

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon (Chairman), C. Bloor, R. A. Bowyer, G. Coulson, M. D. Cummings, F. Crow, H. S. Guildford, A. Harling, A. Hiles, S. Rothwell, M. Sands, M. Tyler and W. J. Tyrie

Apologies:- J. Geany

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and County Councillor J. Armstrong (from item 107/03)

098/03 POLICE REPORT

The Chairman welcomed PC Elizabeth Liddle, Beat Officer for Langley Park, to the Meeting.

PC Liddle reported on the following incidents since the July Meeting:-

6 bicycle thefts (from gardens), 2 thefts from shops, 6 thefts from motor vehicles, 4 youths causing a nuisance, 3 criminal damages to cars, 3 arrests for trading in amphetamines, a theft from a shed in Esh, various items stolen from the Earl of Durham allotments. The police are now giving special attention to the allotments during the evening. Cllr Bowyer referred to people wandering around the streets in the early hours. Cllr Bowyer also referred to Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. PC Liddle arranged to get some details to the Parish Clerk. It was agreed, however, that the Crime Prevention Officer should be invited to a future Meeting to outline these Schemes in more detail.

Whilst PC Liddle was present Cllr Coulson raised the problem of buses parking outside Finings Avenue (between Davis Crescent and Stringer Terrace) for long periods of time during the early evening (over one hour in some cases) whilst waiting to take residents to bingo sessions. Apart from engines being left running for long periods of time there were also safety issues involved, with drivers coming out of Davis Crescent and not being able to see clearly oncoming traffic to the right. In addition, further complaints had been received concerning traffic speeding in this area. PC Liddle agreed to talk to the two residents who raised the matter with Cllr Coulson and thereafter take the matter further.

Cllr Tyler also raised the question of parking in Logan Street and recently an emergency vehicle and a refuse collection vehicle had problems in manoeuvring along this street. This would be investigated.

The Chairman thanked PC Liddle for her comprehensive report. PC Liddle then left the Meeting.

099/03 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8th JULY 2003

Signed as a true record signed by the Chairman.

100/03 MATTERS ARISING

005/02 Proposed lay by opposite the Village Hall, Quebec

The Clerk advised that the work had now been completed and the new seat dedicated in memory of John Wilson by the Rev Michael Peers at a short ceremony on the 29th August 2003 attended by over 20 Councillors and residents. There had been some press coverage with photographs in both the Northern Echo and Durham Advertiser. Letters of thanks had been sent to Service Direct, the Director of Environment and Technical Services, Durham County Council, and the North Eastern and Cumbrian Co-operative to thank them for their assistance and financial support.

Cllr A. Hiles declared an interest in the following item but did not take part in the subsequent discussion in order to clarify certain matters of interest.

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

A Meeting had been held on site attended by the Chairman, the Clerk and representatives from Durham Wildlife Services to discuss this matter in more detail. See file note attached to these minutes. A draft management plan was awaited from the Wildlife Trust but in the meantime Cllr Hiles had obtained an application pack (Living Spaces) detailing grants available to make improvements to open spaces, and to create valuable places, for the whole community to enjoy.

The Clerk also advised that sections of the lowland heather should be cut later this year and Cllr Hiles provided details of a possible contractor to the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Wildlife Trust to identify which part, if not all, of the heather should be cut this year as part of the five yearly cycle of cuts.

134/02 Environmental Improvements

b) Gateway Planting initiatives

Estimates now received from Paul Snowdon for around £75 to £80 per feature. The Clerk had also contacted the County Council re the proposals (as they involved highway land) and had been sent a pro forma requesting some fairly detailed information which would take some time to complete (drawings, public utility consultations, planning issues, indemnities etc). It was agreed that in light of the Clerks current workload that the matter be deferred until 2004/2005.

026/03 Progress re appointment of Development Worker

It was reported that interviews were being held on 15th September 2003 for the remaining Development Worker posts in Derwentside. There were 9 candidates for 6 vacancies.

028b(iii)/03 Replacement Seats for Esh Village Green

The Clerk advised that the 3 seats for Esh Green had now been installed and had been praised by local residents. The Clerk stated that Mr and Mrs J. Hankey of Esh Hall had stored the seats for several days until collected by the contractors. Mr and Mrs Hankey to be thanked for their help in this matter.

