

Esh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park on Tuesday 10th July 2007 commencing at 7:00pm

Present: Councillors A Mollon (Chairman), C Bloor, G Coulson, A Harling, A Hiles, L Looby, S Rothwell and M Sands.

Apologies: Councillors H Guildford, M Tyler, W Tyrie and PCSO Brown.

Also in Attendance: Mrs B Armstrong, Country Councillor Armstrong, PC Fenwick, G.F Smith (Clerk) and M Ackroyd (Assistant Clerk).

177/07 Declaration of Interest

Councillors Coulson and Rothwell declared an interest in item 12 - Planning Matters, they took no part in the debate other than clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor Mollon declared an interest in item 7 - Nominations for Co-opted Members. He left the meeting while the item was discussed.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in item 14 - requests for joint use of the account ED.49, he took no part in the debate.

178/07 Police Report

PC Fenwick presented the monthly report to members (copy attached to the minutes). Following her report there was a question and answer session. PC Fenwick then left the meeting.

179/07 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th June 2007

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

180/07 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor by Mrs B Armstrong

Members accepted the declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor by Mrs B Armstrong, duly signed by Mrs Armstrong and the Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council.

Mrs B Armstrong, 44 Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery, Co Durham DH7 9BW was now a Parish Councillor for the Esh Parish Council.

181/07 Clerks Report including Observations from Councillors to the minutes

Page 1

167/07 September Meeting at Ushaw College

It was agreed to hold the September meeting of the Parish Council at Ushaw College at a cost of £50+ vat.

168/07 Co-Opted Member – Mrs B Armstrong

Agenda item no 5

132/06 Reports B) Parish

Langley Park Recreation Ground. Grants had been received for the recreation ground, Clerk to update at the next meeting.

Page 2

010/07 Correspondence

E and F Retirement Policies. Clerk to present reports to the next appropriate Council meeting.

132/07 Quality Parish Council Status

Agenda item no.13

135/07 Reports B) Parish

b) Book of Poems

Assistant Clerk to obtain further estimates for the cost of publishing the book of poems. Reports to the next appropriate Council meeting.

141/07 Minutes of A special meeting 15th March 2007

Parish Room

A further quotation of £650.00 had been received from a local building contractor for remedial works to the Parish Room. Members agreed not to proceed with any works to the Parish Room.

An office will be available at Wood View Community Centre within the next four weeks. Members agreed to relocate the Clerks office from the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre to the Wood View Community Centre during the month of August. Clerk to update members at the next Parish Council meeting.

154/07 Annual Audits 2006/07

Agenda Item no. 9

157/07 The Local Authorities (model code of conduct) order 2007

Agenda Item no.11 (g)

Page 3

Page 4

172/07 Correspondence

g) Surface Dressing Programme

Assistant Clerk reported that the request for surplus plans had been placed on the waiting list at Durham County Council.

Page 5

169/07 Correspondence

a) Parish Parts Partnership 2007

Awaiting the erection of the new noticeboard at Langley Park. Clerk to update at the next meeting.

170/07 Reports B) Parish

e) Parish Clerk

Report to be presented to the Parish Council meeting in September 2007.

Page 6

17/07 Parish Garage

Councillors Mollon and Coulson and the Assistant Clerk had interview Mr Tony Elliott of 12 Dale Street, Langley Park and were satisfied he would be a satisfactory tenant. Members agreed to rent the garage to Mr Tony Elliott at £120 per month subject to a satisfactory reference and the commencement date to be agreed with the Clerk. The Clerk to update at the next Parish Council meeting.

172/07 Financial Statement

The Assistant Clerk agreed to pursue the possibility of alternative suppliers of electricity for the Christmas tree lighting. The Clerk to update at the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Mollon vacated the Chair and left the meeting room while the next item was discussed. Councillor Bloor chaired the meeting.

182/07 Nominations for Co-opted Members

The Clerk read out a letter of application from Mrs Paula Mollon, 14 Front Street, Langley Park DH7 9SG. Member agreed to accept the application for a Parish Councillor from Mrs Mollon and to invite her to the next for Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Bloor stood down of Chairman. Councillor Mollon returned to the meeting room and continued the meeting as Chairman.

