

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held in the **PARISH ROOM, LANGLEY PARK** on Tuesday 10th May 2005 commencing at 7.10pm

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

Apologies:- Councillor A. Hiles and County Councillor J. Armstrong

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk) and G. F. Smith (Clerk Designate)

052/05 POLICE REPORT

PC Christopher Dover updated the Meeting with current incidents etc. within the Parish (copy of report attached to the minutes).

053/05 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12th APRIL 2005

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman excepting that under 046/05 Cllr Tyrie's report the wording should be amended to read "25% of the Esh Ward electorate had requested postal voting forms"

054/05 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE MINUTES

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138/04 Community Enhancement Service, the National Probation Service

Clerk Designate advised that the Probation Service had completed the tidying up at the Recreation Ground and had agreed to continue this service on a 6 monthly basis. Work for this scheme has also been agreed for tidying up vacant allotments on the Earl of Durham site and clearing of ditches on the Lanchester Walkway. Clerk Designate to update at the next meeting.

082/04 Proposed MUGA at Esh C of E School

The Clerk reported that he had that day received a copy of a revised application for the floodlights. It was agreed that the consideration of the application should be deferred to the June Parish Council Meeting.

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

Matter still under consideration by the District Council's Management Team.

083/04 Seat opposite the Quebec play area

Now installed but problems with the plaque which had become discoloured. Suppliers comments awaited.

127/04 Seat in memory of Doreen Cummings

Now installed but problems with the plaque which had become discoloured. Suppliers comments awaited.

140b/04 Alternative Parish Office accommodation

Contact awaited from Durham County Council

143/04 EQUaL – National Playing Fields Association Scheme

Details still awaited from EQUaL and Stanhope Parish Council.

009/05 Tsunami Earthquake Appeal

The Clerk had not been able to discuss the matter with the Head Teacher at Langley Park Primary School.

006di/05 Casual Vacancies

Item on the Agenda.

020/05 Footpath at the Recreation Ground

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted Northumbrian Water on the flooding problems. NW had advised that a CCTV survey would be carried out in the area. The Clerk had suggested a site meeting with NW and the County Council.

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

The Clerk Designate advised that a meeting with Mr King had taken place in the Parish Room on 14th April. The Chairman, Councillor Coulson, the Clerk and the Clerk Designate were present (Miss Smith did not attend). Mr King emphasized that the sole purpose of the request for co-tenancy was to give Miss Smith and her family a bit of reward for all the work they had done with the horses and allotments over the past few years. He also stated that he had no intention of vacating the allotments. It was agreed that allotments 35-40 should remain in the sole tenancy of Mr King and as Miss Smith is on the waiting list for an allotment she should be offered a vacant plot when one becomes available.

D) County Council

(iii) Funding for the IT Officer

Clerk advised the Council that 2 potential funders had agreed to consider the application whereas the remainder had stated that they were unable to support the Council's bid. The Clerk to contact the Langley Park and District Community Association re a possible bid by them to some of the funders concerned.

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031/04 Completing IR returns on line

The Clerk advised the Council that the return for 2004/05 had now been completed on line.

019/05 Remembrance Sunday 2005 and inscribing the War Memorial

Clerk Designate advised the Council that he was pursuing the matter of a Band for Remembrance Sunday 2005 with Mrs Hayton. He understood that the War Graves Commission was soon to attend to the maintenance of the Grave of the Unknown Soldier. Clerk Designate to update at the next Parish Meeting.

035/05 Hanging Baskets 2005

Brackets now tested. Subject to the comments of the Highway Authority the baskets should be hung in early June.

036B/05 Youth Facilities in Langley Park

It was agreed that the Clerk Designate would arrange a meeting by the end of May 2005 for the Parish Council to discuss the lack of Youth Facilities in the Parish with EQUaL, the Police, County Councillor Armstrong and appropriate representatives from the District and County Councils.

108/04 Work on the Garage roof

Clerk Designate advised the Council that the roof was now 90% refelted and the remaining work should be completed very shortly.

044/05 Correspondence

Derwentside District Council

c) Parish Liaison Meeting 13th April 2005

The following matters had been raised:-

- (i) Derwentside District Council Corporate Plan.
At draft stage but consultation with Parish Councils expected shortly.
- (ii) Parish Precept.
It was anticipated that the District Council's Annual Contribution would now be reinstated into the Council's base budget.
- (iii) Commuted Sums
See under 11/03 on Page 1.
- (iv) Play Areas
Sites not yet inspected by the District Councils officers to check on works required under the Disability Discrimination procedures
- (v) Election Costs for Parish Council Elections
Concern expressed on the high costs in holding an election. Matter to be referred to the District Council's Treasurer for consideration

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Other

- a) The Clerk had contacted EDF Energy. The latest proposal was for fewer turbines and a lesser impact than previously proposed. In the circumstances he had decided not to invite the Company to make a further presentation at a future PC meeting.

046/05 Reports

Clerk and Clerk Designate reported on the following

- A) EQUaL Partnership meeting
- (iii) Meeting of the Playground Action Group at the New Hall, Esh at 7.00pm on Monday 25th April 2005

Quebec

Cost of installing the playground equipment was £37,000, this would be raised from various grants, local fundraising and an expected £25,000 from Living Spaces. Planning permission for the site was expected shortly. It is estimated that the project would take 4 – 6 weeks to complete. Discussion took place on holding an opening celebration.

Esh

It had been agreed to provide swings for toddlers as well as older children and a metal adventure trail alongside the existing equipment. £10,000 is earmarked from Garfield Western Foundation for this project.

Langley Park

Simon Green has been appointed to produce a scaled drawing of the site. Roger Wilkinson of Browell Smith and Co. is drawing up a lease agreement between the Club, Esh Parish Council and EQUaL. Coalfields Regeneration Trust may fund a skatepark to a cost of £45,000. Sir Bobby Robson has agreed to put his name to the Park.

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- (v) Report on the Quebec site - Reminder letter sent to the Coal Authority with deadline for response given.

B) Parish Council

- (i) Ponding along the Railway Walk between the rear of Davis Crescent and the entrance road into the Riverside Industrial estate.
Reply received from the County Council to the effect that "Yes, we are aware of the puddles. If I get a decent settlement from the LTP this year I would like to Fibredec about 1 km of the route through Langley Park. This will mean building up the surface first and then - no puddles!"
- (ii) Beating the Boundaries Walk. 13 walkers led by Chris Bloor. Refreshments provided by the Chairman and his wife.
- (iii) Litter picking carried out on the Walkway on Thursday 21st April 2005.

2 Signed by the Chairman.....

The Clerk Designate gave a reported back on the Conference – see report attached to the Agenda papers.

049/05 Financial Statement and Report – DAPTC fees

The Clerk to raise the matter at the AGM of the SLCC on 24th May 2005

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051/05 Garage Licence Fee 2005/06

Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the licensee who had agreed with the offer proposed at the previous Parish Council Meeting.

055/05 CORRESPONDENCE

Derwentside District Council

- a) Inspection of Play Areas at Esh and Quebec 2005. No major problems identified.
- b) Cycle Secure Bars – Front of Spar Shop (copy letter attached)
It was agreed that these should be removed

Durham County Council

- c) DCC Pension Fund – FRS17 Calculations 2004/05
- d) LGPS – Consultation on draft regulations

Durham Association of Parish Town Councils

- e) New Model Contract. To be reviewed by the Clerk and Clerk Designate.
- f) New National Agreement
- g) Guidance on Good Employment
- h) New National Pay Scales. Already implemented.
- i) Audit Regime for Local Councils – Review and Consultation
- j) Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2005/06. Now £5.30 per electorate.

Other

- k) R. F. Quinn – parking at the junction of Wood View and Pine Street, Langley Park. As the County Councillor was not in attendance it was agreed to defer the matter until a later Meeting.
- l) Great Aycliffe Town Council – interim arrangements until new Executive Officer appointed
- m) One Voice Network – Training Programme 2005
- n) Local Action 21 – Partnership News Spring 2005 – Issue 21
- o) Local Action 21 – Anniversary Visits Programme. It was agreed that the Clerk could represent the Council on 2 of the proposed visits
- p) North East War Memorials Project – Newsletter Issue 1 Spring 2005
- q) Broadgate Farm Co-operative – Summer Fayres 2005
- r) CDCCTR
 - (a) Certificate for G. Smith for attendance at the Role and Procedures Seminar 30th March 2005
 - (b) Details of various Seminars – Partnership Funding and Health and Safety matters
- s) Mrs B. Gilmore – Letter re Esh Leaves
- t) Local Council Review

056/05 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 Applications received for

No FC/1/2005/0280/DMFP
Applicant Mr. D. Rose
Proposed Change of use of fish and chip shop and flat to office accommodation and flat.
At 21 Quebec Street, Langley Park

Application noted. Cllr M. Tyler sought clarification on the retention of the front windows. The Clerk Designate to check with the Planning Officer.

No SW/1/2005/0314/DMTF
Applicant Mr J. Hankey
Proposed Felling of 9 sycamore trees (TPO 20)
At Esh Hall Farm, Esh

As the arborist report was not available it was agreed that the matter be considered at a later meeting.

No SW/1/2005/0274/DMFP
Applicant Mr Ritson
Proposed Erection of two storey side extension, conversion of existing garage to living accommodation and erection of detached garage.
At 27 Herrington Close, Langley Park

No FC/1/2005/0283/DMLB
Applicant Ushaw College
Proposed Listed building consent to demolish garage structures, re-aligning area of walling, erection of new fencing and re-surfacing to provide secure car parking.
At Ushaw College

No CS/1/2005/0311/DMFP
Applicant Esh Parish Council
Proposed Installation of play equipment and fencing
At Recreation site, Front Street, Quebec

No CS/1/2005/0316/DMFP
Applicant Mr I. Currie
Proposed Erection of single storey side extension to create indoor swimming pool.
At 17 Beech Court, Langley Park

No objections to the above subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision in these cases.

006di)/05 AND 033/05 CASUAL VACANCIES

As no elections had been called for in connection with the two vacancies it was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries with the District Council on the possibility of the number of Councillors being reduced from the current level of 16.

057/05 REQUEST TO USE THE ESH PLAY AREA – ESH PARISH GIRLS FC

Request to use the football pitch adjacent to the Esh Play Area by the Esh Parish Girls FC for training purposes. Matches are played at Houghall. Three teams would be involved, Under 10's, 12's and 14's. The girls would come from Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Quebec.

Each session would probably involve up to 10 players supervised by 1 or 2 coaches.

The facilities would be required up to 3 times a week –in summer from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. The other times would vary. The Club would only require access to the actual pitch and not to any other adjoining areas.

There would be limited cars accessing the site and the Club has appropriate insurance cover.

Access to the site would be required from around September 2005.

It was agreed that discussions could continue noting that the needs of EQUaL (new play facilities) and the Esh Laude RC School which occasionally uses the pitch for matches. The Clerk to check with its insurers, Zurich Municipal, on any possible implications in entering such an agreement and that if any agreement is entered into it should be subject to an initial trial period to ensure that there were no serious objections from local residents, particularly with regards car parking.

058/05 ANNUAL PANTOMIME

The Clerk advised that The Panto Company had made contact for a performance this year. It was agreed to commission the Company to perform Sleeping Beauty on Saturday 3rd December 2005 at the Wood View Community Centre. Cost £500 + vat.

059/05 REPORTS

A) EQUaL Partnership meeting

(i) Reports

No report.

