

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held in The Harry Guildford Centre, Langley Park on **Tuesday 14th January 2014** commencing at **7.00pm**

Present: Councillors A. Mollon (Chair), B. Armstrong, S. Bell, R. Bowyer, A. Hancock, G. Hawxwell, K. Heartfield, P. Mollon, R. Moralee, M. Sands and C. Thompson.

Also Present: Mr C. Hepworth (resident) and G.F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors R. Allaker, A. Harling, M. Renneberg, S. Rothwell, County Councillor J. Armstrong and M. L. Rowland (Deputy Clerk)

**EVERYONE PRESENT STOOD FOR ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE
AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR MR NEIL GREGORY (EX- PARISH
COUNCILLOR WHO DIED TODAY AT 1.30AM.**

001/14 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Heartfield – agenda item 6A Parish Report - Allotment Association and agenda item 7 “The Tute” Langley Park
Councillor Moralee – agenda item 6a Parish Report – Allotment Association
Councillor Bowyer – agenda item 7 “The Tute” Langley Park

002/14 Representation by Residents

Mr Hepworth raised the following concerns (as his e-mail dated 13th December 2013, copy of which was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting).

- No floral displays, planted baskets or tubs in the village?
 - Spartan Nature of the Christmas decorations in the village?
 - Sporting and recreational facilities are sparse?
 - Spartan Playground facilities at the Sir Bobby Robson Park?
 - Speeding Vehicles through the village?
 - Empty Buildings (All Saints Youth Centre and Ex – Fire Station)?
 - Vehicles parking on grassed Verges?
 - Poor Bus Service (13/14)?
 - Additional proposed Housing development on outskirts of the Village?
- Members discussed the above concerns with Mr Hepworth and made him aware of work being carried out by local volunteers lack of funding opportunities and the work of the two County Councillors in trying to resolve, speeding, empty building and parking on grassed areas.
Mr Hepworth left the meeting

003/14 Police Report

Councillor Hawxwell updated the meeting on the Pact meeting held on 7th January 2014, copy of report attached to these minutes.

004/14 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 10th December 2013

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

005/14

Reports**A) Parish**

i) Volunteer to open/close the gates at Sir Bobby Robson Park.

The Clerk reported that the Chair and he had met with Louise Vanderhoeven and that she was happy to carry out the duties of opening/closing the park gate as a volunteer, as from 1st February 2014.

Members agreed for the Clerk to:-

- Inform the Council's Insurance Company
- Provide her with a torch
- Obtain a Security Padlock

ii) Langley Park Miners Lodge Banner

The Clerk referred to an e-mail from Councillor Renneberg that the banner is at Redhills (Durham Miners Headquarters) and can be collected for display in "The Tute" and signing of a Permanent Loan agreement.

Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain information on the cost of providing a glass display cabinet for the Banner before agreeing to move the banner etc.

iii) Esh Village Play Site Refurbishment (Your Money, Your Area, Your Views funding from Mid Durham AAP - £5000)

Members agreed for the Clerk to meet with Officers from the AAP, members of Esh Residents Association and Councillor Sands to obtain further funding to carry out updating the present site (£20,000) including consultation, design and tendering.

iv) Policy renewal from Zurich Municipal Insurance

The Clerk reported on negotiations with the Council's Insurance Company for the Annual Premium due 26th January 2014.

The Company was prepared to offer the following long term agreements:-

1 year £4318.12, 3 years £4120.10 and 5 years £3922.08

Members agreed to accept the five year fixed long term agreement with Zurich Municipal.

v) Modernising Langley Park Post Office

The Clerk informed the meeting that the above will be closed from 12.30pm Friday 14th February and reopen 1.00pm Monday 24th February 2014 following a refurbishment of the premises.

vi) Langley Park Allotment Association

Members agreed the following:-

- The Association to join allotment watch
- Equipment rental agreement form
- For the Clerk to discuss the recently produced questionnaire with the Allotment Association Committee
- For the Clerk to discuss with the Allotment Association Committee any future correspondence/forms etc and report to the Council.

B) County Council

County Councillor B. Armstrong reported on the following:-

- DCC Budget Cuts
- Section 106 Planning Application Funding (Derwentside District Council) approx £5,300 for the Esh Division.

