

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **CONFERENCE CENTRE, USHAW COLLEGE** on Tuesday 8th March 2005 commencing at 7.00pm

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon (Chairman), C. Bloor, F. Crow, A. Christie, G. Coulson, H. Guildford, S. Rothwell, M. Sands, M. Tyler, H. Tyler and W. Tyrie

Apologies:- Councillor A. Harling and Councillor J. Armstrong

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk), G. F. Smith (Clerk Designate) and PC Dover for part of the Meeting

028/05 POLICE REPORT

PC Dover reported on various matters which are summarised in the following Email received from PC Dover I'd like to introduce a walkabout scheme to the councillors and residents of Langley Park. In essence, the purpose of the Walkabout is to identify, discuss and implement a joint strategy to overcome local issues. Persons will accompany me on my beat patrols to identify these issues. Persons can contact me via the usual means to put their name forward. Any volunteers?

As may have been seen in the Durham Advertiser, a joint operation with DVLA officers has been launched. The purpose was to identify vehicles that were not displaying tax discs and unroadworthy vehicles. As a result of this, four motor vehicles were seized and 20 persons reported for various offences.

In the period between the last and current Parish meetings, there were 2229 incidents reported for the Derwentside Policing area, of which 142 were for the Esh Parish area. Due to the wintry conditions we've recently encountered, a significant increase was noted in youth related incidents ie snowballing. This was the trend throughout the county.

A sizeable amount of Class A drugs were recovered from a M/V on the 4th March. 1 person was arrested and enquiries are ongoing.

There was an attempted dwelling house burglary in Maplewood Court, Langley Park. The offender scrambled onto a porch roof and attempted to gain entry via an open bathroom window. The suspect has kicked over a vase and has alerted the occupant whom in turn has contacted the police. Unfortunately there were no witnesses, nor forensic evidence available. The enquiry cannot be progressed at this stage. Numerous thefts from M/V's have been referred to our TIU (Telephone Investigation Unit) due to a lack of witnesses and forensic evidence. This method of crime recording is more convenient for the Injured Party. A M/V was damaged in Bridgeway, Langley Park. There were no witnesses to the offence and no forensic evidence was available.

There has been an increase in criminal damage within the village. Most notably in the Quebec Street area. Chapel Studios and the telephone kiosk are the main targets. Witnesses are available and 1 youth has already been arrested for one of the incidents.

An incident of disorder was reported at the Red Tiles garage in Kaysburn. Officers attended and one male was arrested for drunk and disorderly.

2 off road motor cycles have been seized by myself. 1 in the 'Rec' and the other on the 'Line' at the entrance to the village. Our Off Road motorcycle team are now conducting covert patrols of these areas. If you are aware of specific problem times, please contact me so I can forward them on.

The youth club has been the victim of 2 offences. Criminal damage and a burglary. Owing to its location, there are no witnesses and no further enquiries possible.

As a result of icy weather, a road traffic accident took place at the entrance to Middridge Road. The driver suffered a suspected broken collarbone. Enquiries are ongoing.

Several items have appeared on Ebay, which may be stolen property from the Langley Park area. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the seller.

The Chairman thanked PC Dover was thanked for his attendance and then left the Meeting.

029/05 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 8th FEBRUARY 2005

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting for one minor amendment on Page 5 – (iv) to read Stanley Bus Station – work should finish in October 2005.

030/05 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES

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138/04 Address by Mr S. Quinn Placements Officer, The National Probation Service

The Clerk and Clerk Designate had met with Mr S Quinn, National Probation Service, to discuss the tidying up of the Recreation Ground Langley Park. The work could be completed by the service over a weekend. Members agreed for the work to be carried out by offenders on community service hours supervised by Officers of the National Probation Service. It was also agreed to allocate £250 - £300 to cover the costs of hiring skips and purchasing equipment (ie protective overalls and gloves).

082/04 Proposed MUGA at Esh C of E School

No progress to report

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

The Clerk advised the Council the board had now been delivered and was being stored at County Hall. It was agreed that it would be advisable to delay installation until the CCTV camera was in place. It was also agreed that the matter should be reviewed if there was any major delay in the camera being installed.

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

The Clerk advised the Council that he had now received a response from Nick Raynsford, Minister for Local and Regional Government, via Hilary Armstrong MP, indicating that whilst District Councils were responsible for election costs under Section 36(5) of the Representation People Act 1983 they may require the relevant Parish Council to reimburse such expenditure.

It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for an item to be placed on the agenda of the next Meeting of the District and Parish Liaison to consider this matter further.

083/04 Reports

(i) Seat opposite the Quebec play area

The seat has been delivered (including engraved plaque), awaiting service details from the Public Utilities. Family members to be contacted re possible dedication. Clerk Designate to report to the next meeting.

124/04 Correspondence

- p) Clerk Designate has spoken to a member of the Planning team regarding the use of land for the parking of vehicles. Awaiting response. Clerk Designate to report to next meeting.

127/04 Seat in memory of Doreen Cummings

The seat has been delivered (including engraved plaque), awaiting service details from the Public Utilities. Family members are to be contacted re possible dedication ceremony. Clerk Designate to report to the next meeting.

140b/04 Alternative Parish Office accommodation

Contact awaited from Durham County Council

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143/04 EQUaL – National Playing Fields Association Scheme

Details awaited from EQUaL and Stanhope Parish Council.

D) Parish Council

(ii) Parking in Hall Road, Esh

Quote received from NJC Wrought Iron. Order placed awaiting installation date.

008/05 Combined Local Council Policy – review of cover

Revised premium received from the Zurich Municipal – details on the Financial Statement

009/05 Tsunami Earthquake Appeal

The Clerk to discuss any possible twinning with the Head Teacher at Langley Park Primary School.

k) Countryside Agency (CA) – Parish Transport Grant. 90% of original grant now received. 10% retained by the CA until the end of the project.

017/05 Correspondence

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) Travellers: Action to Safeguard Local Communities.
Correspondence noted

- d) Clerks Salary Award 2005/06.
Item deferred a later Meeting

Durham County Council

- i) County Durham Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Key Issues Paper.
Cllr Christie gave an outline of the Key Issues Paper. It was agreed to consider the matter further
When the Statement of Community Involvement had been released for consultation.

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006di)/05 Casual Vacancy

Vacancy advertised on 15th February 2005. No election had been called for. Item to be placed on the Agenda at the April Meeting.

020/05 Footpath at the Recreation Ground

Cllr Christie advised that in her County Council role she had met an Engineering Contractor re a possible upgrade to the footpath at northern end of the Recreation Ground an estimate was awaited. The Clerk said that he had that morning been visited by a Mr H. Dixon, the owner of the field adjoining the Recreation Ground allotment site complaining of broken drains in the area, allowing water to seep onto his field and turning into a “paddy field”. Apparently there could be other broken drains in the area. The Clerk stated that he had already contacted Alan Mace to obtain his advice on the matter. It was agreed that the County Council’s Engineer should be asked to look at the problem and advise on whether it was possible to deal with the problem as part of any footpath upgrade.

022/05 Request for c/o tenancy on ED allotments 35-40

Although further contact was expected from the tenant no letter had been received to date.

023/05 Reports

- B) Parish Council – Services 53 and 54.

Letter sent to Go Ahead Northern in accordance with decision taken at the previous Meeting. No response received.

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D) County Council

(iii) Funding for the IT Officer

Meeting to be arranged with the County Regeneration officer to consider possible funding for the IT Officer.

025/05 Request for donation

Finchale Training College

Donation on the Financial Statement for payment

027/05 Outstanding allotment rents 2005

No rents paid in respect on amounts outstanding. Notices to Quit served on the 3 tenants concerned.

031/05 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham County Council

- a) Local Government Pension Scheme - Changes
- b) Highways Member Area Panel
6.30pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2005 at Stanley Central Club
- c) Environment Awards 2004

Inland Revenue

- d) Employer Talk 2005 – Seminar 5th April 2005 – Ramside Hall. Clerk and Clerk Designate to attend.
- e) End of Year Pack

The Countryside Agency

- f) Conclusive Map of Open Country and Registered Common Land in Upper North West England – Area 4
- g) Grant for Service 767

Other

- h) The Standards Board for England – Consultation on the Review of the Code of Conduct
- i) She's Gott It
- j) Local Council Review
- k) EDF Energy
Proposed Public Exhibition of Langley Wind Farm
3.00pm to 7.00pm Tuesday 15th March 2005 at Wood View Centre
- l) Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils re County Secretary cover
- m) EQUaL
 - i) Announcement of £10,000 grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation
 - ii) Exhibition day at the Quebec Village Hall
Saturday 12th March 2005 - 10.00 to 12.00 noon

032/05 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors Coulson and Guildford declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the debates other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Planning Approval Certificates

No CS/1/2005/0001/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Marley
Proposed Erection of a two storey sides extension to incorporate garage
At 3 Phoenix Close, Langley Park

No TWH/1/2005/0103/DMFP
Applicant EDF Energy
Proposed Erection of four wind turbines and control building
At Land south and east of Standagainstall Plantation, Long Edge, Burnhope
No objection subject to adjacent owners being consulted by the Planning Officer and to their comments being taken into consideration

No CC/1/2005/0082/DMFP
Applicant Mr M. Gowland
Proposed Erection of 2 garages
At 12 Wilks Hill, Quebec
No objection subject to adjacent owners being consulted by the Planning Officer and to their comments being taken into consideration

No CS/1/2005/0085/DMFP
Applicant Mr S. Riley
Proposed Erection of two storey rear extension
At 43 Finings Avenue, Langley Park

Concern expressed over the possible scale of the development. Resolved to note the application and to request that the Planning Officer consult with adjacent owners and to take their comments into consideration when dealing with the application.

No CS/1/2005/0099/DMFP
Applicant Mr Pringle
Proposed Erection of second storey extension and single storey rear extension
At 12 Browns Terrace, Langley Park

Providing that the proposal was for development in the yard area, rather than over the front footpath, no objection was raised subject to adjacent owners being consulted by the Planning Officer and to their comments being taken into consideration

No CC/1/2005/0110/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Blackburn
Proposed Conservatory to rear
At 4 Hazelwood Court, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent owners being consulted by the Planning Officer and to their comments being taken into consideration

No SW/1/2005/0148/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs A. Bell
Proposed Erection of single storey rear extension
At 19 Willow Park, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent owners being consulted by the Planning Officer and to their comments being taken into consideration

No CC/1/2005/0144/DCDN
Applicant Derwentside District Council
Proposed Part 31 Determination for demolition of dwellings
At 20-78 Hilltop View, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent owners being consulted by the Planning Officer and to their comments being taken into consideration. Reference made to the possibility of bats being present in one of the dwellings involved. Agreed that the Clerk should raise this with the Planning Officer in case the Durham Bat Club should be consulted on the application.

No CC/1/2005/0165/DMFP
Applicant Mr R. Forman
Proposed Conservatory to front
At 2 Hall Road, Esh

It was agreed that as this proposal involved development in a fairly prominent position that the matter be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with Councillor Sands.

No CS/1/2005/0164/DMFP
Applicant S. C. Ross Environmental Contractors Ltd
Proposed Demolition of existing buildings and erection of single storey storage building
At Unit 5, Langley Park North Industrial Estate, Langley Park

No objection subject to adjacent owners being consulted by the Planning Officer and to their comments being taken into consideration. It was also agreed that no hazardous or obnoxious substances should be kept in the premises.

033/05 CASUAL VACANCY

Kevin Robson had e-mailed the Clerk tendering his resignation from the Parish Council. Members agreed to accept the resignation and requested the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr Robson for his service to the Parish Council. It was also agreed to advertise the vacancy as from the 9th March 2005 at the usual locations.

019/05 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2005

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to a local brass band to ask their availability for attending the Remembrance Day Service in Langley Park and to make enquiries re the possible inclusion of the Unknown Soldier on the War Memorial.

021/05 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2005

The Clerk and Clerk Designate had met with the contractor (Wharton Landscapes) to discuss the grass cutting contract for 2005. Members agreed to a 4% increase on the 2004 contract and for the Esh Green grass cutting to be boxed once per month.

Cllr Guildford left the Meeting

034/05 QUEBEC PLAY AREA - EQUAL

Letter received from EQUaL advising that they had submitted an application for funding to Living Spaces for the proposed new play area at Quebec. Living Spaces had indicated that in order to consider the bid they needed confirmation from the Parish Council that it owned the land and would take over the management of the site (including insurance) once the works had been carried out. The Clerk had obtained a quotation that evening from Zurich Municipal advising that the cost would be All Risks £ 891.11; Public Liability only £157.50. Whilst noting that the cost of the All Risks was significantly higher than previously quoted by ZM it was nevertheless agreed that these would be met by the Parish Council although the Clerk would make further enquiries in order to ascertain if there were cheaper options available.

035/05 HANGING BASKETS 2005

It was agreed to instruct Paul Snowdon to provide baskets for 2005. The cost to be as 2004. The usual pre installation enquiries to be carried out.

036/05 REPORTS

- A) EQUaL Partnership meeting
No report given.
- B) Parish Council
Cllr M. Tyler suggested that a meeting should be arranged with EQUaL to discuss Youth Facilities in the Parish. This was agreed.
- C) District Council
Cllr Coulson reported on Statistics relating to the District Housing Department on homelessness, domestic violence and anti social behaviour complaints.
Cllr Tyrie reported on Stanley bus station, the former Hippodrome and Hilltop Estate, Mountsett Crematorium Committee, Council Tax and Crime and Disorder.
- D) County Council
Cllr Armstrong not present at the meeting. He had however provided an update for inclusion in Esh Leaves on the library situation in Langley Park

037/05 REQUEST FOR A DONATION - GREAT NORTH AMBULANCE

It was agreed to donate £200 towards the appeal under the powers contained within Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

038/05 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

After receiving details of the financial statements 2004/05 (V273 – 294) and 2005/06 (V1) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerks action for issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

039/05 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 12th April 2005 in the Parish Room, Langley Park immediately 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.