

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon, (Chairman), R. A. Bowyer, C. Bloor, G. Coulson (from item 058/04), F. Crow, H. Guildford (from item 058/04), A. Harling (from item 055n/04) A. Hiles, S. Rothwell, M. Sands and W. Tyrie (from item 058/04)

Apologies:- Councillors M. D. Cummings, J. Geany, K. Robson, M. and H. Tyler

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk)

### **077/04 POLICE REPORT**

In the absence of the Police the Clerk gave the following information received via email from the Police:-  
"Esh

Motor vehicle broken in to and radio stolen at Green Court.

The MARC vehicle was in Esh village today. I am aware that vehicle speed and congestion are annoying residents, it is hoped that during the summer break the building work will progress but the problem may return in the new term.

The Police will endeavour to address this issue with the schools and motorists.

#### Langley Park

An all night party held at an address in Middridge Road, resulted several youths being responsible for thefts of milk from doorsteps, and newspapers tampered with at Londis. Their details were obtained as were that of the owner of the house where the party took place. Positive police action has been taken.

Two shop premises have had property stolen from within. One shop was insecure when an unknown person has entered via the open rear door. The rear door of the other premises was forced open (the door was locked but not very securely).

A purse was stolen from the staffroom of the Co-op, Esh Terrace. The suspect was recorded on the shop CCTV. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the offender.

A car was broken in to at Garden Avenue and the CD player stolen.

Damage to a car in Dale Street where paintstripper was poured over the roof.

Graffiti to the Community Transport building. Neil Gregory is aware of the police proposals in relation to Identifying the offenders.

A sneak-in theft occurred at Rutherford House doctors surgery on 12/7/4 during which a staff members handbag was stolen.

#### Quebec

Theft of motor vehicle from Front Street.

Two males were disturbed committing burglaries at Front Street and Aged Miners cottages, Quebec on the previous night.

The horse box at Quebec has finally been moved."

### **078/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2004**

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting that Cllr A. Harling was in attendance and Cllr S. Rothwell gave a late apology.

### **079/04 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES**

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

The Clerk's advised that a final account had now been received from the Contractor. The total cost to the Parish Council was around £750, some £250 less than the original budget.

#### 064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The board had been ordered and delivery awaited.

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

Contact now made by the District Council who asked for further information.

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

The Clerk advised that satisfactory checks had now been obtained for Mr Smith. It was still intended that he commence duties on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2004.

#### 030d/04 EQUaL Play Group

The Clerk had that day received an email setting out details of possible premiums for the proposed improved and new play areas for the Parish. He gave a few examples of these (approx prices only) as follows but suggested a more detailed note should be presented to the Council when he had received a quotation from the Council's contractor for carrying out the type of inspections required by the Zurich.

## PL Premiums

Junior Play Area - £190

Skate Area - £700

Toddlers Play Area - £175

## All Risks

Junior Play Area - £ 590

Skate Area - £350

Toddlers Play Area - £400

All quotes plus IPT

## 033/04 Seats on Esh Village Green

The Clerk advised that work should start shortly on repainting the seats.

## 037d/04 PPP Applications

Bid now made including works in the Rec and Quebec.

## 041d/04 Parish Transport Grant

The Clerk advised that the first 50% of the grant had been received from the Countryside Agency. The first progress report was awaited from the County Council.

## 042e/04 Training Seminar for all Councillors

Date now fixed – 7.00pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at the Parish Room.

## 055n/04 Special Meeting to discuss the future of the DAPTC

Meeting on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2004 in County Hall, Durham attended by Cllr Harling who gave a detailed report on the meeting including:-

- 1) Main points for QPC
- 2) 50 Council's applying (2 so far in Durham)
- 3) Electoral Mandate
- 4) Problems encountered by PC's
- 5) Training
- 6) Development Funds
- 7) Government response
- 8) Longer term initiatives
- 9) Challenges
- 10) Affiliation costs – low in the north. It was likely that the fees included in the main report to the Special Meeting would be adopted.

