from Consett Police Station successfully carried out a **Search Warrant** at an address in Langley Park to gather evidence of drug usage. Although we are not able to disclose what was recovered from the address, it is a positive move towards removing the problem from the area before it grows. We have more in the works at the moment and we will report back with the outcome.
- On a final note, we have had a recent increase in activity around the **Langley Park Primary School** area including another break-in. The school is to be visited by our Safety Partnership Officer to provide a **review of the building security** and safety.

Statistics

Total Calls to the area...	092
Compared to... Last Month...	065 (+ 27)
Compared to... Leadgate...	127
Community Related Calls...	016
Calls regarding... Bogus Callers	000
Calls regarding... Vehicle Nuis	007

Other Comments / Actions

- Can the Parish Council provide an update with the All Saints Community Centre, and/or assist in dealing with the building security and site safety?
- No further comments / actions.