038/03 Broadband

The target date for the New Brancepeth Exchange to be enabled was 8th October 2003 although there was some concern that whilst some areas of the Parish (Esh) could have quick access onto Broadband net others (particularly in Langley Park) would not until some of the existing infrastructure had been upgraded. The Clerk to make further enquiries

060/03 Library Service

Cllr J. Armstrong advised that the report referred to at his previous meeting concerning the provision of a static library facility in Langley Park had been approved. A new library would require at least 150 square metres and the options had included i) a vacant site ii) the old fire station iii) the Church Street Community Centre, iv) a primary school v) the Wood View Community Centre. Cllr Armstrong stressed the importance of the Parish Council, the Community Association and EQUaL Partnership meeting and identifying potential other users for any new library provided, prior to meeting the Director of Cultural Services, and hopefully agreement reached on both a preferred site and other possible users of the premises. Once an agreement had been reached this would enable various fund holders to be approached (using Economic Development Services) to identify sources of funding for any agreed scheme. Cllr Armstrong suggested that it could be helpful if the various groups concerned could visit a similar initiative at Wingate and that he would be quite prepared to set up a visit either Tuesday (9.00-12.00) or all day on a Thursday. He commented that the EQUaL Partnership should be involved in this project and that he would raise the matter with them at their meeting on 11th September 2003.

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The Clerk advised that he had contacted residents and businesses near to a possible site for a notice board next to the pedestrian crossing, opposite 46 Front Street. No comments had been received from them. It was agreed, subject to confirmation from the highway authority, that in view of the objection received from the local sub-post office the notice board should be erected in the village centre near to the pedestrian crossing opposite 46 Front Street.

065/03 Land at Davis Crescent

The Clerk advised that Home Housing had not yet carried out all the remaining work on this site.

066(i)/03 Play Areas

The Clerk advised that the play bark had now been deposited under the remaining equipment on the Esh and Quebec sites

The new goal posts for the Esh play area had now been ordered and it is hoped that they could be 'launched' by Sunderland Football Club when training children from the Esh Laude R.C. Primary School as part of their football in the community initiative. It was hoped to give this event some press coverage. Cllr Tyler said that the Radio Durham Broadcasting Station should be contacted as they might be interested in carrying a feature on this event.

066(ii)/03 Sycamore Tree on Esh Village Green

The Clerk advised that the tree had now been removed by Olivers. Again thanks were due to Mr and Mrs Hankey for their assistance with this matter.

077/03 Planning Matters

No	CS/1/2003/0491/DMFP
Applicant	Newton Moor Construction Ltd
Proposed	Erection of 25 dwellings
At	Woodside Farm, Woodside Terrace, Langley Park

The Clerk advised he had not yet received any replies in connection with the letters sent to the Agents acting on behalf of the Dixon family nor from the builders re the future access arrangements into this site. However it was understood that one of the conditions attached to the planning permission granted was a requirement to retain an 8'0" access into the site over the existing access point via Bridgeway. Whilst on the subject of access into the Recreation Ground from Wallnook Lane Cllr Guildford stated that there were 6 locked gates along the access track from Wallnook Lane. The matter had been reported to the County Council and their comments were awaited.

078/03 Bus Shelters

Reply received from Divisional Head General Services (DHGC) Derwentside District Council indicating that there was no budget for the 2 sites suggested for 2003/04.

The DHGC stated that the bus stop at Quarry House Farm, Wilks Hill, was some 150 metres up the road. Cllr Hiles confirmed that there was a bus stop at Quarry House Farm, although it was possible that it had become obliterated by recent building works. It was agreed that the District Council should be asked to consider siting a shelter at either location in next year's budget.

As to the Esh site the DHGC stated that the existing site is too narrow although as the path widens a few metres further along, opposite the Church, and a bus shelter could be sited there if the bus stop could be moved without any objections. It was agreed that the DHGC should be asked to consider this option.

080/03f(viii) Reports

The Clerk confirmed advised that he had not yet received a reply from the County Council re the possibility of the South Derwentside Access Bus Link being extended into the Parish.

087/03 Matters Arising - Voting Procedures

The Clerk advised the Council that he had taken legal advice in respect of voting procedures.

The Council's Standing Orders stated that if at least two members so request, by signed ballot, the Clerk should record the names of those members who voted on any question so as to show whether they voted for or against the resolution. Alternatively, a Councillor could ask either before, or after a vote been taken, that his name be recorded as either voting in favour or against the resolution or possibly as abstaining. It was not for the Chairman to call for abstentions to be recorded as had been stated in the minutes. This was noted.

089/03 Correspondence

- 8 Tina Cook. Copy letter to Planning Officer, Derwentside District Council re Diggerland Vehicles penetrating onto the banks of the River Browney.

The Clerk was asked if any comments had been received from the District Council as the problem still continued in this area. The Clerk to clarify with the Planning Officer.

- 10 Christmas Trees

The Clerk advised that he had requested an estimate from Service Direct for the cost of providing fencing around part of the layby car park at Quebec to prevent possible damage from a falling Christmas tree.

In addition, an invitation had been sent to the Look North weather presenters to turn on the Langley Park lights. No reply received. In the circumstances it was suggested that a similar letter to be extended to Bob Johnson at Tyne Tees Television.

Cllr Sands asked if the lights on the Esh tree could be kept on over a longer period. The Clerk agreed to provide details of approximate costs at the next Meeting, in order that the Parish Council could consider whether the times could be extended on this or any of the other trees.

- 11 Boundary Committee for England - Local Government Review of Two-tier areas in the North East.

Cllr Rothwell asked if the Parish Council had taken a view in this case in respect of a possible unitary authority for this area. The Clerk advised that as the date fixed for comments closed before the date of the Parish Council Meeting he had written to all Councillors inviting them to comment directly to the Boundary Committee. In addition, a copy of the Committee's letter had been displayed in various premises and notice boards throughout the Parish.

090/03 Planning Matters

It was noted that Councillors Coulson and Guildford had an interest in the following applications.

Applications

Application No 928/1/167 (2)
Applicant Durham County Council
Proposal Regulation 3 Application for new Sports Hall and Arts Building (Revised Design)
Location Esh Parish Hall

The Clerk advised that planning permission had now been granted by Durham County Council. It was reported that several residents had attended the Council's Development Control Committee to listen to the debate on the application. See also under minute 108/03.

No SL/1/2003/0539/DMFP
Applicant Chief Constable
Proposed Provision of Police Training facilities and dog kenneling utilising existing buildings and grounds at the former Compass Caravan factory
At Riverside Industrial Estate, Langley Park (letter attached)

A copy the Clerk's file note on the visit to the Harperley Hall Dog Training Centre had been attached to the Agenda.

It was reported that the application had now been approved by Derwentside District Council. A copy of the planning permission certificate was awaited.

091/03 Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk had circulated an invitation to a Conference on this topic on Saturday 20th September 2003. Two Councillors had expressed an interest in attending the Conference. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council should consider possible accreditation, as a Quality Parish Council, given the potential benefits. This would be subject to certain criteria, including the Clerk being suitably qualified. However the Clerk stated that he had now reached a point where he would like to reduce his existing workload. In the circumstances it was agreed that a Special Meeting should be called to discuss Quality Parish Councils, the Clerk's future role and, at the request of Cllr Coulson, the end of funding for the Intermediate Labour Project on 17th October 2003.

092/03 Reports

a) Parish Transport Working Group

The Clerk advised that a further meeting had been held to discuss this matter (see note for the file attached) and that the Monitoring Officer had agreed that Cllr Geany could conduct the additional work required, on a 'no fee basis', but with her out of pocket expenses being paid by the Parish Council. Although Cllr Geany was not present at the Meeting she had contacted the Clerk to advise him that her main input into the further report should begin next week and hopefully would be completed by the date of the October 2003 Meeting.

c) www site

The Clerk reported that a local website deeplinking into the Council's website. Whilst there were no objections to a link to the Parish Council's home page deeplinking should not be taking place as there was a potential infringement of the Parish Council's copyright.

In particular one of the files had been lifted and framed in such a way as to appear as part of another website.

It was agreed that a suitably worded letter should be sent to the site operator stating that whilst there was no objection to a link to the Council's home page deeplinking should not take be allowed.

d) Parish, District and County Councillor reports

Parish Council

ii) Request received from the Director of Cultural Services, on behalf of Age Concern, to use the Parish Room for a Benefits Session.

The session had been arranged for 12th September 2003 and had been advertised on the Parish Council's website and on posters displayed in various places throughout the Parish.

iii) Esh Leaves July 2003 delivered mid July 2003. Clerk's action in awarding £10 prize for the Wordgram was confirmed. It was agreed that prizes should be awarded in future for Wordgrams.

e) District Council

A letter of condolence had been sent to Mr. T. Taylor, who had asked, amongst other things, if a seat could be dedicated to his father (the former groundsman of 'the Rec').

g) Community Association

Cllr Coulson advised that work was nearly finished in connection with the new central heating system in the Church Street Community Centre, although it could be up to three months before gas was connected into the premises. In the circumstances it was agreed that it might be necessary to hold future meetings in alternative premises until such time as the central heating system was operational.

