

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **PARISH ROOM, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 11th January 2005 commencing at 7.00pm

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon, (Chairman), R. Bowyer, A. Christie, C. Bloor, G. Coulson, H. Guildford, A. Harling, M. Sands and W. Tyrie

Apologies:- Councillors F. Crow, K. Robson, S. Rothwell, H. and M. Tyler and G. F. Smith (Clerk Designate)

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and Councillor J. Armstrong and for part of the Meeting

001/05 POLICE REPORT

The following matters were reported by PC Dover

TO FOLLOW FROM PC

Following this report various matters were raised with PC Dover including

Cllr Bowyer – 2 lads using motorised pedal scooters. The PC will speak to the youths concerned

Cllr Tyrie – tyre slashing incident. Although only 3 reported there had been several more incidents

Cllr Robson – fires and motor bikes in the Rec

General observations made re youth annoyance. Enhanced police presence in the area since Operational Order had been taken out on 15th December 2004 which lasts until February 2005.

002/05 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 14th DECEMBER 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting for the following matters raised by Councillor Guildford (a) Cllr Harling (b) and the Clerk (c) on Page 3 as follows:-

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

(a) The second line to read “.....reduced from £20,000 to £16,000.....”

(b) Following considerable debate on the matter, and noting the previous decision at the 9th November 2004 Meeting (Minute No 14/04x(ii) refers), it was agreed that the third line of this paragraph should read “...just over £20,000 and that the Parish Council continued to support EQUaL and its play area initiative...”

139/04 PLANNING MATTERS

(c) delete Cllr Guildford's name on line one

003/05 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES

Page 1

091/04 Police Report – Speeding

See item under Correspondence

082/04 Proposed MUGA at Esh C of E School

No progress to report

Page 2

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

Awaiting response from Derwentside District Council.

081/04 Costs of filling Casual Vacancy

Contact required with the local MP

083/04 Reports

(i) Seat opposite the Quebec play area

Now ordered

086/04 Offering www services to other Parish Councils

No progress reported

098/04 Annual Pantomime

The Clerk advised that around 60 people had attended the pantomime with some positive feedback from those present.

106/04 Funding for the Intermediate Labour Market

Application form from Awards for All with Cllr M. Tyler and other form awaited from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

108/04 Garage roof

The Clerk Designate advised that tenders were to be invited this week. The Parish Council's equipment is now in storage at the County Council's DSO Depot. As the tenant might need to temporarily store his vehicle and other items of equipment. If this became necessary it was agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to let a contract for the work required (estimated to be in the order of £1000 to £1500 and some form of licence fee rebate with the tenant.

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

Comments awaited from Derwentside District Council on the annual reports received from the Zurich Municipal Engineers.

124/04 Correspondence

- p) The Clerk Designate advised the Council that the cars had now been removed from the site concerned. Cllr Bowyer said that there was now a notice on the site advising that this was an overflow car park for customers of Anderson and Young.

104/04 Purchase of lap top computer

Now purchased and upgraded

127/04 Seat in memory of Doreen Cummings

Seat ordered

128/04 Winter Gritting

Arrangements now in place

Page 3

101/04 Derwentside District Council Contribution 2005/06

See under 157/04

138/04 Correspondence

- q) National Probation Service – Enhanced Community Punishment. Invitation sent to Mr S. Quinn, The Placements Officer to attend the February 2005 Meeting.
- t) Gateshead Council – Northumbria in Bloom 2005 – Children’s Calendar Painting Competition. Details sent to the 3 local Schools.

Page 5

140B/04 Alternative Parish Office accommodation

The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with the County Council re question of an alternative Parish Room once the existing rooms are required for the new library.

140C/04 Parish Winter Walk

The Clerk advised that 14 people had joined the walk, which had been followed by refreshments in the Parish Room.

Page 6

143/04 EQUaL – National Playing Fields Association Scheme

Details awaited from EQUaL. The Clerk Designate had been asked to contact the Clerk of Stanhope PC where a similar initiative might have been carried out.

