

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park on Tuesday 12th June 2007 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors A. Mollon (Chairman), G Goulson, H. Guildford, A Harling, A Hiles, L Looby and M. Sands.

Apologies: Councillors C. Bloor and S Rothwell
Also from County Councillor. J. Armstrong, PCSO Steve Brown (Durham Police) and the Parish Clerk, Mr G. F. Smith (leave)

Also in Attendance: PC 1975 Jacklyn Fenwick (Durham Police).
M. G. Ackroyd (Assistant Clerk).

164/07 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.

165/07 Police Report

PC 1975 Jacklyn Fenwick introduced herself to the Council then presented the monthly report to members (copy attached to the minutes). Following her report various matters were raised with PC Fenwick including Councillor Harling's concern about skateboarding along the pavements in Quebec Street, Langley Park. Members thanked PC Fenwick for her report and she then left the meeting.

166/07 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th May 2007

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

167/07 Clerks Report including observations from Councillors to the minutes

None raised excepting that the Assistant Clerk reported that the cost of hiring a room for the September 2007 Meeting at Ushaw College might be prohibitive. He agreed to report back to the next Meeting.

168/07 Nominations for Co-opted Members (4 available)

Letter received from Mrs B. Armstrong, 44 Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery, DURHAM.

It was agreed by the Council that subject to Mrs Armstrong satisfying the usual membership qualifications that she be invited to join the Council.

169/07 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 8th May 2007

Amendments

153/07 Annual Budget 2007/08

To read as follows:

Members agreed that the annual budget for 2007/08 (copy attached to the minutes) and for the allocation of £5000 to Sir Bobby Robson Park to be transferred from the reserve account (not commuted sums) **during 2007/08**. Assistant Clerk/RFO to make the necessary adjustments in the cost ledger.

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

- a) 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 (0191 3736687).

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

170/07 Clerks Report including observations from Councillors to the minutes

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132/06 Reports Parish

Langley Park Recreation Ground

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

Signed by the Chairman Page 1

Contractor reminded had reminded the Contractor about the estimate on 12th June 2007. Councillor Hiles agreed to provide the Assistant Clerk with a plan of the Nature Reserve as there is a possibility that part of the land might be of interest as a football pitch.

In addition the Clerk to check on the grant conditions (MME Scale) when he returns from leave.

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010/07 Correspondence

e) LGPS – Flexible Retirement Policy

Clerk to produce a policy document to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting on his return from leave.

f) LGPS – Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy Payments

Clerk to produce a policy document to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting on his return from leave.

132/07 Quality Parish Council Status

The Assistant Clerk advised the Council that the Parish Council had now been awarded Quality Parish Council Status. A press release had been made. The Council asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Clerk for all his hard work in preparing and submitting the portfolio. The Council was the first in Derwentside to receive an award and only the 427th out of 8500 Local Councils in England and Wales.

135/07 Reports – B) Parish

a) Footpath 59, Langley Park, Parish Paths Partnership 2006

Work finished. Invoice awaited.

b) Book of Poems – Further estimate to be reported at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

a) NJC Wrought Iron had been instructed to carry out the works agreed in the Parish Room.

b) The Clerk to continue to look for alternative office accommodation on his return from leave.

146/07 Correspondence

e) Letter sent to Dr C. M. Buck, Crossfell House as per Council decision and had also been in contact with County Councillor Armstrong re the matter.

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154/07 Annual Audit 2006/07

The Assistant Clerk advised the Council that the District Audit had asked the Council to submit the Annual Return for 2006/07 on 17th August 2007.

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

The Assistant Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the Secretary to County Durham Association of Local Councils to ascertain if it was necessary for small Councils to incur potentially large publication costs in advertising that the Parish Council had adopted the Code of Conduct bearing in mind that there were other potential options available. The Secretary said that he had a meeting that day with both a representative from the Standards Board for England and the Monitoring Officer at Derwentside District Council and would raise the matter with them.

159/07 Planning Matters

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

Councillor Coulson advised the Council that there had been objections to the application and that it had now been withdrawn as the applicant wished to make further enquiries on the proposed extraction system.

160/07 Correspondence

- a) Councillor Looby had attended the first of five sessions arranged by the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership – Training sessions on “How to be a good Councillor”.
- g) Horden Parish Council – Subscription to InformNorth magazine; Raising the profile of Parish and Town Councils throughout the North East. The Clerk to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting on his return from leave.
- k) Meikles Solicitors – Draft Lease for Langley Park Play Area.
The Clerk to meet with the Council’s solicitor and report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting on his return from leave.
- l) The D’Oyly Charitable Trust – Grant of £1000 to the proposed nature reserve at the Recreation Ground, Langley Park. Letter of thanks sent to the Trust.

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B) Parish

- b) Annual Report 2006/07

The Assistant Clerk advised the Council that the Annual report for 2006/07 had been published in Esh Leaves Extra May 2007. Unfortunately there had been an error in the unaudited end of year balances (1 line missing) – to be corrected in Esh Leaves July 2007.

- c) Declaration of Office of Councillors.

The Assistant Clerk reported that he had received Councillor Guildford’s declaration.

171/07 Planning Matters

A

No. 1/2007/0380/DMFP
 APPLICANT ESH WINNING CAR SALES
 PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM INDUSTRIAL STORAGE TO
 COMMERCIAL SALES (RETROSPECTIVE)
 AT UNIT H, ESH WINNING INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

B

NO CC/1/2007/0403/DMFP
 APPLICANT MR CHRISTOPHER RILEY
 PROPOSED CONSERVATORY TO FRONT
 AT 20 ELM STREET, LANGLEY PARK, CO DURHAM, DH7 9SU

No objections to A) and B) subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account by the Planning Officer/District Council when making a decision in these cases.

C

NO CC/1/2007/0433/DMFP
 APPLICANT MR AND MRS HALLAM
 PROPOSED ERECTION OF GARAGE / WORKSHOP TO REAR
 AT 18 FRONT STREET, QUEBEC, CO DURHAM, DH7 9DF

No objections to C) subject to:-

- a) adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account by the Planning Officer/District Council when making a decision in this case.
- b) that there is no commercial use carried out in the garage/workshop.

D

NO SW/1/2007/0434/DMFP
 APPLICANT MR AND MRS F. WADE
 PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING (RESUBMISSION)
 AT LAND TO THE REAR OF 25 FRONT STREET, QUEBEC, CO
 DURHAM

The Assistant Clerk advised that it was now proposed to take access to the site to the side of No 24 Front Street, Quebec.

E

NO CC/1/2007/0437/DMFP
APPLICANT MR AND MRS HAMMOND
PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF DORMER WINDOWS TO FRONT, FIRST
FLOOR EXTENSION TO SIDE WITH ALTERATIONS TO ROOF
AT PLUM TREE HOUSE, ESH, CO DURHAM, DH7 9RP

F

NO CC/1/2007/0404/DMFP
APPLICANT LANGLEY PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
PROPOSED PROPOSED ERECTION OF 1 DWELLING
AT LAND TO THE NORTH OF THE CHURCH HALL, THOMAS
STREET, LANGLEY PARK, DURHAM

No objections to D), E) and F) subject to adjacent occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account by the Planning Officer/District Council when making a decision in these cases.

G

NO GG/1/2007/0368/DMFP
APPLICANT MS C. HAMMAL
PROPOSED ERECTION OF GARAGE TO SIDE
AT CHARLOTTE HOUSE, ESH, CO DURHAM

Item G) was for information only as the matter had already been dealt with by the District Council.

172/07 Correspondence

Received and noted from:-

Derwentside District Council

- a) Parish Council Election Results 2007
- b) Draft Corporate Plan 2007-10
- c) Weekly list of planning applications
- d) Development Control Committee 4th June 2007
- e) Parish Precept 2007/08. Received 7th June 2007.
- f) Parish Liaison Meeting 7th June 2007

Durham County Council

- g) Surface Dressing Programme. The Assistant Clerk said that he had contacted County Councillor Armstrong to ascertain if there could be any surplus plantings from the Clifford Bank work for possible use in connection with the access tracks at the CF and ED allotments.
- h) Temporary Road Closure – unc road to rear of Dean Street, Langley Park
- i) Local Government Review
- j) Partnership News Spring 2007 – Issue 34
- k) Update on Parish and Town Councils. Form to be completed by the Assistant Clerk.

Other

- l) Lumalite products
- m) RTPi Conference 23rd June 2007
- n) Durham Rural Community Council – Community News Summer 2007 - Issue 104
- o) North East Regional Spatial Strategy Proposed changes – CD ROM
- p) 2 D Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector of Teesdale and Wear Valley
- q) Valuing People – May 2007
- r) Newton Aycliffe Play Seminar

- s) Community Empowerment Awards
- t) Standards Board for England – Model Code of Conduct. Extra copies ordered but copies handed out to the Councillors attended at the Meeting.
- u) Parish Paths Partnership 2007. The Parish Council had been successful with its bid for the erection of the new noticeboard in Langley Park but not for the proposed works on FP 30.
- v) Langley Park Community Association. Agreement received on transfer of the outstanding balance in the Langley Park Community Development Project account to the Mining and Memories Group. Commuted Sums
 Response received from the Director of Environmental Services (DofES) Derwentside District Council on the use of commuted sums in Esh Ward on local play area initiatives. The DofES had advised that the total "sums" received within Esh Ward was/will be around £37,200 from 3 sites. He had reiterated however that in his opinion it had not been agreed, within the original negotiations, that the Parish Council would be automatically entitled to any future commuted sums realised from within the Esh Ward. However the DofES had invited EQUaL to discuss this matter further with the Authority.
 The Assistant Clerk advised that the correspondence had been passed on to the Community Capacity Worker, EQUaL, who had already written to the DofES re the use of the commuted sums realised in for part funding towards the new play area in Langley Park. Councillor Coulson said he would be prepared to attend any discussions between the District Council and the Community Capacity Worker.

173/07 Reports

A) EQUaL Partnership

Councillor Hiles reported on the following matters

- a) A substantial grant from the Big Lottery Fund towards the Langley Park Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground for £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund towards:-
 Fencing £2000, interpretation boards £2000, clearing of footpath £5000, mowing, £250, park event £250, bird boxes £200, management plan £300.
- b) Progress is being made towards the release of land by the Langley Park Sports and Social Club for the Sir Bobby Robson Play Area.

B) Parish

- a) Parish Walk - email from Mrs Hope thanking the Council for the Walk. Mrs Hope's email is to be incorporated into the next edition of Esh Leaves. Councillor Bloor was thanked for leading the Walk and Mrs Mollon for her catering arrangements
- b) A meeting had been held with Paul Snowdon and 10 sites had been identified where hanging baskets would not be provided. The remaining baskets would be made up shortly. In the meantime N. J. C. Wrought Iron will be checking the brackets before being used again this season.
- c) Grass cutting - opposite Play Area Quebec. Complaint received that this area had not been cut. The area had now been cut by Derwentside District Council.
- d) Work should start shortly on upgrading the Parish Room.
- e) The Parish Clerk had requested that due to the considerable amount of time spent in:-
 (i) preparing and achieving a Certificate in Local Council Administration and
 (ii) preparing and submitting a Portfolio for Quality Parish Council Status on behalf of
 behalf of the Parish Council

that he be allowed to carry forward his outstanding leave from 2006/07 (22 days), together with 3 days in lieu of weekend work, to 2007/08, and that this be taken from 17th May 2007.

It was resolved that due to the exceptional circumstances of this case, Mr Smith's request be agreed.

The Assistant Clerk also said as Mr Smith had spent a considerable amount of time in preparing, and submitting a Portfolio for Quality Parish Council Status, the Council might wish to consider some form of honorarium to Mr Smith.

It was agreed that the Council should consider this suggestion at the next Monthly Meeting and that the Assistant Clerk should make further enquiries in this respect. The Assistant Clerk also stated that he was prepared to provide cover for the Clerk during his leave.

- f) Esh Leaves July 2007. As additional articles had been received from the public, and more adverts placed with the Council, that the limit of 28 pages could be raised to 32 pages for the next edition.
- g) Councillor Sands asked that the grass under the seat to the east side of Front Street, Esh be strimmed.

C) District

Councillor Coulson reported on the following matters:-

- a) Local Government Review
- b) Review of Scrutiny Committees

At this point Councillor Guildford left the Meeting.

D) County

In the absence of County Councillor Armstrong the Chairman reported on the following matters:-

- a) Library provision for Langley Park (update).
- b) Highways - disabled access improvements in Langley Park

174/07 Parish Garage

The Assistant Clerk reported that the licensee (Mr C. Owers) had terminated the agreement. It was agreed that Mr Owers bond could be returned to him subject to the property being returned in a similar state of repair, as at the commencement of the licence, and that all outstanding invoices had been paid.

It was also agreed that the Clerk/Assistant Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Coulson be authorised to find a new licensee for the garage. In the meantime the Assistant Clerk had reduced the potential income for the garage in 2007/08 by the equivalent of 3 months licence fees.

175/07 Financial statement and report

After receiving details of all the financial statements for 2007/08 (V1-87) should be paid and, where appropriate, confirm the Chairman/Clerks action in issuing cheques in advance of the Meeting.

The Assistant Clerk said that was making further enquiries re V87 npower (Christmas Lights) as this appeared higher than previous accounts from them.

176/07 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th July 2007 in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.



POLICE REPORT



For the period: 9th May 2007 – 9th June 2007:

Esh Parish Area Total (I2B): 90 calls

Community Related: 50 Calls

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

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Criminal Damage:

Ushaw College - 2 youths arrested and 3 taken home and spoken to in front of parents for damage in the disused college buildings

Damage to property in Davis Crescent
Vehicle damaged by fire on Lillian Terrace
2 Cats shot by air weapons on Finings Street
Enquiries are ongoing into the above incidents

Warrants executed:

A warrant was executed at a property in Quebec Street resulting in 3 arrests for drugs offences.
A male has been charged with drugs offences after a warrant in The Crescent.
2 more warrants in Springwell Avenue and East Clere.

We are aware there are problems with drugs in Langley Park and we ask local residents to continue to pass on any intelligence through the beat surgeries and Streetsafe box, this can be done anonymously.

Dwelling Burglaries:

None this period

Burglary (other):

None this period

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Reports suggest that youths are drinking alcohol around the rear of the Spar shop and near the Housing Office on Thomas Street. Officers regular patrol this area and no youths have been seen drinking. Two alcohol seizures this period. I have identified the store where the alcohol was purchased. Information has been passed onto licensing unit and the parents of the youths responsible will receive a letter informing them of their child's behaviour

Motorcycle Incidents:

I have identified 6 local youths who own motorbikes in Langley Park. They have all been warned about their anti-social use and agree to abide by the law. I will continue to monitor the situation and report back at the next meeting.
One youth has been issued with a 1st stage warning notice and another youth has received a warning letter from the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator regarding his off-road bike.

Bogus Callers:

Bogus Callers regularly target Durham Constabulary's force area purporting to be from the 'water board' or 'gas board' asking to check for leaks, blue dye in the water and so on. Although there have been no reports in the Esh Parish area we ask people to remain vigilant, particularly in the areas where older people reside. Various crime prevention leaflets are available from PCSO Brown at Lanchester Police Office.

Notes:

Police in partnership with the DVLA have removed 5 untaxed vehicles from Langley Park, including 3 from Springwell Avenue

Parking issues on Lambton Street, Langley Park reported. Police are currently liaising with Derwentside District Council

I have completed my mountain bike course; therefore you will probably see me riding as well as walking in the village. This will assist with transport to and from Langley Park and allow me to maintain a hi-visibility presence in the village

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

We still have a supply of shed alarms and I'm always available to offer security advice to local residents

Contact Details:

PCSO 6654 Steve Brown
Langley Park / Esh Beat
Lanchester Section Office
Telephone: 0845 6060365 Ext. 664 4420
Stevenb@durham.pnn.police.uk

PC 1975 Jacklyn Fenwick
Langley Park / Esh Beat
Consett Police Office
Telephone: 0845 6060365 Ext. 664 2455