

**ESH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007 immediately after the Annual General Meeting that commenced at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor A. Mollon (Chairman), C Bloor, R Bowyer, G Goulson, A Harling, A Hiles, L Looby and M Tyler.

Apologies: Councillor H Guildford, S Rothwell, M Sands and W Tyrie.

Also in Attendance: Sgt Karen Naughton and PCSO Steve Brown (Durham Police). County Councillor J Armstrong.  
G.F. Smith (Clerk) and M Ackroyd (Assistant Clerk).

149/07 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Coulson declared an interest in Item 12 – Planning Matters. He took no part in the debate other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor Coulson declared an interest in Item 5 Minute 141/07 – Langley Park Community Centre. He took no part in the debate.

Councillor Tyler declared an interest in Item 5 141/07 – Langley Park Community Centre. She took no part in the debate.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in Item 13c – Durham Wildlife Trust. He took no part in the debate.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in Item 13f – access line, Crossfell allotments. He took no part in the debate.

150/07 Police Report

Sgt Naughton and PCSO Brown presented the monthly report to members (copy attached to the minutes), including a special report on the closure order at 6 Railway Street, Langley Park. Followed by a question and answer session. Members thanked the Officers for the report. Both Officers then left the meeting.

151/07 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Amendment – add Councillor Bloor to the members present.

Subject to the above amendment the members agreed the minutes as true record and were signed by the Chairman.

152/07 Clerks Report including observations from Councillors to the minutes

Page 1

132/06 Reports Parish

Langley Park Recreation Ground

Awaiting revised price from contractor (NJC Wrought Iron) for supplying and fixing a fence.

Clerk to check grant conditions (MME Scale) and to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

010/07 Correspondence

e) LGPS – Flexible Retirement Policy

Clerk to produce a policy document to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

f) LGPS – Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy Payments

Clerk to produce a policy document to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

Page 2

132/07 Quality Parish Council Status

Awaiting a decision from the panel, Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

135/07 Reports – B) Parish

Footpath 59, Langley Park, Parish Paths Partnership 2006

Awaiting start date from the contractors. Clerk to chase up and report to the next Parish Council meeting.

Earl of Durham Allotments

b) Entrance gate

Gates are now installed, keys have been issued to allotment holders.

Esh Leaves

Book of Poems – Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

141/07 Minutes of a special meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Item a) Agenda Item No. 6

Items b) to d)

Member agreed to:

a) Authorise emergency remedial works in the Parish Room by NJC Wrought Iron at a cost of £320.00 (includes repair to two windows, repair plaster by window, repaint walls and take up carpet).

b) Continue to look for alternative office accommodation. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

142/07 Minutes of a special meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007

Agenda Item No. 6

Page 3

144/07 Request for a donation

County Durham Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted – Talking Newspaper Appeal.

Members were presented with a copy of the bank statement for the organisation. Members agreed to donate £200 (under the powers within the Local Government Act 1972 section 137).

Page 4

146/07 Correspondence

e) Letter from Dr C. M. Buck, Crossfell House.

The Clerk informed members that he had looked at the file and that whilst the Parish Council had a right of access to the allotment site it did not own the access lane. Ownership was not known

Members agreed to:-

- a) Pass on the request to fill the potholes to County Councillor Armstrong.
- b) Clerk to write to Dr Buck informing him of the details that were known (i.e. right to access to the allotment site) and suggest he contacts Derwentside District Council, Durham County Council and his solicitor regarding the ownership of the access lane.

Page 5

146/07 Correspondence

h) Durham County Council – Unitary Local Government  
Agenda Item No. 11

147/07 Reports C) District

Langley Park All Saints Youth Centre  
Agenda Item No. 15

153/07 Annual Budget 2007/08

Members agreed

- (i) the annual budget for 2007/08 (copy attached to the minutes)
- (ii) the allocation of £5000 to Sir Bobby Robson Park to be transferred from the reserve account (not commuted sums) at the appropriate time. Assistant Clerk/RFO to make the necessary adjustments in the cost ledger.
- (iii) All works carried out on the Play Areas from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to be paid for from the AMC Bank Commuted Sums Account including the apportioned part of the annual insurance premium relating ALL RISKS cover on the play areas

154/07 Annual Audit 2006/07 – Explanatory Statement for the Auditor

Members agreed the report and for the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer to sign the necessary documents. Members agreed the un-audited summary statement of accounts 2006/07.

Members further agreed to the appointment of Mr. Stuart Harris to act as internal auditor prior to the accounts going off to the external auditor.

155/07 Financial Statement and Report

Members noted the following amendments to the report:-

- a) Voucher 21 should read, Viking Direct, ring binders, pads etc.  
Supplied 30/04/07 invoiced 30/04/07, net cost £59.88 VAT £10.48 Total £70.36. Paid 08/05/07, cheque 303813, Budget admin.
- b) Voucher 52 should read, M Ackroyd, colour cartridge, net cost £13.01 VAT £2.28  
Total £15.29. Paid 08/05/07 cheque 303813, Budget admin.

156/07 End of Year Reconciliation Statement and Report

Members agreed the following:-

- a) VAT recovered from HMRC for £334.07 (vouchers 51,79 and 131) to be retrieved to the AMC commuted sums account.
- b) Minor cheque adjustments.  
V74 was £9.18 now £9.26  
V100 was £0.08 now deleted (incorporated in v100)  
V118 was £179.41 now £179.01  
V135 was £17.03 now £21.95  
V 246 was £35.97 now £35.94
- c) V 332 Meikles Solicitors to be paid from AMC Bank account.

157/07 The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007

All members receive a copy of the Local Authorities (model code of conduct) order 2007, statutory instrument no1159.

Members agreed to:-

- a) Adopt the Model of Code of Conduct including paragraph 12(2).
- b) That copies of the Code are available in the Parish Room at Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park for inspection by the members of the public at any reasonable hours by contacting the Parish Clerk (0190 3736687).
- c) Publish in the Parish Newsletter (Esh Leaves), and a local newspaper, stating that the Parish Council have adopted the Code of Conduct and copies of the code are available in the Parish Room at Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park for inspection by the members of the public at any reasonable hours by contacting the Parish Clerk (0190 3736687).
- d) The Clerk to inform the Standards Board for England that the Parish Council has adopted the code.
- e) The Clerk to inform the Monitoring Officer at Derwentside District Council that the Parish Council has adopted the code.

158/07 Unitary Local Government – Shareholders Consultation

Members received correspondence from Derwentside District Council regarding Unitary Local Government for County Durham.

It was agreed that individual members respond, if they so wished.

159/07 Planning Matters

A

No.

G/1/2007/0275/DMFP

APPLICANT

A MAYCOCK

PROPOSED

ERECTION OF TWO STOREY AND SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSIONS

AT

19 EASTERN AVENUE, LANGLEY PARK

Agreed that no objection 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.

G/1/2007/0337/DMFP

APPLICANT

Mrs Yun Tse Chui

PROPOSED

INSTALLATION OF EXTRACTION SYSTEM TO REAR

AT

21 QUEBEC STREET, LANGLEY PARK

Agreed that no objection 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

160/07 Correspondence

- a) County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership – Training sessions “How to be a good Councillor” at County Hall, Durham/Ceddesfield Hall, Sedgefield; various dates during June, July and August 2007; five modules at a cost of £27 per delegate/session or £120 for all five sessions.

Councillor Looby indicated he would like to attend some of the training session, he is to confirm his availability with the Clerk who will make the necessary booking arrangements.

- b) National Joint Council for Local Government Services – NJC Car Allowances 2007/08 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

Members agreed to pay the appropriate car allowance rate.

- c) Durham Wildlife Trust – Request for donation; latest Bank Statement

Members agreed to defer the donation and discuss it at a future Parish Council meeting. Clerk to inform the Durham Wildlife Trust.

- d) Ushaw College – New conference contact for all bookings.
- e) Information Commissioners Office – Freedom of Information Act 2000; Basic guide on compliance.
- f) Dr. C. M. Buck, Crossfell House – Access Lane, Crossfell allotments.

Item dealt with under Item 5 – Clerks Report.

- g) Horden Parish Council – Subscription to InformNorth magazine; Raising the profile of Parish and Town Councils throughout the North East.

Awaiting further details, Clerk to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

- h) County Durham Fairtrade Directory.
- i) Mineral Valleys Project Newsletter; Spring 2007; Issue 7.
- j) Durham County Council – Local Government Reorganisation, question and answer session on Unitary Local Government at County Hall, Durham on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007, 10am to 12pm.

It was agreed for the Chairman and Clerk to attend.

- k) Meikles Solicitors – Draft Lease for Langley Park Play Area.

It was agreed for the Clerk to meet with the Council’s solicitor and report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

- l) The D’Oyly Charitable Trust – Grant of £1000 to the proposed nature reserve at the Recreation Ground, Langley Park.

It was agreed for the money to be spent on the proposed fencing.

- n) Friends of Langley Park Primary School – request for a donation. A letter (and bank statement) had been received asking for a donation towards the costs of a summer fayre, which was to be held at the school premises on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Members agreed to donate £200 (under the powers within the Local Government Act 1972 section 145).

161/07 Reports

A) EUaL Partnership

- a) Increased hours for Mrs Karen Gibson.
- b) Community Day held 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007, awaiting report.
- c) AGM 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007.
- d) Refund of grant.

B) Parish

- a) Grass cutting contract 2007.

Members agreed:-

- i) To continue the contract with Wharton Landscape.
- ii) To accept a 5% increase on the 2006 contract which will include extra strimming at the play areas, Esh Green and £100 to strim under the roadside seats.

- b) Annual Report 2006/07

Members agreed to publish the Annual report for 2006/07 which would include:-

- i) Chairman's report to the Annual Assembly 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007.
- ii) Un-audited summary statement of accounts 2006/07.
- iii) List of County, District and Parish Councillors (including contact telephone numbers).
- iv) List of Parish Council Officers (including contact telephone numbers and office hours of the Clerk).

Members requested the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for printing and distribution of copies.

- c) Declaration of Office of Councillors.

The Clerk reported that he had received all signed declarations from Council members other than Councillor Guildford who was ill in hospital. Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with Councillor Guildford to complete the declaration as soon as possible (after recovery from illness).

C) District

Councillor Coulson Reported:-

- a) Election results 2007.
- b) Leader of the Council to be chosen on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

D) County

Councillor Armstrong reported:-

- a) Library provision for Langley Park (update).
- b) Contribution to EQUaL (Sir Bobby Robson park).

162/07 Langley Park and All Saints Youth Centre

Members raised concerns regarding the future of the building and land. No outline planning permission has been granted.

Concern was also raised regarding the sculpture, it was suggested that this could be incorporated into the proposed Mining Memorial for Langley Park.

163/07 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.



# POLICE REPORT



For the period: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007:

## **Esh Parish Area: 98 calls**

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

---

<b>Criminal Damage</b>	<b>: 8 calls</b>
<b>ASB / Nuisance / Under Age Drinking / Rowdy</b>	<b>: 13 calls</b>
<b>Vehicle / Motorcycle Nuisance</b>	<b>: 19 calls</b>
<b>Suspicious Persons</b>	<b>: 9 calls</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	<b>: 6 calls</b>
<b>Drugs Related</b>	<b>: 2 calls</b>
<b>Concern for safety</b>	<b>: 5 calls</b>
<b>Crime Burglary</b>	<b>: 0 calls</b>
<b>Theft</b>	<b>: 7 calls</b>
<b>RTC – Injury</b>	<b>: 1 call</b>
<b>RTC – Damage Only</b>	<b>: 1 call</b>
<b>Violence (Against the person)</b>	<b>: 4 calls</b>
<b>Firearms Incidents</b>	<b>: 1 calls</b>
<b>Road Related Incidents</b>	<b>: 2 calls</b>
<b>Other Incidents</b>	<b>: 20 calls</b>

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

---

### **Current Anti-Social Behaviour Hot Spots:**

Park Drive – ‘The Rec’ – Off-road bikes still causing a problem. We have issued 2 warning notices in the past few days and those people continue to use their bike in an anti-social manner they will have their bike seized.

### **Important Notes:**

Warrants - There have been three magistrates’ warrants in Langley Park recently, resulting in 4 arrests. Enquiries and forensic examinations are ongoing. One of the drugs found has been confirmed as amphetamine.

---

Closure Order – The police, working with partner organisations have successfully closed down 6, Railway Street, Langley Park as a result of numerous drug searches and intelligence from the public. (Note the Magistrates court issued an interim order on 13<sup>th</sup> April, with the full order being granted on 30<sup>th</sup> April).

We are aware there are problems with drugs in Langley Park and we ask local residents to continue to pass on any intelligence.

---

**Ongoing:**

- Mountain Bike – I will complete my bike course on 16<sup>th</sup> May, therefore I'll use my bike as my main mode of transport. I will still maintain my hi-visibility presence within the village.
  - Criminal damage and Anti-social behaviour calls are still causing concern. We have increased patrols, particularly on evenings when such problems are occurring and will continue to discourage this behaviour by displaying posters, current radio campaign etc.
  - Walkabout opportunities are always available with me to identify hot spots or to pass on intelligence.
  - Beat Surgeries (dates advertised on poster within Housing Office), Streetsafe box (Housing office) for intelligence, complaints; anonymously if preferred
  - Alcohol issues seem to have reduced. We are continuing to show a visible presence to deter youths from purchasing alcohol for consumption on the streets and we will continue to work with our licensing unit with regards to under-age sales. During this period we have not seized any alcohol on the streets.
- 

**Contact Details:**

Steve Brown 6654  
Lanchester Section Office

Langley Park PCSO 6654  
Telephone: 0845 6060365 Ext. 664 4420

Jacklyn Fenwick 1975  
Consett Police Office

Langley Park Police Officer  
Telephone: 0845 6060365 Ext. 6