

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **PARISH ROOM, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 14th December 2004 commencing at 7.00pm **as amended at the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2005**

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon, (Chairman), R. Bowyer, A. Christie, C. Bloor, G. Coulson, A. Harling, A. Hiles, S. Rothwell, H. and M. Tyler (arrived late), and W. Tyrie

Apologies:- Councillors F. Crow, K. Robson, M. Sands, County Councilor J. Armstrong and Durham Constabulary

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk), G. F. Smith (Clerk Designate) and for part of the Meeting, One member of the public, Mr I. Dowson

081/04 CASUAL VACANCY

Following the election on 9th December 2004 the vacancy had been filled by Cllr Christie, who had now completed the relevant Declarations of Interest and Code of Conduct forms. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Christie to her first meeting.

134/04 POLICE REPORT

In the absence of PC C. Dover the Clerk read out an email sent to him on 12th December 2004.

"In the Derwentside Divisional Area, from the 10th November 2004 to the 12th December 2004, there were 2540 incidents requiring a police response. Of those, 121 were for the Esh Parish area.

There have been 2 fatal road traffic accidents on the A691. Also 1 serious RTA at the Lane Ends from Langley Park to Quebec. I cannot reveal any more details than that.

Ongoing youth annoyance in the village. I am preparing an operational order to commence after the new year which will focus on youth anti-social behaviour and under age drinking.

Numerous crimes of damage in the Finings Street/Clifford Street area. Further problems at Elm Street with damage.

There was a violent disorder at the Pizza shop on Co-op buildings. 4 persons arrested and bailed pending further enquiries.

A stolen van from Langley Street was seen in suspicious circumstances at Ushaw College. 2 police vehicles made an extensive area search, but there was no trace of the van.

2 Search warrants have been executed. Drugs and stolen property were recovered. Persons were arrested.

A disturbance at the Hamsteels Inn is resulting in a large protracted enquiry for various public order offences.

Reports of youths with air weapons in the village firing at windows. Youths stopped and spoken to. No names given for owner of weapon.

Damaged window at Langley Hardware. 1 name given to police and further enquiries by officers from the section office.

Theft of motor vehicle from Hall Road, Esh Village.

1 Bogus Official at Quebec Street. CID officers are dealing. Can I ask that if Cllrs speak to elderly residents advice be given in relation to not allowing people into their homes. If needs be then the police can be contacted to verify genuine officials details."

135/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting for the following matters raised by Councillor Tyrie.

Page 1

The attendance list was incomplete as it should have included the following:-

Cllrs Bowyer, K. Robson and H. Tyler.

Cllr Sands name should be deleted from the apologies list as she was in attendance at the Meeting Amend eternal to external at the foot of page 2.

Pages 5 and 6

Delete sub paragraphs d) and e) from under Cllr Coulson's report on Page 5 and add them under Cllr Tyrie's report on Page 6.

These amendments were accepted by the Council.

136/04 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES

Page 1

091/04 Police Report – Speeding

Response awaited from the Chief Constable although contact had been made by his office since the previous meeting.

082/04 Proposed MUGA at Esh C of E School

No progress to report

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

Final draft of the map board now agreed with the County Council.

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

The Clerk advised that the District Council's Chief Officer's Management Team was in the process of considering a report on the application of commuted sums before referring the matter to the Council's Scrutiny Panel.

058/04 Audited Accounts for 2003/04

A copy of the Auditors Certificate and a Summary of the Accounts had been displayed at various locations throughout the Parish – no comments received from any member of the public.

Page 2059a/04 Reports(ii) Esh Leaves

Delivered mid November 2004

083/04 Reportsb) Parish(i) Seat opposite the Quebec play area

Seat and plaque to be ordered for delivery in early 2005. Awaiting confirmation details from the supplier of the memorial plaque.

086/04 Offering www services to other Parish Councils

Contact has been made with the Clerks of Bearpark and Witton Gilbert Parish Councils. Awaiting confirmation of proposed visit to view www services.

094t/04 Parish Liaison Meeting 13th October 2004

See note attached to the Agenda.

098/04 Annual Pantomime

Arrangements finalised for a pantomime to be held on 18th December 2004. Helpers required on the day.

106/04 Funding for the Intermediate Labour Market

Funding not available from the County Durham Foundation – possible grants available from Awards for All and Coalfields Regeneration. Details passed to Cllr Tyler.