183/07 Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities

Members agreed to accept the report of the assistant Clerk and increased the hours of the I.T. officer from 10 to 12 per week for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st July 2007.

184/07 Annual Audit 2006/07

a) Report of Internal Auditor.

Members agreed to accept the annual internal audit report and noted that the internal auditor had answered yes to all questions raised in section 4 of the annual return.

b) External auditor.

Members agreed with the report of the Assistant Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and noted that the accounts for 2006/07 would be submitted to the external auditor by 17th August 2007.

c) Statements of Accounts.

Members agreed the figures shown on the statement of accounts for year ending 31st March 2007 and for the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer to sign the necessary document.

d) Annual Governance Statement.

Members agreed to answer all questions with a yes and for the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer to sign the necessary document.

e) Mid Term Review.

Members agreed to appoint Mr S Harris to carry out a Mid Term Review of the Councils accounting procedures and the regular end of year internal audit. Members also agreed for the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer a fee and travelling expenses with Mr Harris and to report to a future Parish Council meeting.

f) Revised schedule to the External Auditor.

Members agreed the report of the Assistant Clerk and the Responsible Financial Officer and that the amended schedule be submitted with the Annual Return to the External Auditor.

185/07 Financial Statement and Report

After receiving details of all financial statements for 2007/08 (voucher v88 to v115) should be paid and where appropriate confirm the Chairman/Clerks action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

186/07 Correspondence

Derwentside District Council

- a) Chairman's Service of Thanksgiving- Sunday 12th August 2007

Durham County Council

- b) Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report
- c) Environment – replacement of damaged guardrail at Quebec.

County Durham Association of Local Councils

- d) Quality Parish Council certificate
- e) Durham Association Newsletter- June 2007

Others

- f) Sedgefield Borough Council- Tour of Locomotion in Shildon Tuesday 17th July 2007.
- g) The Standards Board for England- confirmation of the date the code came into effect at Esh Parish Council.
- h) County Durham Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted- letter of thanks for the donation.
- i) Meikles Solicitors- Lease of land at Langley Park play area.
- j) Clerks & Councils direct; Issue 52; July 2007.
- k) Local Council Review; Volume 59, No 2; July 2007.

187/07 Planning Matters

A

No	SW/1/2007/O466/DMFP
Applicant	CWS Retail Financial Services
Proposed	Advertising consent for erection of one illuminated fascia sign
At	Co-op Pharmacy, 40 Front Street, Langley Park

Members agreed to raise no objections subject to adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on this development.

B

No CC/1/2007/0479/DMFP

Applicant Mr D. Tyres

Proposed Dormer windows to front and rear

At Kirdavyn, Front Street, Esh

Members wished to raise concerns on the use of dormer windows to the front of the property. Members agreed to raise no objections subject to the concerns being addressed by the planning officer and also adjacent occupants being consulted and for their views to be taken into account when making a decision on this development.

C

No CC/1/2007/0575/DMTP

Applicant Mr D Whitton

Proposed Pruning of one oak tree (TPO 17)

At 2 Beamish Close, Langley Park

Members agreed to await the reports of the County Arborist before making a decision on this application.

188/07 Quality Parish Council Status

Members were delighted to receive the award and request the Clerk to prepare a report on possible additional services that could be carried out by the Parish Council.

189/07 Earl of Durham Allotments

Members agreed to the joint tenancy of ED49 by Mr J Farrell, 54 Park Drive and Mr Stephen Whitten, 6 Phoenix Close, Langley Park.

190/07 Reports

- a) EQUaL Partnership
 - i) Agree plan for the work at the recreation ground (grant from breathing spaces)
 - ii) Next committee meeting 12th July
- b) Parish
 - i) Notice boards at Quebec and Esh. Members agreed to accept the quotation from NJC wrought iron for £85.00 to re-paint the two notice boards.

c) District

Councillor Coulson reported: -

- i) Items discussed at the Development Control Meeting.

Councillor Rothwell reported: -

- i) New Business Centre at Tanfield Lee- completion March 2009.
- ii) Health profile in Derwentside.
- iii) Shotley Bridge Hospital.
- iv) Travellers site at Greencroft.
- v) Credit unions scheme.

d) County

County Councillor Armstrong reported: -

- i) Drop kerb, Quebec Street.
- ii) Bollards, Front Street.
- iii) Library update due in September.
- iv) Donation to football coaching event, Langley Park in August.
- v) Shotley Bridge Hospital.

191/07 Request for Donations

A request had been received from Langley Park Junior Angling Club for a donation towards expenses in providing fishing trips for young people during the school summer holidays. A copy of the bank statement had also been received.

Members agreed to donate £300 subject to the adult supervision being CAB checked. (Powers within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 10).

192/07 August Recess

Members agreed to delegate powers to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to deal with any matters requiring attention and to report to the next ordinary meeting in September.

193/07 Date And Time of the next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th September 2007 at Ushaw College commencing at 7.00pm.



POLICE REPORT

For the period: 9th June 2007 – 7th July 2007

Esh Parish Area Total (I2B): 82 calls

Community Related: 41 Calls

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

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Criminal Damage:

Langley Park Primary School suffered damage to their perimeter fence which was partially removed and set on fire. One possible suspect who will be spoken to regarding the incident.

A property on Lime Terrace and D’Arcy Street have had windows smashed. A property on Front Street has had damage carried out to a satellite dish. Reports of damage caused to Allotment sites within Langley Park. A property in The Woodlands had a safety barrier damaged.

We are very concerned about the number of damages this period and ask the public to call us if they know anything about these incidents.

Theft:

Number plates stolen from a vehicle in Hawthorn Terrace. Riverside Industrial Estate where faulty electrical equipment was stolen. 3 Lurcher pups were stolen from allotment but later found safe nearby.

Enquiries are ongoing into the above incidents.

Warrants executed:

Durham Street resulting in one arrest and a stolen motorbike recovered. East Clere – 1 male arrested for possession of controlled drug (Amphetamine).

Dwelling Burglaries:

None this period.

Burglary (other):

Langley Park Industrial Estate has been targeted on at two separate occasions and property stolen. Most of the buildings on the estate are in a poor state and security is non-existent. The estate is not manned on an evening and weekend and due to the remote location is a prime target for criminals.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

1 alcohol seizure from outside The Spar. Youths continue to gather to the rear of the shop and are moved on during regular police patrols. The parents of the youth responsible drinking will receive a letter informing them of their child's behaviour

Motorcycle Incidents:

Only one incident this period which is a significant reduction from the past few months. I recently spoke with a number of youths responsible so hopefully they have taken notice. CCTV footage identified a male from Langley Park on Quad bike in the Durham Street area. He will be seen and warned and issued with 1st stage warning notice.

Bogus Callers:

We have received reports of Polish callers in Langley Park knocking on doors asking for money to help them finish their education, or buy paintings. It is suggested you don't give them any money.

Bogus Callers regularly target the Consett 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. Please report any such incidents immediately.

Notes:

A road accident was reported which occurred on Low Moor Road. The car was found on its roof. There were no injuries.

A young female was knocked over on the crossing on Quebec Street. She suffered from a minor head injury and was treated at hospital.

Ongoing parking issues on Lambton Street, Langley Park reported.

Contacting all local residents to inform them of the problem and the fact we will issue fixed penalty notices for obstruction to any vehicles ignoring the 'keep clear' sign.

Allotments have been targeted and damage caused – please ask allotment holders to be vigilant and contact me at Lanchester office if they need security or crime prevention advice. Shed alarms are available.

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.

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

Finally, I am looking for storage for my mountain bike in the village. Ideally access should be available between 8am and 10pm. If you have a space please contact me via Lanchester office.

Contact Details:

PCSO 6654 Steve Brown
Langley Park / Esh Beat
Lanchester Police Office
0845 6060365 Ext. 6644420
Stevenb@durham.pnn.police.uk

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