(ii) Insurance cover for the proposed Langley Park play area

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from the Community Capacity Worker requesting that the Council give consideration to extending the 5 year commitment on insurance (PL cover) which had been agreed at the November 2004 Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk reminded the Council of the original email sent to EQUaL as part of the original agreement. Further copy attached to these minutes. It was resolved that subject to adopting similar terms and conditions that the period of commitment could be extended within reasonable parameters and the Clerk was authorised to proceed accordingly.

B) Parish Council

(i) Meeting re allotments adjacent to the Lanchester Valley Walk

The Clerk Designate updated the meeting on his meeting with Coralie Dickins, Countryside Ranger, Durham County Council regarding tipping of garden waste and access onto the railway path from the allotment sites (4 in number). It was agreed for the Clerk Designate to write to all allotment holders where the site backs onto the railway path asking them to stop tipping garden

waste onto the railway path. Also for the Clerk Designate to write to the four allotment holders who have access gates onto the railway path informing them that they require permission from the Parish Council to do this and also they will need to sign a Domestic Access Licence obtainable from Durham County Council.

(ii) SLCC Conference

Clerk Designate presented a report to the Council on the Regional SLCC Conference held on 28th April (report attached to the minutes).

C) District Council

Cllr Coulson reported :-

- (i) Each District Councillor has been allocated £2,000 for local initiatives.
- (ii) £1,001.76 donation from the Recycling Initiative had been sent to the Tsunami Appeal.
- (iii) Simply Soccer Coaching 8-12th August for young people aged 4-12 years of age was being organised by the Langley Park Branch of the Sunderland A.F.C. Supporters Association. It was agreed to invite a representative from this group to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr Tyrie reported:-

- (i) Update on dangerous headstones in closed churchyards
Detailed report given. After 2 years of negotiations a meeting had been convened on 15th March 2005 and that the Church had now agreed that Health and Safety was paramount and that the work must be done. To date St Michael's and All Angels churchyard had been inspected during mid April 2005 and 36 category 1 memorials and 21 category 2 memorials were unsafe. All Saints, Langley Park, Langley Park Cemetery and St Michael's Esh Laude have still to be inspected.
- (ii) Land at Esh Hillside Council Estate
4 acres to be sold by the District Council. The net usable capital receipt could in turn facilitate the Council's Capital Programme.
It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain a plan of the site and raise the issue of social housing being included in the scheme
- (iii) High Hedge disputes
New powers available from 1st June 2005. The role of the local authority is not to mediate or negotiate but to adjudicate on whether the "hedge is adversely affecting the complainant's reasonable enjoyment of their property". It is proposed to charge £265 for each complaint in cases of financial hardship.
- (iv) Cycle Secure bars at the Spar Shop
See under 055/05

D) County Council

The Clerk gave a progress report on the temporary library facilities (see file for details)

060/05 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

After receiving details of the financial statements (V21-47) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerks action for issuing cheques in advance of the meeting. V47 related to the new ramp provided outside the Church Street Community Centre. The original decision was to contribute up to £2000 the final payment was £1702.50.

061/05 UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS 2004/05 AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS STATEMENT

The Statement prepared by the Clerk was approved subject to a couple of minor amendments.

062/05 FUTURE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS CLERK AND CLERK DESIGNATE

The Clerk advised the Council that this would be his last meeting as the principal Clerk and that Mr Smith would take future meetings although the Clerk would be in attendance for the June and July meetings. As from 1st August 2005 the Clerk would revert to his more specialist role working 6 hours a week.

063/05 REQUEST FOR DONATION (COPY PAPERS ATTACHED WHERE AVAILABLE)

a) Victim Support County Durham

Financial Statement provided. It was agreed to donate £100 under the powers contained within Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

b) WRVS

No financial details provided. Agreed that the Clerk should obtain further details and financial statement from the appropriate local group.

064/05 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 14th June 2005 in the Parish Room, 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.