108/04 Garage roof

It was agreed to invite roofing contractors to register an interest in receiving tender documents for the work to the garage. It was anticipated that tender documents would be sent out by 11th January 2005 with a closing date of 21st January 2005. The successful contractor would be expected to complete the work within two weeks. It was hoped that the Durham County Council DSO would be able to provide temporary storage for the lights during the period of work and that satisfactory arrangements could also be made with the tenant regarding his vehicle and equipment.

085/04 Christmas lights

The 'switching on' ceremony at Langley Park took place as scheduled. It was noted the excellent work of the local schoolchildren in decorating the boards. It was hoped that similar decorated boards could be arranged for Esh and Quebec next year.

117/04 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – provisions for Play Areas

The Clerk Designate to clarify whether the Engineers report on the 2 active sites addressed any immediate work which might be required under those parts of the Act which became effective from 1st October 2004. See also under 141/04 Engineering Reports

Page 3124/04 Correspondence

- f) Mrs I Platt – tribute to Sir Bobby Robson, no further correspondence received.
- p) Youths allegedly smashing cars in the Anderson and Young compound. Awaiting a response from City Councils Planning Officer. Clerk Designate to report to next meeting.
- s) DCCTP training course – Freedom of Information Act 2000 held at Durham on 8th December 2004, Clerk Designate circulated a report at the meeting (report attached to the minutes).
- u) EQUaL PAT Business Plan
Response sent to EQUaL in accordance with the decision taken at the previous meeting

Page 5127/04 Seat in memory of Doreen Cummings

Seat and plaque to be ordered for delivery in early 2005. Awaiting confirmation details from the supplier of the memorial plaque.

128/04 Winter Gritting

Clerk Designate updated the meeting on the arrangements with Wharton Landscapes for winter gritting in Langley Park and Esh.

101/04 Derwentside District Council Contribution 2005/06

In response to a request by Derwentside District Council for information on the Parish Council's services which might overlap with the District Council's a detailed reply had been made.

Before moving onto the item on **CORRESPONDENCE** the Chairman sought permission to adjourn the meeting to enable Mr Dowson to address the Council on two matters. This was agreed.

137/04 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr Dowson sought clarification on the Council's playground fund for new equipment, which he understood had been recently reduced from £20,000 to £16,000. He was advised that the existing balances stood at just over £20,000 and that the Parish Council continued to support EQUaL and its play area initiative. Mr Dowson then spoke about the work of the Langley Park Community Group and their efforts to raise funds for play initiatives. He mentioned a possible scheme which could transfer any insurance obligations on the Council's play areas to a third party although no actual details were mentioned at the meeting. Mr Dowson was seeking funding towards his Group's work but was reminded that if this was the case he would need to make a formal request, in writing, with the relevant financial details.

Mr Dowson then left the meeting
The Chairman reopened the Meeting

138/04 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) Fear of Crime – Contributions required for submission to Scrutiny Working Group
- b) List of Members 2004/05
- c) Standards Board for England – Local Investigations and Guidance for Members
- d) Freedom of Information Act
- e) 58th AGM

Durham County Council

- d) Closure of Butsfield Civic Amenity Site
- e) Winter Salting Routes

Derwentside District Council

- f) Database Renewals – November 2004
- g) Development Control Committee 9th December 2004

Other

- h) ODPM – Survey of Allotment Gardens
- i) MacMillan Cancer Relief. Thank you letter re donation in memory of Doreen Cummings
- j) Wicksteed Leisure – Safety Grass
- k) Premier – Environmental Report 2003
- l) Standards Board for England Guidance for Monitoring Officers and Standards Committee
- m) Standards Board for England Guidance – Lobby Groups, dual-hatted members and the Code of Conduct. Copies circulated to all Councillors.
- n) Watson Burton – Application for transfer of Justices Licence for the North Eastern Coop
- o) Planning Aid North
- p) Charity Commission – Issue 21 newsletter
- q) National Probation Service – Enhanced Community Punishment
Agreed to invite the Placements Officer to Meeting of the Parish Council in early in the new year
- r) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority – Integrated Risk Management Plan
- s) Consultation on Private Finance Initiative to develop – New Community Fire Stations and a regional Life Skills Centre
- t) Gateshead Council – Northumbria in Bloom 2005 – Children's Calendar Painting Competition.
Details to be sent to the 3 local Schools.