101/03 CORRESPONDENCE

102/03 Participation Allowances

It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue with the arrangement that out of pocket expenses could be paid to Councillors carrying out official duties, outside the three mile limit, under the 'old system' which now lapses on 31st December 2003.

103/03 National Association of Councillors North of England Region

Quality Parish and Town Councils - Seminar 20th September 2003

See under Minute No 091/03 above.

104/03 BT - Proposed phasing out of PCO's K3731256 and K3731364, Langley Park, Co. Durham

Copy letter already circulated. It was agreed that as these two payphones were providing a social benefit, and could well be a vital link in an emergency situation, the Parish Council should object to them being phasing out.

105/03 Charity Commissioners - Annual Return and Trustee Detail Update 2003

The form required details of Trustees Date of Birth for completion by the Clerk. Those Councillors present provided the Clerk with details of their birth dates.

106/03 MINOR CORRESPONDENCE

Durham County Council

- i) County Durham Strategic Vision - Final Draft Vision and Proposed Next Steps
- ii) Local Government Review consultation meeting Saturday 16th August 2003
- iii) Boundary Committee review of local government in County Durham:
Help us to shape our proposals - see under minute No 089(11)/03.
- iv) Local Government Review of County Durham: Durham County Council's outline proposals
- v) County Treasurer's and Environment and Technical Services Department Operational Plans for 2003/04
- vi) Winter Service 2002/2004. Plan submitted showing pre salted areas (41% of carriageways)

Derwentside District Council

- vii) Community Plan
- viii) Standard Committee Representation
The Monitoring Officer had confirmed that the two Parish Councillors nominated at the Parish Liaison Meeting held on 17th July 2003 had now been elected on to the District Council's Standards Committee. The Parish Council's nomination had been unsuccessful on this occasion.
- ix) Ethical Standards Roadshows - 2003. Copy already circulated. No request were made to attend the Roadshow, particularly as a similar one had been held a few months ago at the Gala Theatre Durham, and which had been attended by several Parish Councillors.
- x) Charity Night Wednesday 19th November 2003

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- xi) Quality Parish and Town Councils Scheme - County Accreditation Panel
- xii) Minutes of Executive Meeting 4th June 2003
- xiii) 57th AGM - Saturday 1st November 2003
- xiv) Business Link

Other

- xv) ODPM - Consultation Paper on Indemnities for relevant Authority Members and officers
- xvi) Valuation Office - Non-Domestic Rating Rent Return
Form completed by the Clerk
- xvii) Audit Commission - Comprehensive Performance Assessment of Derwentside District Council
3rd – 7th November 2003 - questionnaire to be completed. No volunteers to complete the form.
Matter delegated to the Clerk.
- xviii) North East Regional Employers' Organisation - Durham County Training Partnership -
questionnaire completed.
- xix) Community News August 2003
- xx) Regional Seminar on Allotments 26th November 2003 - Newcastle
- xxi) Northern Rock News No 7
- xxii) DRCC AGM 16th November 2003, Manor House Hotel, West Auckland
- xxiii) DEFRA Rural Standards 2003
- xxiv) Alzheimers Society Memory Walk 21st September 2003
- xxv) City of Durham Local Strategic Partnership local venues 24th, 25th and 30th September 2003

107/03 PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that Councillors Coulson and Guildford had an interest in all the following applications.

Approvals

No FJC/1/2003/0574/DMFP
 Applicant Mr R. W. and Mrs T. Boyd
 Proposed Change of use of land to domestic curtilage
 At Land to rear of 16, 17 and 18 Maplewood Court, Langley Park

Applications

No SL/1/2003/0741/DMFP
 Applicant Mr S. Johnson
 Proposed Two storey side extension to incorporate garage
 At 16 Netherton Close, Langley Park

No CS/1/2003/0799/DMFP
 Applicant Mr M. Brennan
 Proposed Two storey side extension to include garage
 At 2 The Ferns, Hall Road, Esh

108/03 FOOTPATHS, ESH VILLAGE

Cllr Sands had asked that this item to be placed on the Agenda. Two sections of footpath in particular were of concern to local residents. The section between the Cross Keys and the old Police House above Consett Terrace. As a Public Utility had disturbed part of this footpath to carry out work, under the land, it is likely that it had not been properly re-instated. The second area of concern was between Esh and Esh Laude. Cllr Hiles stated that this should have been repaired within the third year of a rolling programme, but this had not been done. The Clerk to contact the Northern Area Office with a copy of any letter sent to be referred to County Councillor J. Armstrong.