See report attached to the Council's copy of these minutes.

Cllr Harling was thanked for his detailed report following which it was agreed that this years fee amounting to £173.50 should be paid.

## 055/o/04 LGPS Regulations 1997 – changes to the Internal Dispute Procedure

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the County Treasurer that the Parish Council wished to appoint Mr Briscoe to act as Local Referee.

## 057/04 Hanging Baskets

The Clerk advised all but 3 brackets had been strengthened or replaced. The Council's contractor had indicated that he might not have the time to carry out the work on these brackets in the near future. If this was the case then Elite Builders would carry out the work for £25 plus vat. This was agreed.

In answer to a question raised at the previous meeting the Clerk advised that the cost of the baskets was £12.00 - the same as 2003.

## 058/04 Unaudited Accounts for 2003/04

A summary of the accounts had been included in Esh Leaves July 2004.

The District Audit had now called in the Councils accounts for 2003/04. This involved an opportunity for the public to inspect the accounts between 9<sup>th</sup> August 2004 and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

It was agreed to invite Mrs J. Brown from Langley Park to carry out an internal audit on the Council's accounts.

## 059a/04 Reports

### (ii) Esh Leaves

Next edition is now with the printers.

The Clerk had invited quotes from 3 printers to print Esh Leaves. Two replies had been received and the lowest by around 15% was Derwentside District Council (the Council's current supplier) and it was resolved to continue with their service. The price quoted was fixed until April 2005. As an example the cost of printing a 24 page edition was £719 compared with £825.

(iii) Development at the Board Inn

Email received from the Planning Enforcement Officer following a recent site meeting he had contacted the owners of the property seeking a retrospective planning application in respect of  
The extended Car Parking Area  
Storage Containers and Staff Rest Room  
Marquee  
Beer Garden & Play Area.

The Council would normally give a period of 28 days for the submission of application but as this one is more complex they may require a little more time to prepare it.

To date the Planning Officer had not received anything further although the General Manager at The Board Inn who informs me that an application is imminent and that they had engaged the services of an agent to handle it for them.

059c/04 Reports

v) County Linesmen

The Clerk advised that a response had been received from the County Council advising that the net cost to the Parish Council would be £11,850. This could be reduced if other Parish Councils were brought into the equation. It was agreed to take no action for the time being.

070/04 Proposed Stopping up of Highway at Hadrian Lodge, Esh

Details of the proposal had been circulated with the agenda. Some initial concern was expressed at the longer term proposals for the land, the land ownership (not owned by the County Council) and whether the land was Common Land.

The Clerk said that he had contacted the County Council to clarify whether the land was Common Land and had been advised that it was not. In the circumstances resolution 2 had been applied ie The Council would not raise any objection to the Stopping Up Order subject to the relevant Planning Authority, Derwentside District Council, being asked to consult the Parish Council on any planning application that might be made on the site in the future.

071/04 Reports

a) Parish

Letter sent out re bonfires on Allotments – one “complaint” which had been dealt with. Article included in the next edition of Esh Leaves.

74/04 Requests for Donation

(a) County Durham Education Fund

The Clerk confirmed that he had advised the Director of Education that his request had not been successful and that if an application was made in future it should be supported by a financial statement together with an indication of how many potential recipients lived within the Parish.

(b) All Saints Youth Centre

The Youth Centre had been advised of the Council’s decision and a response was awaited.