139/04 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors Coulson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the subsequent debate.

No CC/1/2004/0986/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs S. Schofield
Proposed Erection of garage
At Plot 3 Garage site, Esh Hillside, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account when the application is considered by the District Council.

No CC/1/2004/0998/DMFP
Applicant P. Robinson
Proposed Erection of garage
At Plot 10 Garage site, Esh Hillside, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account when the application is considered by the District Council.

No CS/1/2004/1023/DMFP
Applicant Mr P. Tallentire
Proposed Erection of porch at 2 Consett Terrace and replacement of existing porch at 3 Consett Terrace, Esh
At 2 and 3 Consett Terrace, Esh

No objection subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account when the application is considered by the District Council.

Cllr Hiles declared an interest in the following application.

No SL/1/2004/1034/DMFP
Applicant Mr D. Cowie
Proposed Erection of stable/kennel block and siting of temporary mobile home
At Allotment land to the south of Wilks Hill, Quebec

The Clerk advised the Council that this was a resubmission by Mr Cowie of the one considered by the Council at its September 2004 Meeting excepting that the applicant had submitted various documents in support of his application including an agricultural dwelling appraisal and business plan.

After careful consideration of the application the Council resolved to object to the application for the reasons stated at the September 2004 Meeting ie concern at the scale of the development and its potential intrusion into the countryside.

One further application was considered at the Meeting:-

No SW/1/2004/1080/DMTF
Applicant Derwentside District Council
Proposed Pruning of one ash tree
At Land to the north of 15 Netherton Close, Langley Park

The Clerk advised that this application involved the pruning of some lower branches. It was agreed not to raise any objection to this subject to the Landscape Officer at Durham County Council raising no objection to the application.

Whilst on the question of tree work Cllr Bloor raised the question of work recently carried out on various trees in Quebec Street, Langley Park

Other matters

- i) Enforcement action to be taken by Derwentside District Council re marquee erected on land adjacent to the Board Inn. Notice to take effect on 10th January 2005 and requires the work to be carried out within three months unless an appeal is made beforehand.
- ii) Copy of planning permission for the following
No SL/1/2004/0902/DMFP
Applicant Nomad Housing Group Ltd
Proposed Erection of 2 dwellings on land between 8 and 14 Park Drive and 11 dwellings between 40 and 54 Park Drive, Langley Park
At Land between 8 and 14 Park Drive and between 40 and 54 Park Drive, Langley Park

140/04 REPORTS

- A) E.Q.U.a.L. Partnership meetings
Newsletter circulated at the meeting, further funding required for the 3 play area initiatives at Esh, Langley Park and Quebec. The Executive had agreed to another liaison meeting to develop common ground between EQUaL and the newly formed Langley Park Community Group.

- B) Public Exhibition re proposed new static Library in Langley Park.
60+ people attended the exhibition throughout the day. 28 people were present at the evening meeting, voting – 27 in favour of option (i) converting the Church Street Community Centre and 1 in favour of option (ii) the new build option in the grounds of the former fire station. The overall voting, which was held throughout the day, had resulted in 44 in favour of option (i) and 4 in favour of option (ii).

The project had been recently approved by the appropriate Committee of Durham County Council. Within the scheme was an agreement for a financial contribution to Langley Park Community Association.

It was agreed that the accommodation requirements for the Parish Clerk and a Meeting Room needs to be resolved as soon as possible and that the Clerk should contact: _

- a) the Head Teacher at Langley Park Primary School re a possible room in the School and
- b) other possible options with Durham County Council.

C) Parish Council

The Clerk announced that the Parish Walk would take place on Sunday 2nd January 2005 starting at 12.45pm, usual meeting place.

D) District Council

Cllr Coulson reported the following:

- a) discussions were taking place with regard to Procurement policies and procedures.
- b) new licensing committee to be set up.

