

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held in The Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park on **Tuesday 14th February 2012** commencing at **7.00pm**

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

Apologies: Councillors R. Bowyer, S. Maddison, R. Partridge, County Councillor M. Campbell and M. L. Rowland (Deputy Clerk)

Also Present: County Councillor J. Armstrong, G.F. Smith (Clerk) and Allotment Holders from the Earl of Durham Allotments.

019/12 Declaration of Interest

Councillors C. Bloor, M. Gordon and K. Heartfield – agenda item 12 – Allotment rent.

Councillors C. Bloor and A. Hiles – agenda item Planning Committee (1/2012/0029/DMFP)

020/12 Allotment Rents, Petition and Letters of Complaint

The Clerk read out letters of complaint regarding the proposed increase of allotment rent from £33 to £50 as from 1st January 2013 from the following allotment holders:-

Mr E Nicholson (ED3)

Mr K Scott (ED 67)

Miss K Boyle (ED 58)

Mr K Lowerson (ED 52)

Mr T Taylor (ED 25/26)

Also a petition signed by 40 allotment holders from the Earl of Durham site and 6 allotment holders from the Cross Fell site.

Followed by a discussion on costs (i.e. skips and water charges) and the Council's reason for the increase.

The Chairman suggested that representatives from the allotment holders meet with the Clerk to discuss the possibility of setting up an Allotment Association that would manage the site.

Allotment holders had met with the Clerk to discuss the option of an Association and what was involved (i.e. tenancy agreements, control measures, Parish Council responsibilities, setting up of a Management Committee and Finances).

They requested that the Parish Council give them more time to discuss this matter and let all allotment holders know of their intention to form an allotment association and prepare a report for consideration by the Parish Council at their March meeting.

The Council agreed for the Clerk to work with the allotment holders and provide as much details as possible to help them reach a decision.

Members also agreed not to order any skips for the Easter period (April).

County Councillor Armstrong pledged £500 towards set up costs as long as the association has a constitution, bank account and work with the Parish Clerk.

Councillor B. Armstrong volunteered to assist the group in completing funding application forms.

The Chair suggested that the Council could review the rent at the AGM in May, he also thanked the allotment holders for turning up to the meeting and wished them success in setting up an association.

Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

021/12 Police Report

Copy of the PACT report for the period 3/12/2011 to 7/02/12 was circulated at the meeting.

022/12 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held 10th January 2012

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

023/12 Matters Arising (non agenda items)

None.

024/12 Presentation by Helen Brown (DRCC)

Postponed until Special meeting arranged for 23rd February 2012 at the Harry Guildford Centre at 7.00pm.

025/12 Minutes of a Special meeting held on 24th January 2012

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
(Precept increased to £72170 for 2012/13)

026/12 Reports**A) Parish****Outstanding items: -**

i) Zurich Insurance PLC

No further update, Clerk to chase up CDALC/NALC for legal opinion

ii) Youth Provision

Councillor B Armstrong reported that DISC were hoping to start the scheme in March.

i) rat problem at the E of D allotments/Garden Avenue

Clerk had met with DCC Officers, awaiting costs, report to the next Parish Council meeting.

New Items:-

1) Olympic Torch – 16th June 2012

Councillor Sands produced a report on a meeting held at County Hall on 2nd February 2012. Route and timings will be revealed two weeks prior to the event. The Torch will be carried through Esh and Langley Park before being escorted onto Durham City.

2) Appointment of Internal Auditor

Clerk to ask Mr Stuart Harris and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

B) County Council

County Councillor M. Campbell - no report

County Councillor J. Armstrong reported on:-

i) DCC Medium term Financial Plan

ii) Railway Street developments

iii) Road repairs at the Fold, Quebec

iv) Bus Stop at Stringer Terrace

v) Future of County Hall Building (question from Councillor Rothwell)

vi) State of Ex Fire Station Building (question from Councillor Berry)

vii) Drainage problem in Langley Park (question from Councillor Berry)

C) Members Report

Outstanding Items: -

1) Complaints about horse droppings on Esh pavements (Councillor Sands)

Clerk has passed details onto PCSO

2) Parking outside St Michael's Church, Esh (Councillor Sands)

Clerk has passed details onto PCSO

New Items:-

Provision of dog fouling bags (Councillor Heartfield)

Clerk to check with other Parish Clerks and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

027/12 The Tute, Church Street, Langley Park

Funding would be available from the AAP for legal costs towards obtaining the lease documents for Council members to view and funding (£400) towards converting the floor plans to allow building contractors to provide a more detailed costing for renovation costs of the building (report by County Councillor J. Armstrong). Clerk to inform the Council's solicitors and to call a meeting of the Tute Working Party (Saturday 25th February 2012 at 10.00am in the Parish Office).

028/12 All Saints Youth Centre, Langley Park

Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange a Special meeting with all parties involved with the building (County Councillors, DCC Officers, Church Council and Police).

029/12 Financial Statement and Report

Members agreed the details of the Financial Statement and for Vouchers 209 to 227 should be paid, copy of the report attached to these minutes.

Members also noted the Income/Expenditure Statements for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st December 2011 (Income £70734.73; Expenditure £62408.97).

Copies of reports attached to these minutes.

030/12 Correspondence**Items for information:-**

- A) DCC – Trade Waste Contract 2012/13
- B) Northern Power Grid – Festive Lighting Return 2011/12
- C) Great North Air Ambulance – application for a donation
- D) Allotments Newsletter; winter 2011/12
- E) Local Councils update; Jan/Feb 2012

031/12 Community Partnership (EQUaL) Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 7th February 2012 attached to these minutes.

Members agreed with the recommendation to joint meetings with the Environment Committee, next meeting 1st March commencing at 7.00pm

032/12 Environment Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 7th February 2012 attached to these minutes.

Members agreed with the recommendation to offer a temporary small holding agreement to L. Harrison and L. Smith.

Clerk to arrange to meet and agree conditions relating to the site ED 35 to 40. Next meeting with the Partnership (EQUaL) Committee on 1st March commencing at 7.00pm

033/12 Finance and General Purposes Committee

No report. Next meeting 6th March 2012 commencing at 6.00pm.

034/12 Planning Committee**Members considered the following applications:-**

- A)1/2012/0029/DMFP by Mr P Coote for erection of flat roofed and pitched roof extensions to front and rear of existing school building at Esh C of E Aided Primary School, front Street, Esh.

DECISION – Members agreed to request the application to be considered by a committee (not Officer delegated)

B) 1/2012/001/DMFP by Mr B. Hogg to increase the roof height by three metre, installation of Dorma windows, erection of single storey extension, raised decking area to the rear and demolition of front porch and rear conservatory at Hillcroft, Front Street, Esh.

DECISION – Members wished to raise concerns regarding obtrusive development to neighbours.

C)1/2012/0031/DMFP by Mr J. Wilson for erection of two storey extension to rear of 10 Kings Avenue, Langley Park

Decision – No objections

D)1/2011/0585/DMFP by R & S Bradley for a Micro Wind Turbine mounted on 15 metre tower at West Biggen Farm, Hamsteels Lane, Esh

Decision – No objections

035/12 Publicity Committee

No Report

036/12 Area Action Partnership / Parish Councils Committee

Next AAP Board meeting (Special)to 15th February 2012 and next AAP Board Meeting 14th March 2012 at Durham Community Business Centre, Ushaw Moor commencing at 6.00pm.

Next PCC meeting: - 18th February 2012 at Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council Office at Langley Moor commencing at 10.00am.

037/12 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday **13th March** 2012 in the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4