

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Quebec, on Tuesday 14th November 2006 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor A. Mollon (Chairman), C Bloor, R Bowyer, G Goulson, A Christie, A Harling, S Rothwell, M Sands and W Tyrrie.

Apologies: Councillor F Crow, H Guildford, A Hiles, H Tyler and M Tyler.
County Councillor Armstrong and PCSO Steve Brown.

Also in Attendance: Mr. L Looby, Mr. F Wade, Mrs M Wade, Mr. N Storey
(Residents of the Parish).
G.F. Smith (Clerk).

124/06 Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Mr L. Looby

Mr L. Looby signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as a co-opted member witnessed by the Clerk and received by Council members.

125/06 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Coulson declared an interest in Item 10 – Planning Matters. He took no part in the debate other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor Mollon declared an interest in Item 9 (Q) – Correspondence, he took no part in the debate.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in Item 10 (F) – Planning Matters, he took no part in the debate.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in Item 14 - Review of Allotment Rents for 2008, he took no part in the debate

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in Item 15 - Review of Tenancy Agreement for Allotments, he took no part in the debate.

126/06 Police Report

No report. (Report received after the meeting, attached to the minutes).

Members asked for the contact telephone number for PCSO Brown. (0845 6060365 Ext. 6644420).

127/06 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 10th October 2006

Agreed as true record and signed by the Chairman.

128/06 Clerks Report including Observations from Councillors to the Minutes

Page 1

096/06 Police Reports

Agenda item 9 (o) Letter of Acknowledgement.

Page 2

064/06 Reports – Parish

Earl of Durham Allotments.

Awaiting response from DEFRA.

Clerk to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting on any progress with the rabbit problem in the area.

082/06 Garage Tenancy

Mr Cassidy was prepared to finance a lay by on a vacant allotment for the use of the skips for the other allotment holders, the site could be accessed by the skip wagon. Members agreed to the request by Mr Cassidy to fence off the concrete hard standing area outside the front of the garage. Clerk to contact Mr Cassidy regarding the progress of the planning application for the change of use for the garage. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

099/06 Correspondence

w) Mrs E Hayton re; War Memorial.

The inscription for the Unknown Soldier was completed before the Remembrance Day service, this was arranged by Derwentside District Council.

Page 3

101/06 Reports – b) Parish

Langley Park Play Area.

Agenda Item 9 (f).

Roadside seats at Kaysburn Road, Langley Park.

Work complete. Item in the next edition of Esh Leaves. Clerk to arrange a press release for the local newspapers.

110/06 Earl of Durham Allotments – Complaints.

Awaiting gates and locks to be repaired, Clerk to contact the contractor.

No communication from Mr Bolton, Clerk to visit the allotment site and report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

Mr Holmes agreed to monitor the situation of plot numbers 79/80 on an informal arrangement.

116/06 Minutes of Allotment Committee held on 23rd September 2006

Tenancy agreement – agenda item 15.

Page 4

117/06 Correspondence

b) National Probation Service – Health and Safety Policy. Clerk reported no progress on this item. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

e) Derwentside District Council – Request for an update of Parish Councillors.

Letter had been sent to the Legal and Licensing Service Manager enclosing correspondence address for each Council Member. A letter and forms had been received by each Council Member for them to return to the Monitoring Officer at Derwentside District Council.

h) Durham County Council – National Tree Week.

Clerk had completed an application form for funding for £150 to provide trees at Quebec Play Area. The work would be carried out in December 2006 with the assistance of Wharton Landscape and some local volunteers.

Page 5

119/06 Reports – Parish

Litter problem at Esh and Quebec Play areas.

Agenda item 11 (B) Parish report.

Parish Walk

Agenda item 11 (B) Parish report.

Page 6

129/06 Minutes of a Special meeting (Mining Memorial) held on 18th October 2006

Accepted as true record.

A further meeting took place on 1st November that agreed to form a committee, elect a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees. As well as having a constitution in place.

The Committee also agreed to register as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The item relating to Parish Council Financial Assistance is on the agenda item 16.

130/06 Correspondence

Durham County Council

- a) Service Direct – Relocation to Meadowfield.
- b) Environment – Local Transport Plan 2, 2006-2011.