Cllr Tyrie

- c) Environment Scrutiny Panel considering the possibility of members being provided with computers
- d) the Business Support Unit has been nominated for Beacon status by the Advisory Panel on Beacon Councils
- e) It had been agreed that two sites in Langley Park (Park Close and Esh Hillside) should be sold to the Nomad Housing Group for the provision of affordable housing.
- f) The Trades Night Club had applied for a variation of its public entertainment licence seeking to vary its current operating times of 7.00pm to 2.00am except on Sundays to 7.00pm to 3.00am again except on Sundays.
- g) Derwentside PCT is now showing an interest in the Stanley Bus Station
- h) NOSP's are being serves on tenants failing to tidy their gardens
- i) Court action being taken for the recovery of council tax resulting in one bankruptcy and seven fines
- j) Free neutering and microchipping for dogs in certain areas within the District

E) County Council

On behalf of Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Coulson verbally reported:

- k) Progress with possible road crossing in Langley Park.
- l) Discussions taking place regarding parking bollards on footpaths at Langley Park.

141/04 ENGINEERING REPORTS FOR THE PLAY AREAS

The Annual Engineers inspection report for play areas at Esh and Quebec had been received, the following needs attention:

Esh

Siting of signage board

Improved impact surfacing under certain equipment

Repair to one leg of climbing frame

Recommended that a risk assessment is carried out to consider the potential dangers of those using the site due to no fencing being installed.

Quebec

Siting of signage board

Improved impact surfacing under certain equipment

Expose at regular intervals parts of the wooden climbing frame normally covered by earth and bark to allow for examination due to the prevalence of wet rot in equipment.

The fitting of suitable gate(s) to enclose the area is recommended.

Recommended that a risk assessment is carried out to consider the potential dangers to those using the site due to no fencing or gates being installed. Also the likelihood of an injury due to the rotating barrel having a blank fitted to the cylinder.

It was agreed for the Clerk Designate to report to the next meeting following his discussions with the Engineer and also the EQUaL Capacity Worker as their proposals might have a bearing on any work carried out by the Parish Council.

142/04 ALLOTMENT RENTS 2006

It was agreed that the allotment rents for 2006 would remain at the present level of £21 per annum commencing 1st January 2006.

143/04 EQUaL – OFFER FROM THE NATIONAL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION (NPFA)

The Clerk made reference to a letter from EQUaL which indicated that subject to certain commitments by a local Council (restrictive covenants on the land re future uses/deed gifting the land) it was possible that the NPFA might be prepared to insure the site on behalf of the Council. It was not known for how long the offer of insurance would last. As there were several outstanding queries relating to this type of arrangement it was agreed that further enquiries were necessary in order for the Parish Council to give the matter further consideration.

144/04 PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2005/06

Agreed:

- i) To defer discussions until January meeting. In the meantime the Langley Park Community Association to consider an application for funding arrangements for the IT worker through the Awards for All scheme.
- ii) That the Council should raise with the local MP the costs to the Parish Council of holding the recent by election (estimated at £3000) as if there are any further such elections in the near future this could have serious implications on the Council's reserves.

145/04 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

After receiving details of the financial statements (V191 – 220) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerks action for issuing any cheques in advance of the meeting.

146/04 REQUESTS FOR DONATION

- i) EQUaL - Play facility Bid. See copy letter attached to the Agenda
Cllrs Bowyer, Christie and Hiles declared in interest in this and left the room whilst a discussion took place.
Following considerable discussion on the matter it was agreed to donate £5102 to the EQUaL play facility bid to enable them to bid for further funding from BIFFA.
Voting was 7 in favour with 1 abstention.
Further discussion took place on which account the donation would come from. Members agreed to withdraw the amount (when required) from the Reserves Account and not the Commuted Sums Account.
Voting was 7 in favour with 1 abstention.
Cllr Bowyer, Christie and Hiles rejoined the meeting.
- ii) Esh Treat fund
A letter had been received from the organising committee informing the Parish Council of a short fall of £95 for this year's Treat.
Members agreed to:
 - a) donate £95 towards the Treat Fund.
 - b) The Clerk to write to the organising committee to inform them of the Parish Councils support for future donations towards the Esh Treat fund.
- iii) All Saints Youth Club
As no correspondence had been received from the Fund there was no discussion on the matter.

147/04 DONATIONS FOR SERVICES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

- i) Langley Park Primary School
Members agreed to donate £50 and a letter of thanks to the staff and pupils for the art work on the boards surrounding the Christmas tree at Langley Park.
- ii) St John Ambulance
Members agreed to donate £50 and a letter of thanks to the members of St John Ambulance who turned up at the switching on of the Christmas lights at Langley Park and also they will be represented at the pantomime on 18th December 2004.

148/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 11th January 2005 in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park commencing 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.