146/04 Requests for a donation

- i) EQUaL - Play facility bid to BIFFA
Email sent to EQUaL confirming Councils offer
- ii) Esh Treat fund
Cheque for £95 sent to the organisers

147/04 Donations for services to the Parish Council

- i) Langley Park Primary School
Cheque for £50 sent to the Council
- ii) St John Ambulance
Cheque for £50 sent to the Council

004/05 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) Annual Assembly of Standards Committee 2005
- b) Travellers : Action to Safeguard Local Communities
- c) Environmental Information Regulations

Durham County Council

- d) Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997
- d) Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report
- e) Pension Fund Valuation – Local Government Pension Scheme – Town & Parish Councils
Current rate for employees 6%
Current rate for employers 255%
As from 1st April 2005 employees remain the same employers 285%
As from 1st April 2006 employees remain the same employers 310%
As from 1st April 2007 employees remain the same employers 335%
Projected impact on EPC
2005/06 + £200
2006/07 + £350
2007/08 + £520
- f) North East Assembly – Regional Consultation Event - County Hall – 6.00pm Thursday 27th January 2005

Derwentside District Council

- g) Parish Liaison Meeting 20th January 2005
- h) Development Control Committee 9th January 2005

Other

- i) Local Council Review
- j) Durham Constabulary – Speeding Traffic (copy letter attached)
Councillors expressed concern at the response and the Chief Constables reluctance to provide speed cameras. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chief Constable requesting him to review his decision in the matter.
See also under Minute No 06/05E
- k) Countryside Agency - Parish Transport Grant
The Clerk advised that he had asked the County Council Transport Section to fill in the forms received from the CA in connection with the second instalment of the grant awarded for the Service 767
- l) Partnership News Winter 2004 – Issue 27
- m) Northumbria in Bloom 2005
- n) Mr K. Wilson – Home & Garden Maintenance & Improvements

005/05 PLANNING MATTERS

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

No SW/1/2004/1049/DMFP
Applicant Mrs J. Kirby
Proposed Conversion of barn to form two holiday cottages
At The Old House, Clifford House Farm, Quebec, Durham

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

No SL/1/2004/1113/DMFP
Applicant J. Atkinson
Proposed Temporary permission for two bedrooms and full permission for retention of existing bathroom, tackroom and kitchen.
At Mill House Farm Equestrian Centre, Wall Nook, Langley Park

Cllrs Bowyer and Robson were concerned that this development might be a possible intrusion into the countryside and that the temporary use for part of the proposal might eventually become permanent. The Clerk advised that he had been unable to contact the Planning Officer to discuss this case but agreed to make further enquiries.

No SW/1/2004/1153/DMFP
Applicant Phil Wilks
Proposed Erection of second storey extension
At Redtiles Service Station, Kaysburn, Witton Gilbert

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

006/05 REPORTS

- A) EQUaL Partnership meetings
Dealt with under B) below
- B) Meeting between EQUaL and the Langley Park Community Group
Cllrs Bowyer and Christie reported on the meeting which had been most useful in enabling EQUaL to advise both the Group and others on progress with the 3 play areas under consideration. It was noted that there were various financial and legal issues which could arise and it was hoped that the District Council could offer some assistance with this.
The Clerk also advised the Council of an offer by the Capacity Worker to address the Council on the work to date on the play areas. It was agreed to invite Mr Bradshaw to make a presentation at 6.30pm on the date of the next Meeting, Tuesday 8th February 2005.
Cllrs Bloor, Christie, Guildford and Robson declared an interest in the following item
- C) Meeting re Langley Park Primary School Travel Plan
A copy of a report prepared by the Clerk Designate on the meeting was circulated at the Meeting. Reference was made to the problems created by the fence, erected along Hospital Road, which had cut off a route previously used by children traveling to the School from the western side of the fence. Instead of walking to School some of the children were now being taken by car.

Cllr Guildford referred to the need for a Lollipop Lady but despite adverts in the local press no one had been appointed. The Clerk suggested that an advert be inserted in Esh Leaves.

D) Parish Council

(i) Absentee Councillor

The Clerk advised the Council that Joan Geany had missed attending any meetings for 6 months and following advice received from the District Council the seat would have to be declared vacant. Although there were some exceptions non applied in this case as no formal request to extend the period of absence had been made, in writing, for consideration by the Council within the 6 month period. The Clerk said that he had spoken to Joan Geany to advise her of the situation.

It was agreed to include an item on the February agenda for the Casual Vacancy.

(ii) Parking in Hall Road, Esh

In light of the various complaints received re non residents or their visitors using or parking their vehicles in Hall Road it was agreed to contact the County Council re a notice on the Public Footpath notice warning unofficial users of the road and also to place one on the Green stating that this was a private road and that no parking should take place

E) District Council

Cllr Tyrie reported on the following:-

- a) The Trades Night Club request for a variations on hours had been refused.
- b) Derwentside District Council introducing a no smoking area on all its property including playingfields.
- c) Right to Buy sales still proceeding
- d) The PCT has shown an interest in purchasing the Stanley Bus Station
- e) Planning permission has been granted for the 4 wind turbines at High Hedleyhope Farm
- f) Planning permission has been granted for the erection of the stable/kennel block at Wilks Hill. The temporary mobile home element was withdrawn at the last minute by the applicant.
- g) Changes in the refuse collection service.
- h) Esh Ward CCTV. Cllr Tyrie had responded to the System Integration Manager and had suggested (i) the junction of Front Street and Quebec Street (ii) Langley Park Hotel and (iii) near the junction of Low Moor Road and the Crescent and (iv) the junction of Front Street and Eastern Avenue.
- i) Fly tipping – the amount collected between April to September 2003 was 1558 tonnes, whereas the amount collected between April to September 2004 was 2359 tonnes. In addition the amount of bulky household effects collected had dropped since the introduction of a £10 charge for the collection of more than 3 items in 2002.
- j) Prohibition of alcohol in public places - Dipton

Cllr Coulson:

- a) Esh Ward CCTV. Suggestions re possible sites for Esh Ward required as soon as possible. four sites to be suggested but only 3 can be provided. Various sites had been mentioned including (i) on top of the old Fire Station giving possible cover to the Drs Surgery, Lambton Street and to the rear of the Community Centre (ii) outside the Baptist Chapel in Front Street (iii) near Londis and (iv) in the vicinity of Eastern Avenue.
It was agreed to authorise the District Councillors to represent the Parish Council's views in suggesting sites to go out to consultation.
Cll Armstrong said that he would see what he could organise re any possible improved street lighting which might be required in any of the finally agreed locations.
- b) Fly tipping – dedicated hot line to report any flytipping – 0191 3835595. It was suggested an article is included in Esh Leaves on fly tipping.
- c) Green bag collection scheme

E) County Council

Cllr Armstrong reported the following:-

- a) Temporary library facilities in the old fire station premises – terms with the Solicitors
- b) New library facility
- c) Double yellow lines now marked out in Front Street near the Nursing Home
- d) Speeding – draft calming proposals being costed up before the matter is taken out to consultation – possible article for Esh Leaves

007/05 ALLOTMENT ED 58 – REQUEST FOR CO-TENANCY AND CREATION OF LAYBY

It was agreed to permit the co-tenancy but to review the request to create a lay by until report had been prepared on the number and position of other laybys along this track.

008/05 COMBINED LOCAL COUNCIL POLICY – REVIEW OF COVER

It was agreed that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, should review the appropriate cover before the next premium was due (26th January 2005). It was also agreed that as the Quebec play area could be upgraded in 2005 the Council should delete the play items from cover (not the public liability element).

009/05 DONATION TO TSUNAMI EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

The Clerk advised that he had been advised by the Secretary to the Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) that Parish Councils were not empowered to make financial contributions towards an appeal of this nature. The Clerk also advised that within the last 3 days there had been a great deal of press coverage on this topic and confirming the advice received from the DAPTC. Although not able to make a financial contribution Cllr Bloor raised the possibility of the Council “twinning” with one of the areas affected by the earthquake. The Clerk to make further enquiries.

010/05 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

After receiving details of the financial statements (V221 – 247) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerks action for issuing any cheques in advance of the meeting.

011/05 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 8th February 2005 in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm. The Meeting to be preceded by a presentation from EQUaL on the play area initiative at 6.30pm.

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

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm