

## ESH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held in The Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 commencing at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors A. Mollon (Chair), B. Armstrong, M. Berry, J.Carr, M. Gordon, A.Harling, K. Heartfield, A. Hiles, P. Mollon, R. Partridge, M. Renneberg, S. Rothwell and M. Sands.

**Apologies:** County Councillor M. Campbell, Councillors C.Bloor, Councillor S. Maddison, Mrs M.L.Rowland (Deputy Clerk) Miss P.J. Graham (Assistant Clerk).

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Armstrong, G.F. Smith (Clerk).

### **144/11 Declaration of Interest**

Councillors M. Gordon and K. Heartfield – agenda item 13 Environment Committee; Allotments.

### **145/11 Police Report**

Copy of PACT report circulated at the meeting. Members noted the following:-

A) Next multi-agency walkabout 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 starting at 10.00am Members requested a monthly report from the neighbourhood warden (DCC), Clerk to arrange with Stewart Liddle.

### **146/11 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Amendments (page 5)

Minute 137/11 (3) should read “Community Forum”

Minute 139/11 (2.1) should read 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Subject to the above amendments Members agreed the minutes as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **147/11 Matters Arising (non agenda items)**

#### **Page 1**

#### **Title of Dignitary – Lady Robson(054/11)**

Clerk report of no further progress with this matter, Members therefore agreed to withdraw the invitation to Lady Robson.

#### **Page 4**

#### **Planning Matters (135/11G)**

9 Stargate Close, Langley Park – pruning of one oak tree – application was refused, members noted the situation.

**148/11 Minutes of Special meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Members agreed to the following cost cuts to deal with the deficit for 2011/2012:-

1) Reduction of staffing levels as follows:-

- a) Assistant Clerk, termination of contract (8 hours per week) on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011
- b) Deputy Clerk, reduction of 5 hours per week as from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011
- c) Parish Clerk reduction of 2 hours per week as from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011
- d) I.T. Officer reduction of 2 hours per week as from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011

2) Superannuation costs (Clerk/Parish Council)

To terminate the superannuation scheme with DCC from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011

3) Donations

Moratorium on donations for the rest of the financial year

4) Christmas Trees and lights

No provision of Christmas trees and lights for this financial year

5) Other budget headings

To be continually scrutinised by the Finance and General Purposes Committee

6) Contingencies

Any money taken from contingencies to be paid back as soon as possible

7) Financial Year 2012/2013

The above proposals would allow the Parish Council to look at setting the precept for 2012/2013 based on accurate budget figures (3<sup>rd</sup> week in January)

8) Office move

Possible move into Wood View Community Centre (Finance & General Purposes Committee to continue to monitor the situation)

9) Training courses

Moratorium on courses unless in-house

10) Parish Newsletter

Publicity Committee to look at possible reductions in costs

11) The Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park

Members instructed the Clerk to write to CISWO regarding repaying the Council for the costs of boarding – up the building

12) Committee meeting

That all committee to minute their own meeting, with the exception of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Meeting to be on an as and when required.

13) Charges for I.T. sessions

Agreed to increase the charge from £1 to £1.50 per hour as from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Charges to be reviewed next year

**149/11 Reports**

**A) Parish**

**Outstanding items: - none**

**New Items:-**

1) Quality Parish Council Status

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's Portfolio for re-accreditation had been successful, members wished to thank all members of staff for their contribution to achieving this award.

## 2) Documents for Zurich Insurance PLC

The Clerk informed members that Zurich Insurance PLC required the Council to provide a Policy number and documentation to substantiate cover by Municipal Mutual Insurance from 1985 to 1992.

Councillor Harling suggested that he may have some documentation at his home, Clerk to discuss with Councillor Harling after the meeting.

## 3) Winter Maintenance (DCC)

A map is on display in the office showing winter gritting routes, footpath clearance and location of salt bins within the Parish area, any further comments to the Clerk who will pass details onto the County Council officers.

## 4) Youth provision (tender from Disc)

Councillor B. Armstrong update the members on a meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October in which the successful tender (Disc) met with the Youth Provision Working Party. The project was hoping to commence the work in October/November over a three year period (financed by AAP funding).

## 5) Councillor Training

Had commenced prior to tonight's Council meeting (7 Councillors attended), this training session would continue for the next 4 months.

**B) County Council**

County Councillor M. Campbell - no report

County Councillor J. Armstrong reported on:-

- i) Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England
- ii) CCTV Consultation
- iii) All Saints Youth Centre
- iv) Ex Derwentside College Building, rear of Church Street
- v) The Tute, Church Street
- vi) CISWO
- vii) Funding/EQUaL Partnership

**Councillor Hiles stood up and left the meeting****C) Members Report**

Outstanding Items: - None

New items:-

- i) Fencing at Hylton Close, Langley Park (Councillor Renneberg)  
Referred to DCC

**150/11 Annual Return for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Members agreed to accept the External Auditors Certificate and opinion (section 3 of the Annual Return). Also to note the following issues arising from the Audit:-

- Overdue Charity Account Submissions – To be discussed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- Restatement of fixed assets – no further action required.
- Asset Register – Clerk to update the register to include date acquired, purchase cost and location held of each asset.

Members also noted that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 had been placed on the Council's notice board and web site (for the required 14 days).

**151/11 All Saints Youth Centre, Langley Park**

The Clerk updated the member on a meeting with Terry Coult (DCC), Councillor Hiles and himself on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, the main points were:-

A) To place a bat box on the bridge over the River Browney (nearest preferred site) would cost £50.

B) If another bat survey was required, it would cost approx £900, but could only be carried out during the months of May to July.

C) Alternative would be to have the building inspected again by DCC to see if the building had further deteriorated to the position of be structurally unsound.

D) Possible to complete the Natural England application form for a European Protected Species Licence bases on recent incidents at the site (ie suspected drug equipment find and anti social behaviour).

Members agreed for the Clerk to contact DCC (Graham Davison) to arrange for a Structural Surveyor to visit the site again to assess the state of the building (unsafe?).

Clerk to keep all Councillors informed of any progress.

**152/11 Financial Statement and Report**

Vouchers 128 to 150 (amendment to voucher 140 should read Clerk's salary and voucher 141 should read EQUaL salary), Members agreed the details of the Financial Statement and that they should be paid.

Members also noted the Audited Income/Expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. Copy will be published in the next edition of the Parish Council's newsletter (end of October).

**153/11 Planning Matters**

No report

**154/11 Correspondence****Items for Discussion:-**

A) Mr A Pinkney, 11 Springwell Avenue, Langley Park – Crossfell Allotment Site No.1 application to share allotment (Stephen Oakes, 19 East Clere, Langley Park).

Members agreed to the request.

B) DCC – proposed waiting restriction on Front Street, Langley Park; response by 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Members raised concerns regarding access to the Baptist Church by funeral directors vehicles and suggested some sort of "Drop Bollard" system as to the proposed extension to kick rail etc.

Clerk to write to DCC with the above alternative to preventing vehicles from parking on the pedestrian area.

C) Mitchell Dodds & Co (solicitors) – Langley Park & District Community Association. Copy of lease granted 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1998 for the Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park (copy of official copy of register of title – land registry).

Members noted the details regarding the lease for the Institute building and Langley Park & District Community Association (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1998).

D) DCC – Community Building Review; Consultation to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Members noted the contents of the letter (consultation period).

E) DCC – CCTV Consultation to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 (recommendation on removal Old Fire Station, Langley Park (camera 154).

Members wished to object to the removal of camera 154 located at the Old Fire Station, Langley Park.

F) Boundary Commission for England – review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England; responses by 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Item to be placed in the next edition of the Parish Council's Newsletter (end of October).

G) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons; 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – The guide to taking part. Members noted the contents of the letter (pass onto community association).

H) DCC – proposed protocol for section 106 agreements.

Copy of agreement available from the Clerk

I) DCC – further one – year increase in small business rate relief – office at Langley Park.

Members noted that the Parish council would receive a rebate of £404.70

J) N-power – fixed contract until 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

Item to be discussed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

**Items for Information:-**

K) Campaign to protect Rural England – how to response to planning application

L) Link County Durham; newsletter; September 2011

M) Local Councils Update; October 2011

**155/11 Community – Partnership (EQUaL) Committee 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

1) Community Forum, 14<sup>th</sup> November (7to 9pm) at Wood View Community Centre

2) Training area, Sports & Social club, Langley Park

Members agreed to the recommendation for a site meeting with relevant parties to agree a way forward with the parking area etc.

3) The Tute, Church Street

a) Roofing work near completion

b) Building report/estimate from DCC (awaiting)

4) Baths bus for ladies group at Langley Park

Members agreed to the recommendation to complete funding forms from AAP (£400 and Durham Community Foundation (windmill sites) £2000.)

5) Langley Park Mining Memorial Group – work ongoing

6) Tenders for youth provision (Disc)

7) Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November (venue to be confirmed)

**156/11 Environment Committee 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

A) Update following meeting with DCC officers (6<sup>th</sup> October 2011)

B) Monthly sweeps of car park on Front Street, Langley Park

C) Weeds on front of shops and around tree bases (DCC to attend to)

D) Seating area opposite WMC, Langley Park) (awaiting details from DCC)

E) Cleaning of bus shelters (awaiting details from DCC)

F) Overgrown hedges/trees on Pit Bank Road (ownership of land being checked by DCC)

G) Identifying areas for tree planning (grass verges Esh Terrace/Aged Miners Homes – not suitable, advice from DCC)

Members agreed to the recommendation to plant trees in the Cemetery at Langley Park (Clerk to contact DCC regarding permission). Trees to be obtained through DCC tree week grants.

H) Broken fence at Hylton Close (DCC to investigate)

I) Bulbs from DCC

Members agreed to the recommendation to obtain 200 bulbs from the County Council

J) Setting up a volunteer litter picking team (more details to follow)

K) Use of office facilities (toilet) by the Youth Offending Team in week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Members agreed to the recommendation to allow the Youth Offending Team to use the facility as long as the Members of the team are supervised.

**157/11 Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Members agreed for the Chairman to write to each member of staff stating that the Council regrets having to implement the reduction in staff hours.

**158/11 Planning Committee**

No report

**159/11 Publicity Committee**

The next Parish Council's newsletter will be published at the end of October.

Members agreed to produce 4 copies (plus annual report) each Financial Year (minimum for Quality Parish Status).

**160/11 Area Action Partnership / Parish Councils Committee**

Next AAP Board meeting: - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm in Lanchester Council Office.

Next PCC meeting: - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am in the Offices of Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council, Langley Moor.

**161/11 Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at the Village Hall, Quebec 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 8.40 pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 6