109/03 FLOODLIGHT PROPOSALS FOR MULTI PURPOSE PITCH AT ESH C OF E SCHOOL

Cllr Sands said whilst planning permission had been granted, for both the new parish hall and the multi-games area, there was still some concerns, particularly the floodlighting proposals. Residents had asked for further plans to be made available to them on the floodlighting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain a copy of the floodlight drawings, together with a schedule of any terms and conditions that had been included in the planning permissions granted for both the parish hall and multi-use games area. Local members were thanked for their involvement in this case and in particular Cllr Crow for displaying the latest plans and drawings for the parish hall in the Post Office. It was also agreed that a short note should be included in Esh Leaves concerning the recent consultations carried out.

110/03 PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGE, FRONT STREET, LANGLEY PARK

The Clerk advised the Council that details of the proposed scheme had been posted on the Parish Council's website and copies of the relevant letter made available for display in two shops along Front Street. During that morning the Clerk had contacted the officer dealing with this matter, at the Northern Area Office, and had been advised that letters of consultation had been sent to residents living in Browney Court, and along Front Street, and to businesses near the proposed site, together with the surgery and nursing home opposite the site. Most residents in Browney Court had written to confirm their agreement to the proposals although two residents in Front Street were objecting to this scheme. Comments had been received from one business only in Front Street and the surgery/nursing home had raised no objections to the proposals. The Clerk also advised that he had received an email from a resident in Hawthorn Terrace supporting the proposed refuge.

It was clear that this was not going to be straightforward and in the circumstances it was agreed to defer any discussion until the closing date for comments had lapsed (12th September 2003) and a summary of the residents/businesses views mad known to the local County Councillor, together with the Northern Area Office recommendations for addressing the issues raised.

111/03 COMMUTED SUM FOR THE ERECTION OF 25 DWELLINGS AT WOODSIDE FARM, WOODSIDE TERRACE, LANGLEY PARK

The Clerk reminded the Council that as part of the planning permission received by Newton Moor Construction for residential development on this site the developers would contribute £7,500 to the District Council as a commuted sum for the lack of providing play facilities on the site. The Clerk suggested that the Council might wish to approach the District Council to release this sum to the Parish Council for either playground facility use or as a contribution towards any works to be carried out on the recreation ground. It was agreed that the Council should contact the District Council for the relevant sum to be released to the Parish Council for playground use.

112/03 PANTOMIME

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted two separate companies regarding a possible pantomime for the Christmas season. Chaplins Ltd., of Hainaut, Essex quoted between £585 and £610 plus vat for a Christmas pantomime and Jack Drum, Stanhope, quoted £400 for a performance of Little Red Riding Hood. It was agreed to engage Jack Drum for one show in Langley Park at a time and date to be agreed.

113/03 WINTER GRITTING

The Clerk had contacted Wharton Landscapes, who were prepared to carry out winter gritting on the same terms and conditions, including price, as for the 2002/2003 winter period. It was agreed to engage the services of Wharton Landscapes for the forthcoming winter season.

114/03 ANNUAL AUDIT

Clerk advised that the next Annual Audit (2002/03) would take place on 17th November 2003. It was agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, should appoint an internal auditor to check the books before they are submitted for the annual audit.

115/03 REPORTS

- a) Parish Transport Survey
See under 092a/03 above

b) EQUaL Partnership

Public Meeting to be held on 11th September 2003. Five Parish Councillors stated that they would be attending, although this would be in the capacity as residents of the Parish.

c) Parish Council Reports

d) District Council Reports

e) County Council Reports

Councillor Armstrong advised that four more dropped kerbs were to be provided in Langley Park. It was suggested that there might be a need for dropped kerbs in Esh, particularly as some of the residents were now in possession of mobile scooters.

f) Allotments

Annual inspection arranged for 6.15 Monday 15th September 2003. Request from Mr. K. Tallentire to allow Mr. A. Pinkney to co-tenant CF2. It was agreed.

116/03 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 14th October 2003, commencing at 7.00pm, at a venue to be arranged.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded for the remainder of the Meeting during consideration of the items listed below on the grounds that if they are present during the discussion of these items there could be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm