

**The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park. Meeting commenced at 19:07 – delayed due to printing issues.**

### **1. Record of attendance**

Cllr. Ryan Drion, Cllr. Linda Bushell, Cllr. Donna Smailes, Cllr. Ollie Moat, Cllr. Stuart Wilkinson  
Cllr. Edwin Simpson

County Councillor Bev Coult

Sarah Dance – Langley Park resident – Agenda Item 13.

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

**Resolved** by Council to accept apologies from the following members;

Cllr. Ruth Hughes – Holiday commitments  
Cllr. Susan Jacks – Personal commitments

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

Cllr. Linda Bushell declared in interest in Item 10, Item 14 and Item 18 on the agenda and has declared to self-exclude from discussion and vote.

Cllr. Stuart Wilkinson declared in interest in Item 14 on the agenda and has declared to self-exclude from discussion and vote.

### **4. Minutes from the previous meeting of the Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

**Resolved** to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record, signed by the Chair.

### **5. Opportunity for the Public to raise matters of interest;**

### **6. County Councillors Report**

Apologies received from Cllr. Arnold Simpson. Cllr. Bev Coult delivered a detailed and relevant report as follows;

- Durham City now has an Odeon cinema and also boasts a 10 pin bowling alley
- New Chief Constable Jo Farrell of Durham Constabulary now in place
- New and extended safety initiative around rivers and open water for school children is fully underway
- County Council Chairman Awards – great opportunity for anyone to nominate local volunteers from throughout the County. This acknowledges outstanding service to their community
- The police have been notified of a den area west of Langley Park where clear signs of drug and alcohol use and anti-social behaviour, resulting in broken glass and other debris. A job has been created to clear the site.

- The Miners Memorial to be sited nr Browney Court in Langley Park has been presented with further financial challenges owing to an 18% rise in initial costs for the foundations and installation of the statue. The County Councillors are challenging the rise in costs and have asked for a breakdown. The Miners Memorial Group have been assisted by the AAP and Parish Council in applying for additional funding to cover the shortfall. A further update will be brought to Council.
- Stobilee Wetlands area is being assisted by the County Councillors and Natural England to become a constituted group this would allow for further development of the land.
- St Michaels School at Esh are seeking to extend into a upstairs classroom and are looking for additional funding supported by the County Councillors. Cllr. Coult is also awaiting confirmation to become a Governor at the School.
- Surgeries have been carried out at Witton Gilbert, Satley, Cornsay Colliery and Langley Park, these were well attended. Langley Park residents requested the following- that bus 14 to be rerouted to serve the Kingsway bungalows, the untidy Front Street area, multiple blocked drains and parking provisions at May Terrace all of which are being pursued by Cllr Coult and Simpson. Upcoming surgeries at both Esh Village and Quebec.
- Cllr Coult has had the access to the old railway lines tarmacked allowing for ease of access especially for wheelchair/pushchair access.
- County Councillors have also requested and successfully delayed resurfacing works from Kaysburn to Langley Park. This will now be carried out overnight instead of the proposed day closures between 9 and 3pm. Works scheduled over the next coming month. Progress will be reported at the next meeting.

The Chair indicated that he would like to deal with item 13. out of order to allow guest speaker Sarah Dance to deliver her report.

### **13. Centenary Field, Old Rec report and recommendations for initial steps including budgetary delegation**

A short update was delivered by the Clerk and Sarah on progress made on the development of the site. A site meeting is to be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June where the Chair, Clerk and Mrs Dance will meet with the Skill Mill for costings to clear debris from the ditches in the top right of the field, the deteriorating wall to the rear of the goal posts and to explore having that area fenced off to allow a safe and dog free zone for the children to play as it currently suffers from dog fouling throughout. The areas to the south of the site and the Bridgeway entrance need cutting back and maintaining as per plan presented by Mrs Dance earlier in the year. The Council budgeted £5000 towards the preparation of the Centenary Field 5 Year Plan.

A Litter pick and Work Group has been arranged for the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 10-12 noon on the site and a public meeting to discuss the development of the land on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July at 18:30 at the Miners Institute, all welcome.

Following a discussion, the following arrangement was **resolved** that the budget of £5000 is delegated to the Chair and Clerk to proceed with works agreed once suitable costings have been obtained. A further report of works instructed/completed will be included within Clerks work in progress at the next Ordinary meeting of the Council.

## **7. Clerks work in progress report and adoption of protocol to allow the Clerk the opportunity to make recommendations before a resolution is agreed**

The Clerk identified 21 outstanding work items, delegated to both herself and Council which are still work in progress. The Clerk has completed 9 of the outstanding matters and will continue to research and present matters as they develop, most are awaiting external responses before the Clerk can report and The Esh Leaves publication has been requested. **Resolved** that Cllr Moat and the Clerk will investigate the possibility of a previous third-party volunteer editor managing the ongoing project. A further report will be brought to the Council.

