

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 9th March 2004 commencing at 7.00pm

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

Apologies:- Councillors S. Rothwell, H. Tyler and Durham Police

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and County Councillor J. Armstrong

023/04 POLICE REPORT

There being no Police presence the Chairman moved onto the next item. The Clerk was asked to contact the Police to ascertain if they would be attending the April Meeting as, if not, a written report should be obtained from them for presentation at the meeting.

024/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman of that meeting, Cllr A. Harling.

025/04 MATTERS ARISING

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Draft Management Plan

The Clerk advised that a letter was still awaited from the Durham Wildlife Trust to advise on the next stage of the Management Plan.

134/02 and 126/03 Environmental Improvements along Kaysburn Road

The Clerk's advised that whilst the majority of the work had been completed some remedial works were required. A site inspection had been arranged for Thursday 11th March 2004 by representatives from Durham Wildlife Services and Durham County Council.

060/03 Library Service

County Cllr Armstrong advised the Parish Council that a meeting had been arranged with representatives from the Community Association, and the County Council, on the possible use of the Church Street premises (one of the options under consideration).

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The Clerk advised that certain costings were still awaited from the County Council although suggested wording for the board (the historical inset) had been obtained from Durham Historical Enterprises.

090/03 Esh Parish Hall

Cllr Armstrong advised that demolition work was continuing on the old Parish Hall. He said that work could start soon on the multi use games area next to the Esh C of E School.

105/03 BT Payphones

The Clerk advised that BT had offered to attend a future Council Meeting to discuss their payphone rationalisation programme. Whilst it was agreed not to take up this offer the Clerk should stress to BT the need to keep payphones open in the more socially deprived or remote areas. In the meantime BT had confirmed that they would be reinstating the payphone near 27 Park Drive, Langley Park.

110/03 Proposed Pedestrian Refuge, Front Street, Langley Park

County Cllr Armstrong advised that work was due to commence in June 2004.

111/03 Commuted Sum for the erection of 25 dwellings at Woodside Farm, Woodside Terrace Langley Park

Reply still awaited from the District Council re application of the commuted sum.

114/03 Annual Audit

The Clerk advised that notices had been displayed in the noticeboards at Esh and Quebec, and in the Langley Park Post Office and the Parish Room for nearly 4 weeks (2 weeks longer than the period required by the District Auditor). No comments had been received from any residents in these areas.

119/03 and 132/03 Appointment of a new Clerk

The Clerk advised that the post would be advertised in Esh Leaves, the Northern Echo and the Durham Advertiser. Details of the proposed short listing and interview dates had been circulated to Councillors.

131/03 Playgrounds

The Clerk advised that Mr Cassidy should be commencing his monthly site inspections this week.

156/03 Allotment Rents 2004

From the letters sent to the top 10 names on the Waiting List re the vacant allotments four residents were interested in renting a site. A further letter had been sent to the remaining 6 names on the Council's list. Prospective tenants had been advised on the question of corrugated sheets on some of these sites – see Minute no 029/04 below.

157(a)/03 Parish Reports

Winter Gritting

Cllr Cummings requested a salt box for East Clere. Cllr Armstrong agreed to consider this request. The Clerk to contact Cllr Armstrong with the details.

Esh Leaves

The next edition should be delivered during the following weekend and early part of the next week.

160/03 Budget 2004/05

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the District Council re the Parish Council's Precept for 2004/05.

001/04 Speeding in the Parish

The Clerk advised the Council that although he had written to the Chief Inspector, Durham Constabulary, for a copy of the Authority's Traffic Management Policy, on speeding and speed cameras, he had not yet received a reply. Cllr Armstrong said that he would raise the matter with the Chairman of the Police Committee. The Clerk to forward a copy of his letter to Cllr Armstrong.

Cllr Harling referred to a recent front page article in the Daily Telegraph on the use of speed cameras which included a quote from the Durham Chief Constable that "there was not a single location in the county where cameras would be useful in tackling road safety problems."

It was agreed that that if the Chief Constable was not prepared to introduce speed cameras, anywhere in the County, then perhaps other "physical measures" should be considered. Various suggestions were made including speed visors, chicanes, refuges and narrowing roads at strategic locations in the Parish, including Esh and Quebec.

Following considerable discussion on the matter it was agreed that Cllr Armstrong should convene a meeting with the relevant officers at Durham County Council, together with the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk, to discuss the options and invite officers to prepare some costed schemes for consideration by the Parish Council. It was also noted that the County Council should have some recent traffic speeding figures in the area which might assist with the deliberations.

Cllr Tyler suggested that this might be a suitable item for a future meeting of the Derwentside Parish Liaison Committee.

022/04 Request for Donation – Finchale Training College

Letter sent to the College as per decision taken at the previous Meeting.

026/04 CORRESPONDENCE

a) County Durham and Cleveland Training Partnership.

Invitations received to various Training Days for The Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme.

It was agreed that the Clerk, Clerk Designate (if appointed by then), the Chairman and one other to be authorised to attend the seminar on Tuesday 4th May 2004 in County Hall, Durham.

b) Durham County Council – acknowledgement of entry to Environment Awards 2003.

c) From the Clerk to all Councillors on:-

(i) The latest guidance note for the Code of Conduct – Register of Interests.

