

**ESH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held at the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 commencing at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors A. Mollon (Chairman), B. Armstrong, C. Bloor, R. Bowyer, G. Coulson, A. Harling, A. Hiles, L. Looby, P. Mollon and W. Tyrrie.

**Apologies:** Councillors H. Guildford, M. Sands and S. Rothwell. L Rowland (Assistant Clerk)

**Also Present:** County Councillors J Armstrong, M. Campbell, Kath Ivens (Groundwork West Durham) PcsO Pearsall (Durham Police), Mr P. Bunn (Resident) and GF Smith (Clerk)

**014/09 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor G. Coulson declared an interest in item 10 – Planning Matters; he took no part in the discussion other than to clarify any matters of fact.

Councillor Bloor declared an interest in item 6 – Clerk’s Report 068/08 (2) and item 7 – Parish Report 1 & 3.

Councillors Bowyer and Hiles declared an interest in item 13 – Sir Bobby Robson Park; they took no part in the discussion.

**015/09 Police Report**

PcsO Pearsall presented the report to the meeting (copy attached to the minutes), followed by an question and answer session.

**016/09 Presentation by Kath Ivens, Groundwork West Durham and Darlington.**

Kath updated members on the work that can be carried out by Groundwork Trust working with partners to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses in areas in need of investment and support. The delivered programmes bring about social, economic and environmental benefits. Kath also explained about the possible project for the Parish on the blooming families grant stream through the Big Lottery Fund, further details to follow.

Members thanked Kath for her presentation and hoped to work in partnership with the Trust on a number of possible projects.

Kath left the meeting.

**017/09 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

Members agreed that the minutes were a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

**018/09 Clerk's Report**

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**011/08 Reports – b) Parish**

2) Esh Village Green

Clerk is awaiting prices from Durham County Council Service Direct for the proposed work at the village green.

Clerk to chase up with Tasman Harrison and report to the next Parish Council meeting. Councillor Armstrong informed the meeting that the scheme is almost ready and should commence in February/March 2009. An exhibition will be held for residents within the next few weeks (Date to be confirmed).

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**068/08 Reports – b) Parish**

1)EDF Energy Windfarm – 3 Parish Councils meeting

The Clerk updated members on a meeting which took place on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009. A number of questions were raised at the meeting and the Clerk was to make enquiries with Durham Foundation/EDF. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

2)Litter bin – Langley Park Primary School

The Clerk updated members on the meeting he had with the Headmistress (Miss Brennan) in which the school was prepared to donate a litter bin at the Sir Bobby Robson Park. Members agreed to this request and for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangement with the Headmistress.

**015/08 Correspondence**

b)CDALC – Freedom of Information

Members noted that the documents had now been placed on the Councils Website.

**115/08 Reports – b) Parish**

a)Christmas Tree “switch – on” at Langley Park, safety fencing around the tree.

Members confirmed the action of the Chairman and Clerk in arranging for NJC Wrought Iron to carry out remedial work to the fencing which will allow a better view of the tree at the end of year.

**120/08 Planning Matters**

c)SCA/1/2008/0727/DMFP-Tarves, Esh

Information from the Planning Officer for the above scheme had still not been received the Clerk to chase this matter up and to circulate the details to each Council Member once they have been received.

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**130/08 Minutes of a Special meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008**

a)The Laptop had been ordered and has now been received, the IT Officer is presently commissioning the programmes. Clerk to update at the next Parish Council meeting.

d)Correspondence had been sent to the relevant banks regarding closing of certain bank accounts. Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

**131/08 Reports – b) Parish**

ii) Winter gritting Clerk to discuss with Councillor Armstrong to arrange a meeting with the appropriate County Council Officer (Dave Wilcox) regarding the provision of winter maintenance to footpaths throughout the Parish Council area.

Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

**133/08 Correspondence**

e) Rural services community

The Clerk had spoken to Steve Ragg (County Durham Associations of Local Councils) regarding membership of the above and confirmed that (CDALC) were a member of the above organisation therefore members agreed that they was no need for the Parish Council to subscribe.

**134/08 Planning Matters**

b) SCA/1/2008/0806/DMFP – Land to the North at the Aged Miners Homes at Quebec

The Clerk updated members on the latest situation regarding the above proposed development he understands from the planning Officer that the original proposal had now been revised (ie reduction in the size of the sheds and their location within this site) Clerk to obtain a copy of the revised drawings and on receipt to circulate them to all Councillors for their comments.