Derwentside District Council

- c) Our Communities-Our Call-Stakeholders event, exploring a new vision for local governance in County Durham at Beamish Hall, on 16th November 2006, 10am to 4 pm.
- d) Chairman's Christmas Carol Service – 13th December 2006 at 7pm in Christ Church, Consett.
- e) Draft Corporate Plan 2006 – 2010
- f) Langley Park Play Project – update on advert of open space and appointment of Legal Consultants.

County Durham Association of Local Councils

- g) Quality Parish Council Status.
- h) Standards Board Case review.
- i) County Council budget 2007/08 consultation.
- j) Power of Well Being.
- k) Britain's best allotment – UKTV Style gardens competition.

Members agreed for the poster to be placed on the Parish notice board.

- l) Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities.

Others

- m) N.A. L.C. – Key points of the White Paper, specifically on Town and Parish Councils.

Clerk to copy document and send out to all Council members.

- n) City of Durham – Local Development Framework, consultation period.
- o) Durham Constabulary – Acknowledgement of letter re Councillors concerns.
- p) The Mineral Valleys Project – Moved into new offices and Newsletter; issue 6 Autumn 2006

Councillor Mollon vacated the Chair and took no part in the debate on the following Councillor Coulson took over as Chairman for the following item.

- q) Countryside Alliance – “ Love the Post Office, Love the Countryside” campaign.

Members agreed to respond to the Minister responsible for Post Offices regarding the threats to the future of rural Post Offices, particularly to keep open the Post Offices in Esh Parish Council area. Clerk to research regarding any Government consultation on this topic.

Councillor Coulson vacated the Chair, Councillor Mollon resumed as Chair for the rest of the meeting.

- r) County Durham Primary Care Trust – Consultation on the future provision of psychiatric intensive care services for County Durham and Darlington.

Councillor Harling agreed to provide further information on this issue for the next Parish Council meeting.

- s) EQUaL – Request for the Parish Council to purchase on behalf of the partnership 4 pieces of playground equipment from Wicksteed’s Ltd, at a cost of £3179.00 + VAT (£556.33) = £3735.33

Members agreed to purchase the above equipment and for Wicksteeds Ltd to store the equipment until the site is prepared as a play area.

- t) Langley Park/ Simply Sport Ltd – Request to fund after school football club on a Friday evening for 10 weeks at a cost of £15 (hire of the hall/no coach costs), and a lunchtime football club on a Wednesday for 10 weeks at a cost of £17.50 (coach cost/ no hall cost) total cost of the two schemes is £325.00.

Members agreed to donate £325.00, payable to Langley Park Primary School for the proposed schemes (under the powers within the Local Government (miscellaneous provisions) Act 1976 section 19).

- u) Age concern Lunch Club – Thank You letter for donation received.
- v) Derwentside District Council – Parish Liaison Committee meeting Wednesday 29th November 2006.

131/06 Planning Matters

A No.	SW/1/2006/0833/DMFP
APPLICANT	MR & MRS WADE
PROPOSED	ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING
AT	LAND TO THE REAR OF 25 FRONT STREET QUEBEC

Agreed that no objections to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

B

No. CC/1/2006/0829/DMFP

APPLICANT MR & MRS HAMMOND

PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF LAND TO GARDEN AREA, ERECTION OF DETACHED GARAGE, ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT OUTBUILDING TO PROVIDE PLAYROOM AND STUDY (RETROSPECTIVE)

AT PLUMTREE HOUSE, ESH

Agreed that no objections to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

C

No. CC/1/2006/0840/DMFP

APPLICANT MR J FLINT

PROPOSED ERECTION OF SHED/GARDEN ROOM TO REAR

AT 16 MAPLEWOOD COURT, LANGLEY PARK

Agreed that no objections to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

D

No. SW/1/2006/0886/DMFP

APPLICANT LANGLEY PARK PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

PROPOSED SITING OF PORTABLE BUILDING FOR STORAGE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT (RE-SUBMISSION)

AT WOOD VIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE LANGLEY PARK

Agreed that no objections to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

E

No. SW/1/2006/0715/DMFP

APPLICANT MR C RYAN

PROPOSED ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY OFFICE BLOCK AND CREATION OF TEN-SPACE CAR PARKING AREA

AT GREENLAND LODGE, HAMSTEELS LANE, ESH

Agreed that no objections to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

F

No. SW/1/2006/0912/DMFP

APPLICANT MR E L STONES

PROPOSED ERECTION OF TWO DWELLINGS (RE-SUBMISSION)

AT LAND TO THE SOUTH OF 21 IVY TERRACE LANGLEY PARK

Agreed that no objections to the above planning application, subject to adjacent owners being consulted and to their comments being taken into consideration before making a decision on this development.

Members raised concerns on the possible road traffic hazard on the public highway around the area of the development.

Mr and Mrs Wade and Mr Storey left the meeting.

132/06 Reports

a) EQUaL Partnership.

Litter pick at the Recreation Ground, Langley Park on Saturday 18th November 2006 commencing at 10.00am.

Tree planting at Quebec to be carried out in December 2006.

£5000 donation for Langley Park play area received from the Cloth Workers Foundation.

b) Parish

Quebec Play Areas

Wheelie bins to be on site within the next few days.

Esh Play Area

Wheelie bins to be on site within the next few days.

Picnic table to be on site next week.

Need to replace a small area of damaged fencing leading from the site (at present allows visitors to leave the site and go down an incline onto the main road). This is a Health and Safety issue. A quotation has been received from NJC Wrought Iron to carry out the repairs at a cost of £85.00.

Members agreed to order the fencing from NJC Wrought Iron at a cost of £85.00 (supply and fix).

Langley Park Play Area

Letter received from Swinburn Snowball & Jackson (acting on behalf of Derwentside District Council) advising the Parish Council of the total cost for legal fees of £1170.36 less amount already paid £587.50 therefore the amount outstanding is £582.86.

Members raised concerns at the cost of legal fees but reluctantly agreed to raise a cheque for £582.86 payable to Meikles Solicitors in order for the draft lease to be prepared by Swinburn, Snowball and Jackson and send to the Parish Councils solicitors (Meikles).

Langley Park Recreation Ground

Funding applications have or are going to be applied for the renovation of the site for a nature reserve as follows:-

Nature Save Trust	£4,000.00
Breathing Spaces	£10,000.00
Community Resource Fund	£3,000.00 (decision 16 th November)
Durham Wildlife Trust Award	£350.00 (won – funding to come)

Allotment site, Bridgeway, near Recreation Ground, Langley Park

The tenant of the above allotment has concerns regarding the waterlogged state of the site. At one stage she had to remove the horse from the site until it dried out.

Members agreed for a site meeting to take place at the allotment site. The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Christmas Tree at Langley Park

Tree to be erected and decorated and lights switched on Thursday 23rd November 2006.

Clerk to contact all members regarding the time of the switching on of the lights.

Members agreed for the Clerk to purchase a number of satsumas to distribute to the children attending the switching of the lights ceremony.

Christmas Trees at Esh and Quebec

Trees to be erected and decorated on Friday 24th November 2006.

Parish Walk

Tuesday 2nd January 2007 commencing at 12.45 pm, meeting at the Railway Walk car park.

B) District

Councillor Coulson reported;-

- a) Details of the Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities. Members agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss the issue. (Date to be decided). Councillor Coulson to provide the Clerk with a copy of the document. The Clerk to copy the document and send to all members.

Councillor Tyrie reported;-

- a) Details of equipped play strategy.
- b) Timescale of Housing Stock Transfer to Derwentside Homes.

B) County

In the absence of Councillor Armstrong, the Clerk read out the report as follows;-

- a) Kerbs at Kingsway have been repaired.
- b) The bollard for Church Street has been ordered.
- c) At the rear of 8a Kingsway a manhole has been discharging water, Northumbrian Water are investigating the problem.
- d) The lamppost at Esh Terrace has been relocated and the drop kerbs are ordered.
- e) Request for no cycling signs at both ends of Ash Street by Mr E Todd. The path is an unadopted highway, no signage on property that the Council do not own. The item on dangerous cycling on footpaths could be an item for the next edition of Esh Leaves.
- f) Request for road planning to repair the road to the Fold in Quebec. Parish Council would not arrange for the filling of the potholes. (Insurance issue).
- g) The post box at Quebec was removed last week, he has written off to the Post Office asking for the reason why and requesting another box for the village
- h) Horsebox at Quebec, P.C. Patterson has been contacted to have the owner remove it.
- i) New library facilities at Langley Park – another public meeting will be arranged (no date fixed).

133/06 Financial Statement and Report

Members agreed to the financial details (V154 (correction) V184 – V209) should be paid and where appropriate the Chairman/Clerks action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

134/06 Annual Audit 2005/06

Members accepted the report of the Assistant Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

Members also agreed:-

- a) To approve and accept the Annual Return for 2005/06.
- b) For the notice of Conclusion of Audit to be displayed as instructed by the External Auditor.
- c) To pay the External Auditor's fee of £550.00 + V A T (£96.25) = £646.25.

135/06 Review of Allotment Rents for 2008

Members agreed to increase the allotment rents to £25.00 per annum as from 1st January 2008.

136/06 Review of Tenancy Agreement for Allotments

Members commented on the number of clauses within the agreement. Clerk to prepare a draft agreement including members comments and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

137/06 Mining Memorial Fund

Member accepted the report of the Assistant Clerk.

Members also agreed:-

- a) To transfer the £600 received from the 3 Local District Councillors under the Local Members (District Council) Initiative Fund from the Council's current account to the Langley Park Development Project (Co-operative Bank Account No. 6100539056). This account has a current balance of £243.37 (as at 5th April 2006).
- b) Subject to the agreement of All Saints C of E Church and the Langley Park Community Association to transfer the balance of this account into the bank account of the Mining Memorial Group once they have obtained charitable status and have a bank account. This would be done under the powers contained within the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

138/06 Quality Parish Council

Members agreed to hold a Special meeting to discuss this issue and include the discussion on the Local Government White Paper, date to be confirmed.

139/06 Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th December 2006 in the Parish room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm.

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 were present during the discussion of these items there could be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in section 100.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

Police Report

For the period 11th October – 14th November 2006, calls are as follows:

Esh Parish: 118 calls (117 calls for previous period)

(There may have been more than one call about the same incident).

ASB / Nuisance / Under Age Drinking / Rowdy	: 36
Vehicle / Motorcycle Nuisance	: 9
Criminal Damage	: 9
Theft	: 10
Fraud	: 1
RTC – Injury	: 0
RTC – Damage Only	: 2
Crime Burglary	: 0
Missing from Home	: 1
Suspicious Persons	: 11
Violence (Against the person)	: 2
Domestic	: 1
Firearms Incidents	: 0
Road Related Incidents	: 5
Concern for safety	: 6
Animals	: 4
Hoax 999 Calls	: 1
Sexual Offences	: 0
Noise Complaints	: 1
Drugs Related	: 1
Civil Dispute	: 2
Multi-Agency Incidents	: 1
Hate Crime	: 0
Other Incidents	: 15

(Alarm activations, police reported problems, sudden deaths etc)

Current Anti-Social Behaviour Hot Spots:

No current hot spots identified.

We are continuing to show a visible presence to deter youths from purchasing alcohol for consumption on the streets and we will work with our licensing unit with regards to under-age sales.

Ongoing:

Anti-Social Behaviour / Damage etc. being reported after the event. Need people to report incidents when they happen (anonymously if they prefer).

Always walkabout opportunities with me.

Beat Surgeries (dates advertised on poster within Housing Office), Streetsafe box

(Housing office) for intelligence; anonymously if preferred.

Community Forum – 5th December at Wood View Community Forum

All Langley Park CCTV Cameras are fully working

Other Notes:

Youth provision – Still working with the EDDY project recruiting youths aged 12-17 year old who are perhaps at risk of offending, have low self esteem etc. Offering them personal development courses. Those who complete the course are offered a place on a one-week residential consisting of sailing, mountain biking and the like. Any youths interested can contact me at Lanchester police office.