(ii) Derwentside District Council – Community Safety Forum on 5th March 2004.

d) Zurich Municipal – final report on the 1999 Incident.

e) County Durham Care – requesting list of Councillors for future mailing. Agreed that any such correspondence should be addressed through the Clerk.

f) Allotments Regeneration Initiative Spring Newsletter 2004.

g) The Standards Board for England – Consultation Document on the Local Investigation of allegations of Misconduct.

h) npower – freezing charges on garage to November 2005. Agreed if the tenant has no objections.

i) Report received on the County Council's Consultation Event in Murton on 14th October 2003.

j) Launch of Derwentside Community Strategy – 31st March 2004, Lamplight Theatre, Stanley.

l) Letter from the Executive Director, Derwentside District Council to all Parish Clerks re consultation on the housing provision or services provision to residents of social housing. It was agreed that any matters of this nature should be dealt with through the District Council Parish Liaison Meetings

027/04 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Applications

No FJC/1/2004/0097/DMFP

Applicant D. Oliver

Proposed Utility Room extension

At Whitfield House, Esh

No objections subject to adjacent owners being consulted.

No LS/1/2004/0138/DMFP
Applicant Mr J. Wilson
Proposed Two storey rear extension
At 25 Quebec Street, Langley Park

As no details were available it was agreed to note the application and to request the Planning Officer to consult with adjacent occupiers and to take their views into consideration.
The following additional application was considered.

No CS/1/2004/0171/DMFP
Applicant Mrs J. Kibby
Proposed Two storey extension to side
At The Old House, Clifford House, Quebec

As comments were required prior to the next Meeting it was agreed to leave any comments to the Clerk and Chairman in consultation with the local Members. The Clerk to obtain detailed plans from the Planning Officer for display in Esh Post Office.

029/04 CORRUGATED SHEETS ON ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that one of the tenants on the ED Allotments had contacted him re corrugated sheets (mainly cement based) on his site. Following discussions with the District Council's DSO the Clerk had been advised that whilst the sheets should be harmless, unless broken. However, if lying loose, they should be removed by a specialist Contractor to an approved location. TUC Plant Hire, Tantobie, were recommended and it was possible that the DSO might allow free use of one of their appropriate skips. In order to remove all known similar items from the ED and CF sites the Clerk had written to every tenant to ascertain if any other loose lying sheets needed to be removed. To date 2 other tenants had contacted the Clerk although it was known that there were a few sheets on some of the Council's vacant allotments.

The Clerk had arranged a site inspection by TUC Plant Hire on Thursday 11th March 2004, together with the Chairman, to inspect the sheets which needed to be removed. The Clerk advised that although there might not be a large number of sheets involved, the cost could be in the region of £350 to £400.

The Clerk's action was confirmed and it was agreed that TUC Plant Hire should be commissioned to carry out the necessary work subject to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, agreeing a price with the Contractor.

030/04 REPORTS

a) Parish

The Clerk gave a brief report on the latest Derwentside Parish Liaison Committee attended by him, the Chairman and Cllr Tyrie. Amongst the matters discussed was the question of general maintenance in the closed church yards. The main problem being the poor state of many of the headstones and the potential Health and Safety issues which might arise in allowing workers, and the public, accessing these sites.

The Clerk referred to a letter from the District Council to one of the Church Authorities on the matter.

It was agreed to forward this letter to Councillors.

The Clerk said that he had the impression that the District Council might re-enter these sites this year to carry out some maintenance work. However this remains to be seen.

b) District

Cllr Coulson referred to various Housing matters including Decent Home Standards and discussions on Arms Length Housing Companies.

Cllr Tyrie referred to a recent increase in the Right to Buy purchases, Tenancy Enforcements and discussions concerning a possible 70,000 square feet Business Centre in Langley Park.

Cllr Cummings congratulated the District Council on limiting their rate increase to 2.5%.

c) County

In addition to the matters raised earlier at the Meeting Cllr Armstrong reported on the following:-

- a) Works to the cemetery turning area have now been completed. He considered that the work had been completed to a high standard.
- b) The speed visors to be used for a trial period near Stringer Terrace.
- c) A letter had been received from a resident in Garden Avenue, Langley Park, re poor state of part of the road opposite 17 to 27 Garden Avenue, Langley Park. Cllr Armstrong said that he would obtain a price to carry out any remedial works required and report back to the Council. He did however enquire if the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute towards this work. The matter was not debated.

d) Complaint received from a resident living near Quebec Village Green re grass cuttings blocking the ditch adjacent to the road leading from Slaters Garage down to the Fold. Cllr Armstrong enquired who cut the grass. He was advised that the County Council could be responsible for cutting this area.

d) EQUaL Partnership

EQUaL Partnership Play Group

The Clerk circulated a copy of a public notice provided by EQUaL's Consultants (ERS) re the public event arranged for Saturday 20th March 2004, 10.30am to 1.30pm at the All Saints Youth Centre. The Clerk had also asked to be advised on any changes to the original draft proposals as the Council's Insurers should be kept fully informed in case it had any bearing on the original quotes provided by them.

e) 092/03 Parish Transport Working Group

Meeting arranged with Steve Lockwood and Chris Graham from the Public Transport Section, Durham County Council to discuss the Parish Transport Grant with the Group. It was agreed that some consideration should be given to improving the bus service within Langley Park.

031/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 13th April 2004, following the Annual Assembly which commences at 7.00pm.

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 10.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm