

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held in The Harry Guildford Centre, Langley Park on **Tuesday 11th February 2014** commencing at **7.00pm**

Present: Councillors A. Mollon (Chair), R. Allaker, B. Armstrong, S. Bell, R. Bowyer, A. Hancock, G. Hawxwell, K. Heartfield, R. Moralee, M. Renneberg and S. Rothwell.

Also Present: Louise Vanderhoeven, Linda Docking (Resident), Caroline Mcardle (County Durham YOS) County Councillor J. Armstrong and G.F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors P. Mollon, M. Sands, C. Thompson and M. L. Rowland (Deputy Clerk)

**EVERYONE PRESENT STOOD FOR ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE
AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR COUNCILLOR ALLAN HARLING
WHO DIED ON SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2014.**

013/14 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Heartfield – agenda item 7A Parish Report - Allotment Association and agenda item 8 Miners Institute Building, Langley Park
Councillor Moralee – agenda item 7a Parish Report; Allotment Association
Councillor Bowyer – agenda item 8 Miners Institute Building, Langley Park

014/14 Presentation by Caroline McArdle (County Durham Youth Offending Service) on “Restorative Justice in the Community”

Caroline explained her role in contacting all victims of deterred youth crime across the North of County Durham. Ensuring that the victims of crimes are fully kept up to date regarding the progress of the young person who committed the crime against them. Trying to involve the local community and allow them to have a say in the work that a young person can complete as part of their community reparation order, ensuring they engage well and carry out work in and around the community. She hopes to work with the Parish Council and other organisations in the Parish on the scheme.

015/14 Representation by Residents

Mrs Docking raised the following concerns:
Horse riding on public and private land in the village. County Councillors Armstrong agreed to take up this matter with the Police and appropriate County Council officers

016/14 Police Report

Councillor Hawxwell updated the meeting on the Pact meeting held on 4th February 2014, copy of report attached to these minutes.

017/14 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 14th January 2014

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

018/14

Matters Arising

- The Chairman introduced Louise Vanderhoeven (volunteer) who opens/closes the gate at Sir Bobby Robson Park.
- Langley Park Banner (e-mail from Durham Miners Association) “our Banner curator (Bill Lough) has informed me that the Langley Park Banner is in a serious state of disrepair and we are therefore unable to release it in its present condition”.
- It was agreed for Councillor Renneberg and the Clerk to visit the offices at Redhills, Durham to discuss this matter with staff at the Durham Miners Association and report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

019/14

Reports**A) Parish**

i) The Clerk reported that David Rider, IT Officer had successfully passed the Assessment for “Preparing to teach in the life long learning sector”.

ii) The Clerk presented a report from David Rider, IT Officer on the development of the website for the Parish Council.

Copy of the report to be circulated to all Councillors.

iii) Langley Park Allotment Association

The Clerk read out a letter from the above organisation regarding permission to create a community garden across two plots on the Earl of Durham allotment site. Members agreed to this request.

iv) Storage facilities (temporary) for office files and equipment Members agreed to rent a 40 foot container to store surplus office equipment and files etc for a period of no more than two months at a cost of £125 (including vat) per month.

v) Closing of the Harry Guildford Centre

The Clerk proposed to close the office for one week commencing 24th February to arrange the move into the Miners Institute Building. Members agreed this action.

vi) Increase in charges by the Greater Durham Citizens Advice Bureau as from 1st April 2014. Members agreed to discuss this item at the next Parish Council meeting.

vii) TOMA Fund – application for funding

Members agreed not to support this request for funding (not local).

B) County Council**County Councillor J. Armstrong reported on the following:-**

- DCC Budget Cuts
- DCC Council Tax increase by 1.99%
- Allotments
- Parking problems at Esh Village
- Repairs to Hall Road and village green area
- Lambton Street – illegal parking
- All Saints Youth Centre (proposed outline planning application)
- Ex Fire Station, Langley Park
- Wallnook Lane – drainage works

C) Chair's

The Chair reported on the following:-

i) Vacancy on the Parish Council following the death of Councillor Alan Harling. Members agreed for the Clerk to inform DCC Returning Officer of the resulting vacancy.

ii) Letter of resignation from Councillor Ronnie Allaker as from Monday 17th February 2014. Members accepted the resignation and for the Clerk to inform DCC Returning Officer of the resulting vacancy. Members also wished to thank Councillor Allaker for his service on the Parish Council and the community projects in Langley Park.

iii) Letter from Mr Malcolm Berry, 4 Hazelwood Court, Langley Park "I write to remind you that I sent you a letter for the attention of the Council on 6th September 2013. To date apart from a very brief email in November, I have heard nothing. I would therefore be grateful if you would arrange to have my correspondence discussed once again at the forthcoming Council meeting. I certainly never expected to have to wait almost six months for a formal reply. The matters I raised I consider to be important and worthy of debate and action. I await your response with interest".

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to Mr Berry with an update of the situation and suggest he also contact the relevant organisations (DCC and Police).

D) Members – No Reports**020/14****Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park**

The Clerk reported that the Council's Solicitor had sent details to the Land Registry on 5th February 2014 regarding the completion of the lease arrangements.

Councillor B. Armstrong reported on the following:-

- Final account received from the builder
- Snagging of the building is under way
- Official opening on 14th February 2014
- funding (£1000 from Derwentside Homes)
- further funding (£8625 Big Lottery)
- DCC 106 Allocation (meeting 21st February)
- Booking for use of The Centre
- Press release (Northern Echo)

021/14**Financial Statement and Report**

A) Members agreed the details of the Financial Statement and for Vouchers 136 to 154 should be paid, copy of the report attached to these minutes.

B) Cheque signatures – due to the death of Councillor Harling the authorised cheque signatories was down to two (Councillors Bowyer and A. Mollon).

Members agreed to add Councillors Hawxwell and Renneberg to the Council's Authorised signatories and for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the Council's bank (Co-operative Bank PLC).

022/14**Planning Applications
No Report**

023/14 Area Action Partnership / Parish Councils Committee/Small Councils Forum

Next AAP Board meetings **19th March 2014** venue tba (6pm) ;
Next PCC meeting **22nd February 2014** at Langley Moor (10am)
Next SCF meeting **14th February 2014** at Murton (2pm)

024/14 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday **11th March 2014**
at the Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park
commencing at 7.00pm

`The meeting finished at 8.25pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4