

## **Draft**

**The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at the Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park at Meeting commenced at 19:02**

### **Ordinary Meeting of the Council**

#### **1. Record of Attendance**

Cllr. Rita Moralee, Cllr. Linda Bushell, Cllr. Ryan Drion, Cllr. Donna Smailes, Cllr. Edwin Simpson, Cllr. Malcolm Renneberg, Cllr. Susan Jacks, Cllr. Olwyn Moat, Cllr. Ruth Hughes

Clerk; Ms Patricia Embleton

#### **2. Apologies of absence**

**Apologies have been received and accepted by Council by the following Councillors;**

Cllr. Richard Bowyer – Dispensation Granted 13/11/2018

Cllr. Stuart Wilkinson – Work Commitments

**A letter of resignation was received by the Chair and accepted by Council.**

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

#### **4. Minutes from the previous meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Resolved** Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Signed as a true record.

#### **5. Report from the Chairman**

The Chair of the Council Rita Moralee delivered a short report to the Council;

- Councillor Training – Thanks was given to Councillors who attended the County Durham Association of Local Councils training session presented by Lesley Swinbank. The session was informative and useful to all those who attended. The Chair also updated Council on Chairmanship training that she attended with Cllr. Linda Bushell and the upcoming appraisal training on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Clerk attended Clerks training hosted by the CDCLC and found the session more than useful in preparation to obtaining her CiLCA Qualification. Councillors were advised to keep an eye out for any training opportunities that they wish to attend.

Contractor A County Court Money Claim – The Chair informed members that an emergency had arisen which was dealt with by herself and the Clerk as per Standing Orders. The Court failed to accept the original defence submitted in time to the Court on 25/10/2018 due to an administrative error with the Claim Reference number. The Judgment was passed in favour of the claimant and the decision was taken to pay the £255 fee to have the Judgment set aside and have the District Judge at Durham reconsider the claim with the Councils' defence.

## 6. County Councillors Report

The following report was received via email by County Councillor Mike McGaun in their absence. Apologies were accepted.

- DCC thought that the Remembrance Services went very well and thank all who supported the various events.
- Floral Awards – DCC have just won a number of Floral Awards – The Team have received formal recognition for their efforts.
- Arnie & myself have held a meeting with the Contracts & Services Manager DCC regarding the possibility of getting a local bus route going which may be able to connect the villages up again – Further meetings required – more to follow.
- As part of the ongoing commitment to the complaints of speed made by residents of Langley Park, the Traffic Management Officer for Durham Constabulary Roads Policing Unit again targeted the C62 Finnings Avenue area of Langley Park near to the Cemetery between 19/11/18 and 02/12/18. During the visits to site officers found it necessary to issue 6 drivers with a Traffic Offence Report (fine and points) for speeding offences.
- There is a new campaign out regarding Modern Day Slavery – Press Releases have been published in the last few weeks.
- Fly Tipping – DCC coming down very hard on this & recently a gentleman from Houghton Le Spring was fined, given a Community Working Order of 180hrs unpaid work & had his van confiscated & crushed as punishment for Fly tipping – there really is a zero tolerance for offenders.
- There is a new campaign for “Don’t Drink & Drown” being strongly pushed over the festive period. Statistics show that there were 366 accidental drownings linked to alcohol or drugs in the UK from 2012 to 2016, an average of 73 per year.

## 7. Opportunity for the public to raise matters of interest

No members of the public were present

## 8. Chairman’s Annual Allowance - £300.00

Following a brief discussion from Council it was **resolved** the Council will pay the £300.00 to Cllr. Rita Moralee.

This year, Cllr. Moralee will donate the money received to the parish Christmas events and will purchase the selection boxes and supporting items for the free grotto on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

### **9. Small Holding Complaints received – plot 2 & plot 3**

The Clerk reported they have received several complaints regarding the two Council owned small holdings located in Langley Park. Both parties have previously received verbal warnings from the Clerk following inspections and reports from member of the public. It was **resolved** that the Clerk will now issue the respective tenants with formal Breach of agreement letters giving them one calendar month notice to rectify and cease the reported activities. The Clerk inspect both small holdings at the end of the month and will follow through the procedure for issuing a notice to quit.

### **10. AAP Licence to occupy update**

A short update was given to the Council with regards to the Licence to Occupy for Mid Durham Area Action Partnership at the Miners Institute. This lease has now been signed and returned to County Council Legal team to complete. The Council will request a payment of backdated rent of £22917.50 bringing the AAP up to date until March 2019.

### **11. Fields in Trust Annual membership renewal**

Last year as part of registering the Old Rec as a Centenary Field the Council joined as a Member of Fields in Trust. Last year the Council took advantage of both the expertise of the team regarding registration and maintenance and also, discount from play providers for goal posts. It was **resolved** the Council will renew the membership at £50.00. The Clerk will arrange payment.

### **12. Snow Angels proposal received from Deborah Waller, Consett Police**

The following report was received by Consett Police to see if the Miners Institute could be used as a hub for Snow Angels;

It is expected that there will be an increase in snow fall and ice this winter, resulting in adverse weather conditions, which may close public roads and make access to minor roads and footpaths inaccessible to residents in Consett and surrounding villages, from Mid December 2018 until March 2019.

The SNOW ANGELS operation will see Police and partner agencies carrying out mobile and foot patrols in the town centre and surrounding villages. Providing cover to all areas from the 1st of December 2018 for 12 weeks to March 2019 during the day and evening and taking telephone and E-Mail requests from residents who are requesting SNOW ANGELS help and assistance.

We welcome volunteers to support us with this valuable scheme, this may involve clearing footpaths of snow, delivering food parcels and checking on vulnerable neighbours. If you would like to help please email [Consett@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Consett@durham.pnn.police.uk)

If you have concerns about a neighbour or relative that may struggle during adverse weather conditions and may need assistance from SNOW ANGELS please contact police via 101 or the email address above.

It was **resolved** that the Council are happy for the Miners Institute to be used without impeding regular users and volunteer to assist, the Clerk will await further details and update Council.

### **13. Update on Christmas events and lighting**

A brief update was given by the Clerk that all installation is due to go ahead as planned, with the main tree lighting as the conclusion of the Parish Christmas Fair on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

### **14. Village Clock proposal for Langley Park – Councillor Ryan Drion**

Cllr. Drion presented a report to Council regarding a Village clock. The Council **resolved** that further details regarding planning permissions and location must be sought. The Council would like to prepare a questionnaire and consultation period with the residents to gauge the wishes of the community as to its style, location and if, indeed it is a wanted community asset. Matter delegated to Councillor Drion to progress and update Council.

### **15. Planning Matters:           DM/18/03277/OUT – Land West of Davis Crescent   DM/18/03310/AD – Erection of Signs Rams Head**

DM/18/03277/OUT – Land West of Davis Crescent – Outline planning for the erection of up to 74 dwellings. The Council **resolved** a secondary meeting with the developers agents Savills prior to making a decision regarding the matter. Clerk is to contact and arrange a meeting.

DM/18/03310/AD – Erection of Signs Rams Head, Langley Park. The Council **resolve** there is no objection to the planning as it is a like for like of the former signage.

### **16. Hanging Basket and Flower Tubs contract 2019-2021 proposal Hilltop Nurseries – 3 years fixed price proposal**

Council followed the tender process during March and April 2018 when Mr Paul Snowdon of Hilltop Nurseries was awarded the 2018 contract, Mr Snowdon provided the Village Hanging baskets, planted tubs and watering throughout the Parish. The Council concluded that the baskets were outstanding and appreciated the efforts from Mr. Snowdon to maintain the baskets throughout the summer season and over wintering. The Council received excellent feedback and it is **resolved** by Council to award Mr Snowdon a three-year contract covering the period of 2019 – 2021 inclusive and fixed at 2018 costings.

### **17. Drain covers for Miners Institute proposal from NJC Wrought Iron**

No quote was received by contractor for works, item deferred.

## 18. Banking and Payments

CDALC	Clerks Training session 25/09/2018	£ 27.00		£ 27.00
CDALC	Chair Training Moralee and Bushell	£ 54.00		£ 54.00
L&S Maintenance	Final Payment for Seat refurbishment	£ 500.00		£ 500.00
NPOWER	Electricity for the Garage Workshop	£ 67.86	£ 3.39	£ 71.25
Durham County Council	Summer School Holiday Programme	£ 300.00		£ 300.00
Patricia Jean Embleton	Clerks wages and backdated expenses	£2,225.17		£ 2,225.17
CDALC	Councillor Training at the Miners institute	£ 250.00		£ 250.00
Cooperative Bank	Commission	£ 0.80		£ 0.80
Cooperative Bank	Service Charge	£ 10.00		£ 10.00
Safety Checked	Electrical installation for Xmas`	£ 995.92	£ 199.18	£ 1,195.10
Safety Checked	External Electrical Testing	£ 25.00	£ 5.00	£ 30.00
Park Insurance	Clerks Home Work place Insurance Anr	£ 117.05		£ 117.05
Total Business Group	printing Costs centenary Booklet	£ 412.96	£ 82.60	£ 495.56

The Council approved the payments as listed and **resolve** the Clerk to arrange payments.

**Meeting Closed 20:25**

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_ 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Mrs Rita Moralee, Chair of Esh Parish Council**