

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held in The Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park on Tuesday 8th February 2011 commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors M. Sands (Chair), B. Armstrong, M. Berry, R. Bowyer, M. Gordon, A. Harling, K. Heartfield, S. Maddison, P. Mollon, R. Partridge, M. Renneberg,

Apologies: Councillors C. Bloor, S. Rothwell, A. Hiles, A. Mollon, Mrs M.L. Rowland (Deputy Clerk) Miss P.J. Graham (Assistant Clerk).

Also Present: County Councillors J. Armstrong and G.F. Smith (Clerk).

021/11 Declaration of Interest

Councillors C. Bloor and M. Gordon declared an interest in agenda item No 8A (Outstanding item v, 3, 8) Parish report Earl of Durham Allotments

022/11 Minutes of the Special meeting held on 11th January 2011

Councillor P. Mollon to be added to Councillors present.

Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

023/11 Co-option of two Councillors

A) Members agreed to Co-opt Mr Keith Heartfield, 16 Front Street, Langley Park.

Councillor Heartfield signed the Acceptance of Office of Councillor Form, counter- signed by the Clerk/Proper Officer witnessed by the Members present.

B) Members agreed to Co-opt Mr Malcolm Renneberg, 23 Middridge Road, Langley Park.

Councillor Renneberg signed the Acceptance of Office of Councillor Form, counter- signed by the Clerk/Proper Officer witnessed by the Members present.

024/11 Update report on the All Saints Youth Centre at Langley Park by Mr Terry Coult (DCC)

Mr Coult updated the meeting on progress on the site in particular the proposed substantial Bat box (costing £1500) for the area around the building. Tests were ongoing by DCC with regards the suitability of this brick built / solar powered bat box.

Should the tests be positive (March/April), then an application could be made to Natural England for a possible demolition of the building between August to October this year.

Councillor Bowyer suggested the Bat box could be sited under the Bridge near the site, Mr Coult noted the suggestion.

Mr Coult would keep Members of the Parish Council updated as to the suitability of the proposed Bat box and the site location.

025/11 Police report

The Police report was circulated at the meeting.

026/11 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11th January 2011

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

027/11 Matters Arising (non agenda items)**Page 1****Page 2****Presentation by a Resident (223/10)**

Carrying out work to unadopted roads

A response received from NALC/CDALC and they advised: -

“Parish Council could carry out this work but they would not recommend this type of work to be carried on any unadopted roads as both had major concerns around liability and any possible future claims made against the Parish Council”

Members agreed not to carry out any works on unadopted roads.

Bus Service to Local Swimming Baths (161/10)

The Clerk agreed to contact Councillor Maddison to discuss this proposed project and to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

Page 3**Page 4****Page 5****028/11 Reports****A) Parish**

Outstanding Item:

i) Quebec car park – provision of litter and dog bin

Funding application form to be completed for the next AAP board meeting.

ii) Rachel Davis – application for funding – Power of Well Being; legal status

Advice received from NALC/CDALC “it is legal to donate to an individual (living within the Parish area) using the Power of Well Being.

Members agreed for the application to be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

iii) Damaged half barrels flower tubs at Esh village green

Clerk to arrange with DCC to have the two damaged half barrels to be removed as soon as possible.

iv) Damaged Tree/s on Esh village green

Tree to be replaced at the appropriate season/planting time.

v) Earl of Durham Allotments – Rats

A meeting has been arranged with pest control officers (DCC) for Wednesday 16th

February 2011 on the allotment site at 1.30pm. Letters have been sent to all allotment holders.

vi) Council owned garage at Earl of Durham Allotments

Burglar alarm to be fitted on 9th February 2011.

Electrician meeting tenant of site at 10.00am.

The Clerk had obtained quotations for the securing of the garage main door, details as follow:-

A) Replace wood door with roller shutter door £1300.00

B) Repair door (filling compound), lining outer door with 6 galvanised sheets (cut in size) at a cost of £274.60

Members agreed to accept quotation B and for the Clerk to arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

vii) Paths at the Recreation Ground, Langley Park

The Clerk had inspected the site with Councillor Berry on Friday 4th February 2011. Work to footpaths still required to complete footpath from top to bottom. Volunteers were required to complete the work.

Member agreed to refer this matter to the Environment committee.

New Items:-

1) Meeting on Monday 7th February 2011 with Mr Ian Houtt (DCC) regarding service level agreement for grass cutting in the Parish.

The Clerk updated the Members on this meeting and were awaiting a response.

Other items discussed at this meeting, including the following:-

Section 136 payment (additional insurance costs, hanging baskets and maintenance costs of 3 play areas).

Bus Shelter in Front Street

Litter (fly-tipping) at the rear of the Council's Office

Sweeping of Front Street (car parking area outside shops)

Zone Maps requested (street cleaning rota)

Parish Maps (for plotting of salt bins, litter bins, dog bins, seats etc)

Walk about arranged with officers from DCC for 17th February 2011, meeting at 10.00am Parish Office to view Environmental issues.

2) Litter bin replacement at Langley Park opposite 17 Front Street (Chinese take away premises). Members agreed to support this request to DCC to replace the litter bin.

3) Request for vehicle access to rear of allotment Earl of Durham 46/47/48

Members agreed to defer this matter to the Environment Committee.

4) Strimmer and training course (safe use of a strimmer), Arranged by DCC Parish Paths Projects (P3).

Members agreed to nominate Councillor Chris Bloor to attend the training course and for the Clerk to complete the necessary funding application form for the strimmer.

5) Planning application for a proposed training area at Langley Park Sports and Social Club. Members agreed to refer this matter to the Partnership Committee and to also confirm the Committee Chairman's action in approving Simon Green Consultants to complete the necessary planning application form and provide project management for the scheme. Details to be reported to the next meeting of the Partnership Committee.

6) Meeting with ICT Business Development Manager (DCC)

Meeting arranged for Thursday 10th February 2011 at 10.30 am in the Parish Council's Office.

Details to be reported to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

7) Meeting with CISWO regarding the Institute building in Church Street, Langley Park.

Meeting arranged for Monday 14th February 2011 at 1.30pm in the Parish Council's Office. Details to be reported to the next meeting of the Partnership Committee.

8) Repairs to boundary fencing at Earl of Durham allotments (Health & Safety issue).

Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain further competitive quotations and discuss with the Chairman/Vice Chairman before ordering the work to be progressed.

B) County Council

County Councillor J. Armstrong reported on:-

- i) County Council funding
- ii) Reserves (financial) at DCC
- iii) Notification of works by Public Utilities within the Parish Boundaries (Clerk to contact Dave Wilcox (DCC)).
- iv) Environment Awards (details from Civic Pride Officers (DCC))
- v) Pot Holes on Estate Roads
- vi) Medium Terms Financial Planning (cuts)
- vii) Verge hardening (consultation with Local Residents)
- ix) Youth work and Community Development work in Langley Park (allocation of funding)

C) Members Report

Outstanding Items: -

i) Parking Sign at Quebec Play Area

Clerk to place an order with alternative supplier and arrange for sign to be fixed on site as soon as possible.

ii) Provision of Dog Bins

Item being dealt with by the Environment Committee

029/11 Financial Statement and Report

Members agreed the details of the Financial Statement (vouchers 209 to 229) and that they should be paid;

Where appropriate confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

030/11 Planning Matters

A) MS/1/2011/0009/DMFP – Extend Planning Permission at 7 Green Court, Esh

Decision – Members agreed to raise no objection to this proposal

B) LO/1/2011/0030/DMFP – Change of use of shop to flat at 1 to 3 Esh Court View, Esh

Decision – Members agreed to raise no objection to this proposal

031/11 Correspondence**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

A) Quebec and District Village Hall Association – application for funding (cash flow problem).

Members agreed to donate £500 immediately and loan the Association £1000 (from reserves) to be repaid when the County Council's grant payment is received.

B) County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan – response by 17th February 2011.

Details obtainable from the Clerk

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:-

C) DCC – County Durham Plan; consultation – response by 11th February 2011

D) DCC – Draft settlement study; consultation – response by 11th February 2011

E) DCC – Draft settlement study; questionnaire – response by 11th March 2011

F) Derwentside CVS – free training for local voluntary and community organisations

G) DCC – leaflet “Have you considered going solar?”

H) E-mail – update on sustainable communities act

I) The Diocese of Durham – Pastoral measure 1983; Esh, Hamsteels, Langley Park and Waterhouses, comes into effect 7th February 2011

J) 2011 Census – Councillor Handbook

K) Proludic LTD – product information (play and sports equipment)

L) Local Councils update; January/February 2011; issue no.135/136

032/11 Report of the Publicity Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2011 were circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed to:-

- A) Review the costs of printing and delivery
- B) Purchase display/advertising boxes for shops to help promote the newsletter on the premises.
- C) Designate delivery areas for Councillors to deliver (latest copy available after the meeting).
- D) Copy of newsletter to be placed on the Council's web site.

033/11 Report of the Environment Committee

Minutes of the meeting held 30th December 2010 were circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed the report and noted that the Committee was to meet on the 1st Thursday of each month.

Members agreed to:-

- A) Await the outcome of the meeting with Ian Hoults (DCC).
- B) Clerk to progress the survey on allotments rents charged by other Parish Councils.
- C) Clerk to write to DCC regarding allotments sites owned by DCC at Langley Park and Quebec.
- D) Clerk to complete a funding application form (AAP) to upgrade the present bus shelter in Front Street, Langley Park.
- E) To progress the suggestion of a dog bin for the Hospital Road area, Clerk to contact DCC.
- F) Clerk to contact DCC (Dave Wilcox) regarding the state of the footpath and road at Wallhook Lane, Langley Park (forward photographs received from Councillor Paula Mollon).

034/11 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held 31st January 2011 were circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed to:-

- A) The Committee reviewing all Income/Expenditure cost headings.
- B) Produce a 3 year forward plan/financial statement/ business plan for discussion at the AGM in May 2011.

035/11 Area Action Partnership / Parish Councils Committee

Next Parish Councils Committee meeting is Wednesday 16th February 2011 at The Harry Guildford Centre, Langley Park Parish commencing at 6.30pm

036/11 All Saints Youth Centre, Langley Park

Outstanding Items: -

i) Letter to Chief Executive, DCC

No Response

ii) Letter to Inspector Turner, Durham Police

Response received:-

"As you rightly say the building is in a state of disrepair and we have had calls to attend in relation to youths gaining access to the building.

I will ask the PCSO/Beat Officer to assist." (Two years records will be released to the Parish Council).

iii) Letter to Natural England

Response received:-

"I can confirm that Natural England has not received an application for an European Protected Species Licence. I have discussed this matter with Terry Coult (DCC) who is dealing with this matter."

iv) Letter to Health and Safety Executive

Response received:-

"As your query relates to a building that belongs to someone else and you are seeking reference to any Health and Safety Legislation that you would enable you to further your desire to have the building demolished then under these circumstances the Health and Safety at Work Act may not apply".

v) Letter to Terry Coult DCC

Response received:-

"I am currently investigating the possibility of putting up a separate pole with bat boxes for mitigation. If we can do this then we can apply for a licence fairly soon. Someone somewhere will need some money to pay for this pole however, i intend to attend the next Parish Council meeting to update the Councillors".

037/11 Councillors Vacancy

Members noted the following:-

A) Notice of vacancy placed on the Council's notice board on 24th January 2011.

The closing date for a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is 11th February 2011

B) Application for vacancy received from Julie Spencer, 54 East Clere, Langley Park.

038/11 Quality Parish Council Status

The Quality Parish Council Status for the Parish Council runs out on 30th May 2011.

The Council cannot apply until after the expiry date but within the three months following expiry.

Members agreed to apply for re-accreditation and for the Clerk to inform CDALC and request an application form.

039/11 Title of Dignitary - procedure

Report circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed to defer this item to the next Parish Council meeting (8th March 2011).

Clerk to place this item on the Agenda.

040/11 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday 8th March 2011 in The Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, 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 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 9.10 pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 7