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**008/09 Correspondence**

b) Derwentside District Council – Parish Liaison meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009

The Clerk updated Members on the decision at the meeting to arrange a Special meeting of all Parish Councils in the Local Area Action Partnership where they will discuss the membership of Parish Councils on the Area Board.

**009/09 Planning Matters**

a) PPS/1/2008/0826/DMFP – Low Esh Farm, Esh

Clerk updated Members on his conversation with the Planning Officer on the above proposed application.

Details/ Plan had been requested by the Clerk but had not been received in time for this meeting, On receipt of the above the Clerk is to send a copy to all Council Members for their comments.

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**011/09 Sir Bobby Robson Park**

Agenda item no 13

**012/09 Area Action Partnership**

Agenda item no 14.

**019/09 Reports**

- a) EQUaL Partnership meeting
- i) Funding for ladies swimming group
- ii) Langley Park Recreation Ground
- iii) Lack of support for schemes

b) Parish

- i) Victim Support County Durham (minute 008/09 (d))

A copy of this organisation balance sheet (as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008) was circulated to Members at the meeting.

Members agreed not to make a donation to Victim Support County Durham in this financial year

- ii) email received from Karen Gibson regarding feedback from a recent residents meeting.

1) pathway to the allotments (messy and muddy as bushes /plants have been removed and earth/mud washed down onto the path.

Members agreed for the Clerk to discuss a possible project with Groundwork for this area and to report to the next appropriate Parish Council Meeting.

- 2) Boulders at the top of the Recreation Ground Langley Park

Members agreed for the placing of boulders on the above area to stop illegal access onto the site, the estimated cost was £500. County Councillor Campbell agreed to fund £300

From his members imitative fund. The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the work to be carried out.

- 3) Quotation received to trim allotments paths.

A quotation had been received from I Dowson & Sons to carry out the above work twice a year. Members agreed that the Clerk should obtain further quotations for this work from other local contractors and to report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

- 4) guaranteed investment account at the Cooperative bank plc

The above account is due to mature on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 the amount is value at £20,638.10. Members agreed to continue with investing the above amount for a further 6 months at 1.59% gross/aer as from the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009. Clerk/Assistant Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the Co-operative Bank Plc.

c) District

Councillor Coulson reported:-

- i) Bus Shelters
- ii) Development Control Committee
- iii) Councillors Initiative Fund

Councillor Tyrie reported:-

- i) Parish Council Liaison meeting
- ii) Area Action Partnership Membership
- iii) Honary Alderman (Councillor Harry Guildford is eligible)
- iv) Freedom of Information Act
- v) Merging of Credit Unions

d) County

Councillor Armstrong reported:-

- i) Urban renaissance at Esh Village
- ii) Langley Park Library
- iii) Quebec play area
- iv) Verge damage at Quebec
- v) Give way sign at Langley Park Industrial Estate
- vi) Bus shelters/bus lay-bys
- vii) Church Street, Langley Park (hole in road)
- viii) Report on community meeting on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 with the MP and Police
- ix) Salting & Gritting throughout the Parish area
- x) All Saints Youth Centre building
- xi) Area Action Partnership
- xii) Council tax for 2009/10

Councillor Campbell reported:-

- i) Urban renaissance at Esh Village
- ii) Concerns regarding staff levels at District Council
- iii) New planning structure as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009
- iv) Satley Parish Clerk
- v) Erection of Wind turbine

**020/09 Financial Statement & Report**

After receiving details of all Financial Statements for 2008/09 (voucher 247 to 270)

Members agreed they should be paid and where appropriate confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action in issuing cheques in advance of the meeting.

**021/09 Correspondence**

Items for discussion

a) Resident of Palm Street, Langley Park

A letter (unsigned) had been received regarding dog fouling on public footpaths. The Clerk also confirmed that a number of residents had visited the office to complain about dog fouling on Front Street and Quebec Street, Langley Park.

Members agreed for the Clerk to:-

- i) Arrange for a supply of "doggie bags" to be delivered to three local shops (Spar, Co – op and the Post Office) and to place a notice on the Council's notice board informing residents of the availability of the bags.
- ii) Obtain the cost of supplying dog fouling bins from Derwentside District Council and report to the next Parish Council meeting.
- iii) Discuss with the relevant Officer at Derwentside District Council to display a Public notice with the relevant information on responsibilities of dog owners and the possible fines. Notices to be placed on the Council's notice boards and also in the next edition of Esh Leaves.

b)EQUaL – UK Online Centre

Members agreed:-

i)for the IT facilities in the Harry Guildford Centre to be registered as a UK Online Centre.

ii)to promote the IT facilities available within the centre (ie open days, Councillor Surgeries and an item in the next edition of Esh Leaves).

c)CDALC – Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

nominations required by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Details to the Clerk as soon as possible.

d)Steps Detached Project (young people) – Application for funding

Members agreed:-

i)For the Clerk to contact Louise Wilson for further information on the project (Where were the young people involved in the project from?)

ii) That the project contacts the Groundwork Trust for possible funding opportunities (Clerk to pass details onto Louise Wilson)

iii)for the Clerk to make enquires with Durham County Council (David Emmerson) regarding the “Ring Fenced” money for youth work in Langley Park (ie is it still available? And how can the fund be accessed?). Clerk to report to the next Parish Council meeting.

e)DCC – Disposal of allotment sites owned by DCC at Quebec

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the County Council informing them that at the present time the Parish Council would not be interested in taking ownership of the allotment sites at Quebec.

f)DCC – Double taxation update – allotments - amount payable for 2009/10 will be £134.

Clerk to copy correspondence to all Council Members.

Items for Information:-

g)CDALC – section 137 figure for 2009/10 will be £6.15 per electorate

h)Rachael Davies, 27 Eppleton Close, Langley Park – Letter of Thank You for recent donation of £150.

i)Local Councils update – Jan/Feb 2009; issue 111/2

j)Durham Rural Community Council Newsletter; winter 2009

k)CDALC Newsletter; January 2009; issue 23

l)County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Newsletter; February 2009; issue 25

m)Samaritans of County Durham – Thank you letter and certificate for recent donation of £250.

n)DCC – Annual returns of Pension Contributions for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

**022/09 Planning Matters**

A

No. PPS/1/2008/0851/DMFP

APPLICANT MRS A PLATT

PROPOSED ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION,  
DORMER WINDOW AND BALCONY TO REAR AND  
3 ROOF LIGHTS TO FRONT

AT 2 BELGRAVE HOUSE, FRONT STREET, ESH

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. PPS/1/2008/0879/DMFP

APPLICANT MRS K DOBBIN

PROPOSED ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION,

AT 16 ELM 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.

C

No. PPS/1/2008/0888/DMFP

APPLICANT EQUaL

PROPOSED ERECTION OF 2.4 METRE HIGH PALISADE FENCING  
ALIGNING WITH THE CHURCH GRAVEYARD WALL

AT SIR BOBBY ROBSON PARK, 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.

D

No. GB/1/2009/0020/DMFP

APPLICANT MR R MORTON

PROPOSED ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS AND GARAGING

AT WOODBINE COTTAGE, FRONT STREET, ESH

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.

**023/09 Car parking at Quebec Play Area**

Councillor Armstrong was to arrange a meeting with Officers of Durham County Council (25<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00pm on site) and would inform the Chairman/Clerk of the date and time. He also stated that he would involve Groundwork Trust on any of the proposed work to give them an opportunity to arrange any funding to carry out the project.

**024/09 Langley Park Library**

No further developments on the old site. New library scheduled to open in March 2009.

**025/09 Sir Bobby Robson Park**

Official opening is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The Clerk updated members on the meeting with Mr Cassidy (owner of the Sports & Social Club) in which Councillor Coulson and Looby also attended.

Members agreed to offer Mr Cassidy £25 per week to litter pick the site, and for the Clerk to produce at the next Parish Council meeting the suggested costings for grasscutting and the opening/closing of gates on the park. This would be presented to Mr Cassidy as a work contract for the play area (Legal document) signed by both parties, Concerns were raised on the state of the surrounding area of the play area (Landscaping/rubbish/trimming of shrubs). Councillor Hiles informed the meeting that there are works outstanding at the site and EQUaL would be contacting the Contractor to get the work carried out as soon as possible. Clerk to arrange with Derwentside District Council to remove the graffiti on the site and also the removal of broken glass from the area.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 8



**026/09 Area Action Partnerships (AAP)**

Clerk to arrange a meeting with the other Parish Councils in the local AAP to agree the nomination process for appointing a Parish representative to the Area Board and agreeing the communication's that will need to be put into place to ensure effective workings between the AAP Area Board and Parish Councils.

The AAP will be known as the Mid Durham Rural West Area Action Partnership and will commence in April 2009.

**027/09 Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park commencing at 7pm.

The Meeting finished at 9.15pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 9