

Present Councillors:- A. Mollon, (Chairman), C. Bloor, G. Coulson, F. Crow, A. Harling, K. Robson, S. Rothwell and W. Tyrie

Apologies:- Councillors J. Geany, H. Guildford, M. Sands and Co Councillor J. Armstrong

Also in attendance:- M. G. Ackroyd (Clerk)

034/04 POLICE REPORT

PC N. Foster 1875 introduced himself to the Council. He is a Temporary Beat Officer standing in for PC Little who is currently on light duties.

PC Foster outlined the incidents arising since the last Meeting including 2 criminal damage incidents (including roller shutters on the Langley Park Transport premises), graffiti on a house at Hill Top, dvds stolen from the Co Op premises (although some video footage had been taken), Williams trailer stolen from premises in Wilks Hill, tools stolen from the contractors compound at Esh Schools, shed burglary in Bridge Street, Stihl saw stolen from premises in Kaysburn Road.

PC Foster was asked about night time patrols and on publicising the recent thefts from insecure premises. It was suggested that an ALERT NOTICE should be placed in various shop windows and an article included in the next edition of Esh Leaves. PC Foster agreed to consider these suggestions.

035/04 MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 9th MARCH 2004

Agreed as a true record signed by the Chairman of that meeting, Cllr A. Harling.

036/04 CLERK'S REPORT

101/02 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Draft Management Plan

The Clerk advised that a letter was still awaited from the Durham Wildlife Trust to advise on the next stage of the Management Plan.

134/02 and 126/03 Environmental Improvements along Kaysburn Road

The Clerk's advised that the County Council and the Wildlife Trust had confirmed that the work had been completed to a satisfactory standard and that a cheque for the hedgerow grant was in the post. Unfortunately one area, around 40 yards in length on the southern verge, suffered from ponding (possibly a damaged field drain) and had been damaged by track marks during the works. This had been referred to the County Council for consideration.

064/03 Noticeboard for Langley Park

Meeting arranged next week to discuss progress with the County Council's PPP Footpaths Officer. See also under Minute No 040/04.

092/03 Parish Transport Working Group

See under Minute No 041d/04.

111/03 Commuted Sum for erection of 25 dwellings at Woodside Farm, Woodside Terrace Langley Park

Reply still awaited from the District Council re application of the commuted sum.

114/03 Annual Audit

The Clerk advised that District Auditor had been notified of the relevant notices being displayed at various locations throughout the Parish.

119/03 and 132/03 Appointment of a new Clerk

The Clerk advised that the post had been advertised in Esh Leaves, the Northern Echo and the Durham Advertiser. 5 expressions of interest received, 4 sets of details issued and 2 returned. The shortlisting was due to take place on 15th April 2004.

131/03 Playgrounds

The Clerk advised that Mr Cassidy had commenced his monthly site inspections and submitted detailed reports on each site. As potential problems had been identified on the Rec the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had arranged for Mr Cassidy to clear the rubbish and make good the site as far as possible (2½ days work). In addition Mr A. Mace had been asked to fill some of the hidden holes being used by children as play areas. The Clerk's action was agreed with the cost to be met from the Open Spaces budget.

As fly tipping continued to be a problem the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had published an extra edition of Esh Leaves had been printed, including an article on the continuing problem of illegal tipping and other activities occurring in the Rec. See also under Minute No 157a/04.

156/03 Allotment Rents 2004

All persons on the Waiting List had now either been offered and accepted an allotment or had failed to respond to the Clerk's offer letter. One potential tenant for ED 72 had asked permission to erect a stable for a Shetland pony. This was agreed.

157(a)/03 Esh Leaves and Esh Leaves Extra

The March 2004 edition was now out and delivered by Reay’s Newsagency. In addition the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had agreed to an extra edition of Esh Leaves being published (with a limited circulation near the Rec – see under Minute No 131/03) at a cost of around £100 including delivery. The Clerk’s action was confirmed with the cost to be met from the Esh Leaves budget.

001/04 Speeding in the Parish

Whilst PC Foster was in attendance the question of speeding was raised. Whilst the speed visor was now in place it did not appear to be functioning correctly and despite the reminder to drive slowly many drivers were ignoring the speed limit particularly in the early morning. PC Foster said he would speak to his traffic Management section concerning a possible visit to the area with speed gun. There was a general discussion on traffic control measures including the use of chicanes and rumble strips. PC Foster expressed his own concern on traffic driving into the village from the Hill Top area and that there should be more warning notices displayed to alert motorists to potential difficult driving conditions.