C) Chair's

The Chair reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Councillor Stephen Maddison. Members accepted the resignation and for the Clerk to inform DCC Returning Officer and to write to Councillor Maddison thanking him for his service on the Parish Council

D) Members

i) Parish Council's Website (Councillor Sands)

Councillor Sands raised concerns that the Council's Web Site has not been updated and Members have not been updated also on the progress.

The Clerk reported that work was ongoing and hoped to be completed in August 2014 (New Web Site layout).

Members requested a monthly/Bi monthly report from Mr Rider, IT Officer on the work carried out on the Web Site.

ii) Environment Group (Councillor Heartfield)

a) two new seats for Langley Park

Councillor Heartfield circulated two photographs of proposed areas to locate two new seats (Low Moor Road, opposite Finings Avenue and opposite Stringer Terrace), Members agreed the location subject to agreement by DCC Highways Department.

b) Tidying up the grassed area at the top of the Recreation Ground, (following a complaint by a local resident), to be carried out as soon as possible.

006/14**The Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park**

The Clerk reported:-

i) Third instalment paid to builder

ii) Still awaiting details for completion at the Land Registry. Clerk had spoken to Vince Clements, CISWO to chase this matter up and conclude as soon as possible.

Councillor B. Armstrong reported:-

iii) Funding from Derwentside College (106 contribution)

iv) Office accommodation for AAP Staff (possible)

v) Funding Application (Big Lottery)

vi) Funding (Derwentside Homes)

viii) Meeting of Management Committee (update)

007/14**Financial Statement and Report**

A) Members agreed the details of the Financial Statement and for Vouchers 128 To 135 should be paid, copy of the report attached to these minutes.

B) Expenditure Statement 1st April to 31st December 2013

Members noted the following:-

Details	£.p
Staff Costs	17742.91
Admin/Gen	7816.61
IT Centre	2884.66
Environment	106124.36
Donations	680.00
Newsletter	1387.50
Christmas Lights	84.00
Miscellaneous	6469.68
Councillor /Staff Training	225.00
Vat	21578.88
Total	<u>164993.60</u>

- 008/14 Setting the Precept for 2014/15**
 Members accepted the draft budget for 2014/2015 (prepared by the Clerk) and use this as a base to determine the Precept for 2014/2015.
 The Clerk produced a report on the Precept for 2014/2015 with three possible options (0%, 2.5% and 5% increase).
 Members agreed to increase the Precept for 2014/2015 by 5%, therefore the figures for the Parish will be as follows:-
 Precept increased from £69142.46 to £72599.58
 DCC Grant £7626.00
 Total Receipts £80225.58
 Average band 'd' payment increased from £52.93 to £55.58 (per annum) = Increase of £2.68 (per annum)
- 009/14 Transfer of Parish Council funds to "the Tute" project**
 Members agreed to Transfer (ie ringfence) an amount for Revenue Expenditure at the Tute.
 Members also agreed to transfer a minimum of £2,000 to a maximum of £5,000 towards running costs of the Tute.
- 010/14 Planning Applications**
- A**
 NO 1/2013/0656/DMFP
 APPLICANT MRS J TURNBULL
 LOCATION CLIFFORD HOUSE FARM, QUEBEC
 PROPOSAL CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING BRICK BARN TO PROVIDE 5 DED, TWO STOREY DWELLING WITH ANCILLARY BUSINESS USE
DECISION NO OBJECTION
- B**
 NO 1/2013/0672/DMFP (RESUBMISSION)
 APPLICANT MRS P MORTON
 LOCATION 1 BELGRAVE HOUSE, FRONT STREET, ESH
 PROPOSAL ERECTION OF SIDE EXTENSION TO ACCOMADATE A GARAGE AND UTILITY WITH ACCOMODATION ABOVE AND DORMER WINDOW AND BALCONY TO REAR
DECISION No OBJECTION
- 011/14 Area Action Partnership / Parish Councils Committee/Small Councils Forum**
 Next AAP Board meetings **22ND January 2014** at New Brancepeth (6pm) ;
 Next PCC meeting **18th January 2014** at Lanchester (10am)
 Next SCF meeting **14th February 2014** at Murton (2pm)
- 012/14 Date and Time of the Next Meeting**
 The next meeting of Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday **11th February 2014** at The Harry Guildford Centre, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm

`The meeting finished at 8.40pm