

## ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held at The Miners Institute Building, Langley Park on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016** commencing at **7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors: G. Hawxwell (Chair), B. Armstrong, J. Armstrong, R. Bowyer, S. Cheal, B. Coult, I. Dowson, L. Finch, K. Heartfield, M. McGaun, M. Sands and A. Simpson

**Also**

**Present:** D. Rider (IT Officer) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

**021/16 Apologies**

**Members agreed the following apologies:-**

Cllr S. Bell (unwell)  
Cllr A. Mollon (unwell)  
Cllr P. Mollon (unwell)  
Cllr R. Moralee (unwell)

**022/16 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor I Dowson declared an interest in agenda item 17 – Tenders for fencing at the Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Councillor B Armstrong declared an interest in agenda item 13 – Planning Applications

**023/16 Representation by Residents**

None

**024/16 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Minute 004/16 remove the word “hopeful”

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

**025/16 Reports**

**(A)Parish**

- Smaller Authorities – Audit Appointment (SAAA) e-mail received from Steve Ragg (dated) 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting recommending the Clerk will present to the next Parish Council that the Council “opted-in” to the SAAA arrangements and continue to receive an Audit from the Auditors appointed by the SAAA.
- Application for funding  
The following applications for funding have been received from the following organisations:-  
Durham Cathedral  
Great North Air Ambulance  
The Children’s Foundation  
The above requests are to be placed on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

**(B) County Councillors**

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

- Parish Council Newsletter – incorrect information (to be corrected in the next edition).

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

- Housing site on the All Saints Youth Centre, Langley Park
- Wallnook Bridge – closed for a further 18 months
- Erosion on Allotment site – awaiting report from DCC Officer

**(C) Chair's**

- No more PACT Meetings (due to lack of Police resources) but informal meetings with the Police would be held each alternative Friday (10.00 to 12.00) in the Miners institute Building – Breakfast Club.
- PCC – Dementure Scheme, Summer holiday programme, Fly Tipping

**(D) Members Report**

- Councillor Simpson raised concerns on flooding issues at Esh Hill Top.  
County Councillor J Armstrong to discuss with DCC Officer (Brian Buckley) and report to the next Parish Council meeting.
- Councillor Dowson raised concerns on containers being stored on land near to fast fit tyres, Langley Park.  
County Councillor B Armstrong to check with Planning Authority regarding planning permission and Environmental Health (i.e. nuisance to neighbouring residents), suggest residents keep “logs” of any incidents.

**026/16**

**Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park**

The Clerk read out an e-mail from the Council's Solicitor regarding the following:-

- Letter sent to Charity Commissioners

Members suggested that a letter should be sent to the Land Registry (Clerk to contact the Solicitor)

- Response from CISWO re: Market rent (still outstanding).
- Possible purchase of the building (purchase as opposed to rental?)
- Members recommended that a time limit should be set to help progress any work on the completion of the lease.

**027/16**

**Miners Lamp at Langley Park**

Councillor Dowson raised this matter, which is still outstanding.

Possible sites – Nursing Home, Miners Institute Building, Wetlands

Members agreed to further discuss this matter at the next Parish Council meeting.

**028/16**

**Site for Mining Memorial at Langley Park**

Councillor B Armstrong updated the meeting on various sites that had been explored by the group. The best alternative suggestion was the gable end site at Browney Close on land owned by DCC. This would require a land licence agreement and planning permission. Update item to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

- 029/16 Request for new IT classes at the Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park**  
 A request has been received to hold an IT course (City and Guilds start ITQ award) teaching basic everyday computer skills on a Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm commencing on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This would clash with the classes organised by the Council's IT Officer (2pm to 4pm). It was proposed and seconded that the Council stick with the minute (184/15) in which it agreed that the Council's classes would meet on a Wednesday from 2 to 4pm. 4 Councillors voted for and 7 Councillors voted against this proposition.  
 Therefore the Council's IT classes would have to move to another time/or day of the week (Mr Rider to discuss with the group members).
- 030/16 Asset of Community Value – Cross Keys, Esh**  
 E-mails from Mr Troy Hardwick dated 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 informing the Council that the group is to set up a constitution and structure for the Cross Keys project. Next stop is to set-up an extra ordinary General meeting, awaiting further details.
- 031/16 Christmas Tree/Lights Electrical works at Quebec**  
 Councillor Dowson updated Members on the requirement for a Christmas tree/ lights and electrical works at Quebec after he and Councillor McGaun had met with some residents.  
 The cost for upgrading meter box (owned by the Parish Council) was £395, Cost of cut tree £50 and lights (had already been purchased).  
 Members agreed to review this item at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 032/16 Financial Statement and Report**  
 The Clerk was asked to check the following vouchers for further information:-  
 133 to BT (net cost/vat amount)  
 141 to Zurich (Council's fixed term Insurance period 3 or 5 years) subject to the above the vouchers 123 to 141 be paid.
- 033/16 Planning Applications**  
**DM/16/00014/FPA** by Mr B Hunter for tarmac path to side, metal railings to front, post and rail boundary fence, gravel drive, timber shed and log store, stone paving to rear, gravel pathway to rear, installation of roof lights, replacement window and French door to rear of St John's House, Front Street, Quebec  
**Decision** – concerns were raised on the "footprint" on the site and recommend that the application should be referred to committee for determination (not Officer delegated)
- 034/16 AAP/PCC/SCF**  
 Next AAP Board Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at New Brancepeth (6pm)  
 Next PCC meeting is the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Langley Park (10am)  
 Next SCF Meeting is the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Murton (2pm)

035/16

**Date and time of the next meeting**

Tuesday **8<sup>th</sup> March 2016** at The Miners Institute Building, Church Street,  
Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm.

**IN PRIVATE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm