

## **ESH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held in The Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012** commencing at **7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors M. Sands (Chair) B. Armstrong, M. Berry, J. Carr, M. Gordon, A. Harling, K. Heartfield, S. Maddison, A. Mollon, P. Mollon R. Partridge, M. Renneberg and S. Rothwell.

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Armstrong and G.F. Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors: C. Bloor and M. L. Rowland (Deputy Clerk)

### **117/12 Declaration of Interest**

Councillors M. Gordon and K. Heartfield – agenda item 8 – Allotments.

### **118/12 Police Report**

PACT report (3<sup>rd</sup> July) circulated to all Councillors via email.

Neighbourhood Wardens report (7<sup>th</sup> July) circulated to all Councillors via email.

Councillor Berry reported that 8 residents had attended the last Pact meeting, one of the priorities was speeding through Esh and Langley Park.

Police will attend Parish Council meetings to discuss specific problems.

### **119/12 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **120/12 Matters Arising (non agenda items)**

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Supporting older residents during severe weather – voluntary support scheme for older and more vulnerable residents. Provide assistance during periods of severe weather or in other emergency situations.

Expressions of Interests were received from Councillors Carr and P. Mollon. County Councillor informed the meeting that the DCC contact was Brian Kitching.

Details of the Rural Service Network dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 were circulated at the meeting.

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Langley Park Mining Memorial Group

Clerk had written to the Committee members of the group, awaiting response. Councillor Armstrong and the Clerk to visit Ann Suddick at her home (to be arranged)

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### **121/12 Minutes of a Special meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **122/12 Matters Arising (non agenda items)**

Copies of the Annual Return were circulated at the meeting for Councillors who were unable to attend the meeting.

**123/12 Allotments**

The Clerk had received confirmation of the bank account details of the Association. He was also working on the transfer document and the Tenancy agreement with the Association, reporting to the next Environment Working Party ( 23<sup>rd</sup> July)

**124/12 Reports****A) Parish**

New Item – Report of the Personnel Working Party

The Working Party recommended that hours for public access to the office be changed in September 2012 from 9.00am – 12.30pm to 10.00am – 12 Midday.

Members agreed to change the office opening times for public access as from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 and that the web site/notice board will be updated with the new information.

**B) County Council**

**County Councillor J. Armstrong** (Reported on):-

- I. Grass cutting problem (Mac Ryan, Whitburn Close)
- II. Hall Road, Esh (Mr. Wilkinson) – alternative parking in Cross Keys Car Park
- III. Railway Street, Langley Park
- IV. Replace lettering on War Memorial, Langley Park
- V. Councillor Berry mentioned drainage problems in Langley Park. Clerk to contact County Councillor to progress this matter.
- VI. Probation service to clean up the Railway Walk, Langley Park (Councillor Heartfield). Contact Andy Coulthard (AAP Co-ordinator)
- VII. Provision of sand bags – contact DCC (Highways Action Line)
- VIII. Path leading from Langley Park to Esh – awaiting engineers report
- IX. Road repairs after recent floods – report to DCC

**C) Members Report**

Outstanding Items: -

- i) Quebec Notice Board - (revarnishing) work had been completed
- ii) Dog Foul bin opposite Quebec Play area car park – awaiting response from DCC
- iii) Esh Notice Board – new lock has been ordered, awaiting delivery

New Items:-

- iv) Residents Association for Langley Park (Councillor Berry)  
Item to be placed on the agenda for the September meeting
- v) Preparation for Christmas 2012 (Trees and Motifs) (Councillor Berry)  
Item to be placed on the agenda for the September meeting

**125/12 Code of Conduct for Parish Councils**

Members agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct for Parish Councils which is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Copies of the Registration of Interests were circulated at the meeting, Councillors to sign the documents and return to the Clerk by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

Signed by the Chairman.....page 2

**126/12 Financial Statement and Report**

Amendment voucher 42 should read Employers NIC 2011/12 (subject to appeal to the Inspector of Taxes).

Members agreed the details of the Financial Statement and for Vouchers 39 to 62 should be paid, copy of the report attached to these minutes.

Members requested that the statement should be sent out with the agenda giving Councillors time to check details.

**127/12 Correspondence****Items for information:-**

- a) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine, July 2012; issue no 82
- b) Local Council update; July 2012; issue 153

**128/12 Finance and General Purposes Working Party**

Minutes of a meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 were circulated at the meeting

Members agreed the following:-

- a) Minutes to be circulated prior to each Parish Council meeting
- b) Chair and Vice chair to discuss with the Clerk to obtain a photocopier (use of external funding opportunities (windfarm at Burnhope)
- c) Reinstate the hours of the Deputy Clerk to 20 hours per week
- d) Retain all small holdings and rent when negotiating the transfer of the allotments to the association.
- e) Cost of IT classes to remain at present level, review in 6 months
- f) Review garage rent (increase required)
- g) Fix fee of 50pence for each pack of dog bags
- h) Equal Financial Statements – Clerk to contact the Treasurer (Councillor Bowyer)
- i) Clerk to write to the Community Association regarding the non payment of Public Liability Insurance for the Institute, Church Street, Langley Park
- j) Next meetings 19<sup>th</sup> July (6.30pm) and 4<sup>th</sup> September(7pm)

**129/12 Community Partnership (EQUaL) Working Party**

No report, Clerk to contact the Chair (Councillor Hiles) and arrange for a meeting to take place before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

**130/12 Environment Working Party**

No report, Clerk to contact the Chair (Councillor Bowyer) and arrange for a meeting to take place before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012.

**131/12 Planning Working Party**

Members considered the following applications:-

- a) Conservatory to front of 9 Dean Street, Langley Park  
Decision – No objections provided neighbours are consulted
- b) Advertisement consent (illuminated fascia sign, window graphics and non-illuminated signs) at 3 Eppleton Close, Langley Park  
Decision – No objection provided neighbours are consulted

**132/12 Publicity Working Party**

Next meeting 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 at 6.30pm

**133/12 The Tute Working Party**

Councillor Armstrong updated the meeting on the present situation. The building was being cleared of rubbish etc to allow builders access to provide quotations. The Clerk had met with the Council's Solicitors and was awaiting the reply. Funding of the project may be an issue if the Equal Accounts are not reported to the Charity Commission.

**134/12 Area Action Partnership / Parish Councils Committee/medium and Small Councils Forum**

Next AAP Board meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at Burnhope WMC (6pm)  
Next PCC meeting: - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012 at Hamsteels Community Centre (10am)  
Next SMCF meeting 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at Sedgefield (2pm)

**135/12 Presentation by Andy Coulthard (AAP Co-ordinator) "Consultation with Parish Councils"**

Members agreed to collectively complete the questionnaire and answered the following questions:-

1. What in your opinion is your village's best Community Asset?
2. What concerns you most in your village?
3. AAP priority and concerns?
4. What do you think should be the top concern in your village?

**136/12 Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4