**080/04 CORRESPONDENCE**

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) New Planning System
- b) Annual General Meetings
- c) Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Durham County Council

- d) LGPC Circulars 156/157/158A
- e) Draft LGPS (Amendment No 2) Regulations 2004
- f) FRS 17 Information
- g) Information requested on part time employees
- h) Every Child Matters in County Durham
- i) Withdrawal of Planning Application for the erection of a fence at Langley Park Primary School
- j) The County Durham Access Directory – Spring 2004

Derwentside District Council

- k) Chairman’s Civic Service – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2004
- l) Development Control Committee 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004

Other

- m) Thank you letters from the County Durham Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted and the Goodwill Association (including offer of 2 free tickets)
- n) Deborah Events re use of photograph from the Council’s web site. A donation of £10 had been made by the company concerned and it was agreed that this should be passed on to the Esh Treat Fund organiser.
- o) Charity Commission Annual Return and Newsletter May 2004
- p) Research Solutions UK Ltd
- q) The Mineral Valleys Project Forum 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004

- r) Clerks and Councils Direct
- s) Community News June 2004
- t) Local Council's Review
- u) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority's Community Plan 2004/05
- v) Parish Liaison Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2004
- w) Zurich Municipal Community News
- x) CDCCTP – certificates of attendance by the Clerk and Mr G. Smith for attendance at a QPC seminar on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004
- y) Marine Conservation Society – Adopt a Beach
- z) The Allotments Summer Newsletter 2004

**081/04 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR**

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Cllr Cummings. She had indicated her intention to resign from the Council after nearly 20 years service. She had intended to finish at the turn of the year but did manage to attend one further meeting in March. As a result of poor health she had now asked that her resignation was accepted with immediate effect. The Council was sorry to lose Cllr Cummings services and it was agreed that she should be sent flowers in appreciation of all her hard work on the Council. It was also agreed to advertise the Casual Vacancy after the summer holidays in September.

**082/04 PLANNING MATTERS**

Councillors Coulson and Guildford declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the subsequent debate on all the following applications.  
Applications made to Derwentside District Council

No SL/1/2004/0370/DMFP  
Applicant R and T Quinn  
Proposed Conversion of barn to dwelling  
At Quarry House Farm, Wilks Hill, Quebec

No SW/1/2004/0491/DMFP  
Applicant Mr and Mrs Haydon  
Proposed Conservatory to rear  
At 32 East Clere, Langley Park

The above applications had already been considered under the delegated powers arrangements. No issues received from any Councillor excepting that adjacent owners should be consulted and their views taken into consideration by the District Council when considering each application.

No SL/1/2004/0496/DMFP  
Applicant Mr William & Mrs. M. Guymer  
Proposed Erection of single storey rear extension  
At Rutters Garth, Front Street, Esh

No objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration.

Cllr Crow declared an interest in the following item and took no part in any discussion on the item.

No SW/1/2004/0530/DMFP  
Applicant Mr and Mrs Wade  
Proposed Conservatory  
At 25 Front Street, Quebec

No objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration.

No SL/1/2004/0545/DMFP  
Applicant Mr. S. M. Hull  
Proposed Erection of two storey side extension to include garage  
At 29 Park Drive, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration.

No SW/1/2004/0551/DMFP  
Applicant Mr Edward Layton  
Proposed Conservatory to front  
At 24 D'arcy Street, Langley Park

If the proposal related to a possible extension over the adjacent open area then the Council considered that this would detract from the area and set an unacceptable precedent. It was resolved therefore to object to the proposal.

However should the application relate to an extension on the other side of the property then it was resolved to raise no objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration.

Late item  
No SW/1/2004/0591/DMFP  
Applicant Mary McMahan  
Proposed Change of use to garden land  
At Land to the south of 15 Maplewood Court, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into consideration.

Late item  
No SW/1/2004/0602/DMFP  
Applicant Mr D. Cowie  
Proposed Erection of one dwelling, stable/kennel block  
At Allotment land to the south of Wilks Hill, Quebec

Plans and drawings were put on display before the meeting for this application.

The Council gave careful consideration to the application and resolved to object to the application as Members were most concerned at the scale of the development and its potential intrusion into the countryside.

Cllr Hiles declared an interest in the following and left the Meeting whilst the item was considered by the Council.