## **8. Clerks Annual Appraisal - Cllr.Linda Bushell**

A report was presented to Council with an overview of the annual appraisal conducted by Councillor Bushell the Council **resolve** to accept the report and an interim appraisal and salary review will be undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and reported on at Council that Month. Cllr Bushell noted a point raised directly with the Clerk by Cllr Susan Jacks regarding working from Home arrangements. Cllr Bushell clarified that contractually, the Clerk can and does from time to time work from home with prior consent from Chair and Vice. A sufficient insurance policy is in place to cover such times.

## **9. Update from the Complaints Committee**

A short verbal report was delivered by Cllr. Linda Bushell updating Council briefly regarding an outstanding complaint made by a resident regarding a staff member. A further update will be brought to full Council once resolved.

## **10. Friends of the Miners Institute hall hire arrangement review and employment of a cleaner**

Cllr. Linda Bushell declared in interest in this Item and has declared to self-exclude from discussion and vote.

The Council considered this item at the last meeting of Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 and the debate was continued. New ideas for alternative to the breakfast are being researched.

The **resolution** was made as follows;

- No waiver or reduction of hall hire will be offered to the Friends of the Miners Institute, this decision was unanimous however contra to the recommendations of the Clerk
- The Clerk was instructed to contact local cleaners to work on a self-employed basis for 4 hours a week as a starting point
- Clerk was delegated to arrange the purchase of a basic cleaning set and materials

## **11. Planning applications received**

No planning applications for the Esh Parish are lodged with Durham County Council.

## **12. Citizens Advice Funding request for £720.00**

The Clerk has been instructed to contact CAB for additional information regarding the local impact and reasons for the monthly drop-in ceasing, alternatives to outreach delivery to be explored.

### **13. Centenary Field, Old Rec report and recommendations for initial steps including budgetary delegation**

Dealt with out of order following item 6.

### **14. Grant request from EVRA for £300.00**

Cllr. Linda Bushell and Cllr. Stuart Wilkinson declared in interest in Item 14 and have declared to self-exclude from the discussion and vote.

Deferred to a further meeting as application failed to meet criteria. This will be represented to a further meeting of the Council.

### **15. Kids Club Summer Trips and Events update**

A further report was presented to the Council by the Clerk outlining the details of three summer and one winter trip aimed at children within the Parish

These will be 27<sup>th</sup> July – Sunderland Airshow, 13<sup>th</sup> August – Seahouses Seal Watching Boat trip, 19<sup>th</sup> August – Kirkley Hall Zoo with handing session with Lunch provided to all attending.

December 19 – The Sage Gateshead- The Snowman & We're going on a Bear Hunt Production.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will organise final details and book sessions/entrance where required. Organise coaches via Bob Smith travel and start risk assessments, marketing and finalise funding applications with the AAP.

### **16. Approval of the Governance Statement for audit**

The Council **resolved** to accept the application. Clerk to arrange payment.

### **17. Approval of the Accountancy Statement for audit**

The Council **resolved** to accept the application. Clerk to arrange payment.

### **18. Birds Mouth Fencing for Willow Park, Langley Park**

Cllr. Linda Bushell declared in interest this Item and will self-exclude from discussion and vote.

Deferred to a further meeting of the Council

### **19. Decision on reinstatement of play equipment, previously damaged at Esh Play Area**

A meeting was held onsite with Brambledown who will commence initial corrective works week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019, this will see the cutting of paths, roller and cut of pitch and removal of damaged equipment. Clerk negotiated an extension on project delivery times with key funder and also held discussions with insurance regarding replacement costings.

Council **resolved** the Clerk is to arrange a public consultation with Esh residents regarding remaining budget, County Councillors expressed an interest in attending with a possible contribution to completion costs. Venue to be arranged and meeting with Eibe Play scheduled for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 201

## 20. Payments to make and bank reconciliation

Opening Balance (All Accounts) of Council 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 £242 782.43

<b>£300.00</b>	Esh & Bearpark Brass	Grant funding approved May 22nd 2019
<b>£300.00</b>	Goodwill Trip	Grant Funding Request approved May 22nd 2019
<b>£33.93</b>	Total Business Group	Photocopying Charges
<b>£1.90</b>	Cooperative Bank	Commission
<b>£10.00</b>	Cooperative Bank	Service Charge
<b>£3,199.45</b>	Durham County Council	SLA Grasscutting
<b>£4.99</b>	Langley Hardware	Lock for Esh Play Area - recharged to Clerk
<b>£66.00</b>	Area Maintenance	Hanging basket brackets Rams Head
<b>£75.96</b>	Total Gas & Power	Garage Electricity
<b>£120.00</b>	Heywoods Accountant:	Vat Analysis to Year End March 2019
<b>£480.00</b>	Heywoods Accountant:	Internal Audit report and prep
<b>£120.00</b>	L&S Maintenance	Play Park Inspections May

Resulting bank balances less payments due of £ 4712.23

=£238 069.80

The Council noted the bank statements, approved payments as listed and **resolved** the Clerk to arrange payments.

## 21. Date of the next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_ 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Chair to the Council of the Parish Esh