026/04 npower charges

h) npower – freezing charges on garage to November 2005. The tenant had no objections to signing the agreement form with npower.

038/04 Planning Matters

The Clerk had advised the local members of the following application and had advertised details in the local noticeboards (with plans made available for inspection in the Esh Post Office). No objections had been received by the Clerk to the applicant’s proposals.

No CS/1/2004/0171/DMFP
Applicant Mrs J. Kibby
Proposed Two storey extension to side
At The Old House, Clifford House, Quebec

029/04 Corrugated sheets on Allotments

Now removed by TUC Plant Hire.

030a/04 Condition of churchyard headstones

Copy of letter from the Director of Environmental Services had been circulate with the Agenda

030c/04 Access road to the Fold Quebec

Letter from Ms Maughan, 7 The Fold, Quebec requesting that the access road be made up to an adoptable standard. Referred to the County Council. Copy response received from DCC advising that due to a considerable number of similar potential schemes it was not in a position to undertake this work.

030d/04 EQUaL Play Group

The Clerk advised the Council that he had exchanged emails with the Group re possible new ideas for the Langley Park site including Under 8s playground an Over 8s playground, a MUGA (Multi Use Game Activity) area with 5 a side football, Basketball hoops etc, a teen shelter and some form of bike park and/or skate park (the latter was noted many times in the consultation). As this was considerably different to the original scheme suggested to the Council in December 2003 (8 pieces of equipment at Langley Park and 3-4 pieces at Esh and Quebec. The initial phase to cater for primary school age children) the Clerk had advised the Group that he would need further advice from the Council’s Insurers on any possible implications to the original premium quoted. The Group had responded to the effect that they would like to think that Esh Parish Council could still support this plan even though it may mean more premiums remembering that this is just for Maintenance and Insurance, not for equipment replacement should it fall into disrepair or get trashed.

It was agreed that the Council needed to know the implications in funding any new proposals and that the Insurance Company’s advice should be obtained as soon as possible. In the meantime the Group should be advised of the Council’s initial response and be further advised that it might become necessary to consider capping any annual commitment from the Council on routine repairs, maintenance and insurance liabilities.

033/04 Seats on Esh Village Green

Donation now received from Mrs Williams towards the upkeep of the red seats on Esh Green. The Clerk was arranging for a photograph to be taken of some members of the Williams family standing next to the seats for inclusion in a future edition of Esh Leaves.

037/04 CORRESPONDENCE

The following items had already been circulated with the Agenda.

Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

- a) County Durham Local Transport Plan Liaison – Meeting 21April 2004. Agreed to book 2 places
- b) Appeal from the Winged Fellowship Trust – Agreed to obtain further details of potential beneficiaries in the Esh Parish area and request a copy of the latest financial statement. Item to

be included on the May 2004 agenda.

Durham County Council

- c) Temporary Footpath Closure of Footpath No 57 – details included in Esh Leaves Extra
- d) PPP Applications for 2004/2005 – Meeting arranged with the County Council's PPP Footpath Officer to interview Mr N. J. Cassidy for possible work under this initiative.

Derwentside District Council

- e) Communication from the Standards Board re Code of Conduct – Referral procedures
- f) Copy letter from the Director of Environmental Services, Derwentside District Council re Condition of Headstones in Closed Churchyards (copy circulated with the Agenda)
- g) Charity Evening

Other

- h) DEFRA – New payment rates for Countryside Stewardship Schemes. Minor impact on EPC site
- i) Local Society of Councils – Membership. To be considered at a future meeting of the Council.
- j) NEREO Certificates of Attendance on AQA Kick Start Sessions received for Cllrs Hiles, Ramshaw and the Clerk
- k) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan
- l) HLB Audit Questionnaire. Completed by the Clerk.

038/04 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

The following additional items were received

- m) Parish Liaison Meeting 28th April 2004
- n) Zurich Municipal LCAS Health and Safety Seminar 9th July 2004 – agreed to defer until later Meeting
- o) Houghall Enterprises Ltd – offering a range of training services
- p) Home Office – Changes in the Law on Preventing Illegal Working
- q) Durham County Council – New Organisational Structure

039/04 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillor Coulson declared an interest in this item and took no further part in the subsequent debate on the following 4 applications.

No LS/1/2004/0206/DMFP
Applicant Mr D. Wallage
Proposed Erection of garage
At Garage Plot 7, Lillian Terrace, Langley Park Speeding traffic

No SL/1/2004/0240/DMFP
Applicant Mr and Mrs Ives
Proposed Conservatory to rear
At 7 Clifford Street, Langley Park

No CS/1/2004/0257/DMAF
Applicant Mr K. G. Stables
Proposed Agricultural determination for erection of agricultural building (28 day determination)
At Low Esh Farm, Esh

No LS/1/2004/0271/DMFP
Applicant Mr M. Walker
Proposed Two storey extension to rear
At 2 Browns Terrace, Langley Park

No objections to any of the above subject to adjoining occupiers being consulted and to their views being taken into account.

040/04 LEGAL AGREEMENT FOR INSTALLING THE LANGLEY PARK NOTICEBOARD

The Clerk advised that the County Council required an indemnity agreement to be signed. Details read out by the Clerk at the meeting (see copy on Noticeboards file). Subject to the views of the Council's Insurers it was agreed to sign the form.

041/04 EQUaL DEVELOPMENT WORKER – ACCOMMODATION

Request for use of the Parish Room by the newly appointed Worker as an office base.

Resolved that as there could be 2 Clerks based in the room over the next year that it would not be appropriate to accommodate a third officer in the room.

042/04 REPORTS

a) Parish

Nothing to report other than those items already covered elsewhere in the minutes.

b) District

Councillor Coulson reported on the following matters:-

- i) New system or bus passes (new ones not to be issued each year as the old pass will remain operative).
 - ii) £3.4m earmarked for a possible Business Centre in Langley Park
 - iii) Community Forests – target 2 million trees
 - iv) New arrangements for the District Council Licensing Committee with new Sub Committees
- Councillor Tyrie reported on the following matters:-
- v) Further comments on the bus passes – letters to be sent out shortly
 - vi) Rewarding Good Tenants – twice yearly draw
 - vii) Proposed Wind Farm at Sunnyside
 - viii) The potential residential sites at Park Close and Park Drive had now been sold to Nomad Housing
 - ix) The old Hippodrome. Planning permission now granted (following an Appeal) – parking arrangements to be agreed with the District Council

c) County

No report as the County Councillor was not present at the Meeting.

d) Parish Transport Grant

The Clerk advised the Council that since the March meeting 3 separate meetings had been held with Steve Lockwood from the Durham County Council Public Transport Section with Councillors Mollon (3 meetings), Coulson (3) and M. Tyler (2) in order to progress a possible Parish Transport Grant bid to the Countryside Agency before the initial cut off date of 1st April 2004.

With the agreement of the Agency the Council had been given a few extra days to submit a bid. After considering some findings from the initial survey and subsequent views obtained from various sources a bid had now been lodged for funding of just over £5000 for additional collection points within the Service 767 route (the Hill Top area), 2 extra journeys to Consett and Stanley (Thursday and Friday – Market Days) and an improved service from The Haven and Davis Crescent.

The bid allowed for an input (financial and 'in kind') from the Parish Council and some funding from the County Council. The funding requested was for one year

The Council confirmed the action taken in the bid being lodged, thanked the Clerk and Councillors involved in the various meetings and asked that Mr Lockwood be particularly thanked for his efforts.

e) Seminars

The Clerk and Councillor Rothwell reported on the various training sessions attended by them on Quality Parish Councils and on obtaining a Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Council agreed that further training was essential for both the incoming Clerk and Councillors, possibly inviting the North East Region Employers Organisation to put on a seminar in the Parish Room.

It was also agreed that as Clerks were being encouraged to join the Local Society of Clerks the Council should also consider whether it should join this Society and at the same time continue with affiliation to the Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils. The Clerk to make further enquiries.

043/04 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held at the Parish Room, Langley Park on Tuesday 11th May 2004, following the Annual General Meeting, which commences at 7.00pm.

044/04 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO RAISE MATTERS OF INTEREST

There being no Members of the Public present the Chairman moved onto the next item on the Agenda

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded for the remainder of the Meeting during consideration of the items listed below on the grounds that if they are present during the discussion of these items there could be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 10.