Application made to Durham County Council

Regulation 3 Application

No 928/1/168 (2)  
Applicant Durham County Council  
Proposal Regulation 3 Application for new Multi Use Games Area with floodlights  
At Esh C of E School Primary School, Front Street, Esh

This matter was presented for consideration following the Open Meeting held at 6.30pm – report attached. For the benefit of those Councillors not present at the Open Meeting the Clerk gave a brief resume of the report. He advised that although it was possible that the current proposals might change it was understood that a further planning application might not be necessary.

Although the Council continues to have no objections to the MUGA it still has strong reservations on the proposed floodlighting arrangements. Whilst it was noted that the County Council is considering various lighting solutions it was agreed that a letter of support should be sent to the County Council stating that the floodlights should only be erected if they could be modified in such a way as meets with the approval of all the relevant parties.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council should give its full support to any approach to Sport England for the floodlighting to be deleted from the scheme bearing in mind the boundary constraints for this site and the potential environmental impact from the use of such lights.

One further suggestion was the possibility of using temporary floodlights, or roll up type lights, if such suggestions are feasible.

#### **083/04 REPORTS**

b) EQUaL Partnership

Cllrs Bowyer and Hiles gave a report on the recent meetings of the Partnership and that various bids had been made for funding towards the play areas in the Parish. In addition EQUaL had now achieved Charitable status.

c) Parish

Cllr Crow raised the following matters:-

(i) Seat opposite the Quebec play area destroyed by a car. The Clerk to make further investigations with the police and to consider the possibility of pursuing a claim through the Council's insurers. It was also resolved to acquire a seat similar to the one erected opposite the Village Hall and to contact the Gowland family on dedicating the seat to Mr and Mrs N. Gowland.

(ii) Request received for the Council to cut the grass near the bus shelter next to the play area. It was resolved to carry out a further cut.

d) District

Cllr Coulson referred to continuing vandalism to the old fire station premises, the recent pension advice sessions in the Church Street Community premises, the transfer of housing stock and the £3.4m earmarked for possible Business Centres.

e) County

In the absence of Cllr Armstrong the Clerk reported on the following:-

(i) Library facility

To be temporarily relocated in the former Fire Station subject to agreeing details with Derwentside College. This is whilst the feasibility study on the options is being carried out.

(ii) White Lining outside the Nursing Home and Drs Surgery

Objection received to be considered by Highways Committee

(iii) Urban Renaissance Programme

Funding available for possible traffic calming measures in Church Street and Stringer

Terrace and works associated with the proposed new library. Consultations to be carried out with the Parish and the EQUaL Partnership.

(iv) Zebra type crossing to be installed in Esh Village after completion of the St Michael's School for space for Sport and Art is completed.

#### **084/04 PREPARING FOR QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL ACCREDITATION – INITIAL EXPENDITURE**

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Clerk Designate should be commencing duties on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2004. It was acknowledged that he would need to join the SLCC's and have access to more update text books to equip him for commencing the AQA qualifications. It was agreed to allocate around £400 for these costs out of the Council's Training budget.

#### **085/04 QUOTATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2004/05**

Prices received from the County Council – very similar to 2003/04 – marginal increase only. Esh £ , Langley Park £, Quebec £ . It was agreed to accept these quotes.

#### **086/04 OFFERING WWW SERVICES TO OTHER COUNCILS**

In line with discussions at previous Parish Council Meetings the Clerk had contacted several other adjacent Councils in order to ascertain if any were interested in engaging the Council's services in designing and maintaining a web site.

#### **087/04 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT**

After receiving details of the financial statements (V64 - 86) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action for issuing any cheques in advance of the Meeting.

#### **088/04 ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE SUMMER RECESS**

It was agreed to give the Chairman and Clerk plenary powers during the recess.

#### **089/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004 commencing at 7.00pm.

#### **090/04 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS OF INTEREST**

There being no Members of the Public present the Chairman moved onto the next item on the Agenda

#### **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.

No confidential items raised on the agenda

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm