

## ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held in The Miners Institute Building, Langley Park on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014** commencing at **7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors: S. Rothwell (Chair), B. Armstrong, S. Bell, J. Carr, A. Hancock, G. Hawxwell, K. Heartfield, A. Mollon, P. Mollon R. Moralee, M. Renneberg and M. Sands

**Also Present:** B. Thompson, R. Blakey, D. Donaghy, J. Dixon, G. Blakey, C. Pringle and D. Long (Residents), G F Smith (Clerk), M L Rowland (Deputy Clerk) and D. Rider (IT Officer).

**Apologies:** Councillors: R. Bowyer, M. Sands

### **102/14 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor B Armstrong declared an interest in – Agenda item 17 Planning Applications

Councillors Heartfield/Moralee declared an Interest in – Agenda item 7 Parish Report (allotments)

### **103/14 Representation by residents**

Langley Park Mining Memorial group

1. Residents attended the meeting and raised a number of concerns regarding the accountability/transparency of the Langley Park Mining Memorial Group.

It was agreed for the group to work with Councillor B. Armstrong to set up the Committee on a formal basis (constitution etc), apply for funding and assist in helping to locate the original Trustees of the group to help ascertain financial details etc.

2. Letter from Mr M Berry, 4 Hazelwood Court, Langley Park. The Clerk read out this letter from the above resident regarding the state of the car parking area in Front Street (outside the shops) and the lack of progress by the Parish Council in tackling this issue. Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting on site, to also include the Chair/Vice Chair of the Parish Council and a County Councillor.
3. Mr I Dowson, 31 Front Street, Langley Park  
Mr Dowson did not attend the meeting

### **104/14 Police Report**

Councillor M Renneberg updated Members the last PACT meeting (which is held every two months) which was well attended by residents. As the Police representative would not be attending Parish Councils meetings, Members agreed that Councillor Renneberg would attend the Pact meeting representing the Parish Council reporting to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

**105/14 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**Amendments:-**

Page 1 Minutes no 085/14 Declaration of Interest should read “No declaration of Interests”

Page 1 Minute no 088/14 need to put up a cctv sign for operational times

Page 3 Minute no 092/14 Community building grant should read (£1641)

Page 3 Minute no 094/14 remove “The purchaser of the property wishes to use it for a retails unit”.

Page 4 Planning application DM/14/01570/TP add “is double storeys this has been amended and neighbours have no concerns”.

Page 4 Minute 097/14 should read “Parish Councillor surgeries, linked with other events taking place in The Miners Institute Building and other places”.

Subject to the above amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**106/14 Co-option of Councillor - Ruth Hughes, 25 Willow Park, Langley Park.** As Mrs Hughes had not attended the last three Parish Council meetings it was agreed for the Clerk to contact her to discuss this outstanding matter and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

**107/14 Reports**

**a) Parish**

**i) Outstanding Matters**

The Clerk reported on the following outstanding matters:-

- Sign for Sir Bobby Robson Park
- Byelaws for parking on grassed areas
- Inspection of Play areas
- Covenants on the Village Green at Esh
- Report of WW1 Centenary
- Extension of Parish Boundary
- Miners Banner/Cabinet
- Esh Play area (AAP grant)/ meeting with Esh Residents Association
- Additional Cheque Signatories
- Christmas Lights (cctv column)
- Letter to Chief Constable
- Fencing at the Recreation Ground
- Inspection of Allotments Sites
- Refurbishment of Office (storage cupboards)
- Grass Cutting (DCC)
- Members agreed for the Clerk to include the above items on a monthly action report which could be circulated to all Councillors prior to each Parish Council meeting, also include this report on the agenda. (showing action taken/reasons for not being completed/estimated completion timescale/date completed).

ii) Delivery of Esh Leaves

Delivery of the Parish Council's newsletter was being carried out by Mr D. Rider (IT Officer), It was agreed that payment to Mr Rider must be made by the PAYE system.

It was further agreed to review the number of editions of the newsletter and place this matter on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.

iii) Environment issues at Esh

- Additional sign (no dogs allowed) on the Village Green – to be installed in week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- Tree works on Village Green – work completed by Oliver Tree Services Ltd.
- Replacement of litter bins – Clerk to discuss with the County Councillor regarding availability of funding for the bins/replacement of bins/Parish Councils position on litter bins.

iv) Request from the EQUaL Partnership for the use of the IT area on a Monday to allow DCC Adult Learning to run two courses through September 2014 to July 2015, the course would clash with the Monday class run by the Council's IT Officer.

After debating the issues it was agreed for Mr Rider to ask if the Monday group would be prepared to move from a Monday afternoon to another day or use laptops in another part of the building. If they do not wish to accept the request then the EQUaL Partnership approach should be declined. (Mr Rider did offer 4 laptops to the partnerships to be used by the partnership to accommodate the new classes throughout the Institute Building).

**b) County Council**

County Councillor J Armstrong reported on the following:-

- Lighting columns being reassessed
- Co-op bank withdrawing DCC banking facilities
- School Transport

County Councillor B Armstrong reported on the following:-

- Big cycle route on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Litter problems raised by Mr Harrison – DCC litter pickers to visit the area once a month.

**c) Chair**

**Councillor Rothwell reported on the following:-**

- Visit to storage unit on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014 Members agreed to accept the report and the following actions:-
  - I. Two people to visit the unit until the "clearing up" has taken place (Health & Safety issue)
  - II. Cost implications (Staff and Councillor time)
  - III. Estimated final completion of the task by Christmas 2014
  - IV. Christmas Tree fencing – transfer to EQUaL Partnership to be used for fencing to the rear of the Miners Institute Building
  - V. Pit Wheel – to be transferred to Langley Park Environment Group (re-sited on the Wetlands)
  - VI. Surplus computer equipment, office desks and chairs to be collected by St Cuthbert's Hospice and recycle/dispose of these items.
  - VII. Steel cabinet (owned by Durham Police) – Clerk to write to the Police to have this item collected/removed (date to be arranged)

**VIII) All surplus items to be formally written of (for Audit purposes).**

- Responses by Councillors to Planning Applications  
Chair reminded Members to respond to e-mails sent by the Clerk regarding weekly planning applications (no objections or reasons for objections).
- Changes to DCC Planning Procedures  
Clerk to circulate details (when available from DCC)

**d) Members**

i) Environment Group – Councillor Heartfield reported on the following:-

- Litter bins on recreation ground being emptied weekly
- Wetland
- Cutting of grass at Recreation Ground
- Funding applications form (County Durham Community Foundation)
- Gravel for paths at Recreation Ground (cost £120) – to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting
- Joint working with DCC Countryside Rangers / Neighbourhood Wardens on the cycle routes (Railway Walk)

ii) Christmas Tree for Quebec

It was agreed for Councillor Heartfield to contact the Quebec Village Hall Association (live tree already in place and being maintained by David Oliver)

iii) WoodView Community Centre

Councillor Moralee raised the matter of the Parish Council or a Community group to nominate the above building as an Asset of Community Value to be added to a list held by Durham County Council (The Community Right to nominate and bid for assets of Community value – sections 87 – 108 of the Localism Act 2011)

Members agreed for Councillor Moralee/Clerk to obtain further details from County Durham Association of Local Councils (Steve Ragg), Sedgfield Town Council (Sedgfield Library) and other community members who have declared a financial interest in supporting this project (County Councillor Joe Armstrong supported this action). This item is to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

iv) WW1 Centenary update

Councillor Renneberg updated the Councillors on meetings that had taken place for arrangements to commemorate the WW1 Centenary.

v) Proposals for action – environmental issues

Councillor Hancock presented a proposed Action Plan (issues identified by the AAPs Your Village Your Voice Initiative and some issues identified by Councillors Renneberg and Hancock) for members to consider. It was agreed for the Clerk to send the document to all Councillors for their input/comments to Councillor Hancock (copy to Clerk/Deputy Clerk) by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014. This item is to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

- 108/14 Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park**  
Councillor B Armstrong reported on the following:-
- Summer activities (losses during school holiday period)
  - Electricity costs
  - Toddler group
- 109/14 Provision of hanging baskets**  
Item deferred to the next Parish Council meeting
- 110/14 Litter problems in the Parish**  
Councillor Hancock reported on the Community Litter Pick which was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
- 111/14 Donation**  
Request from the EQUaL Partnership for the provision of a Christmas Party in the Miners Institute Building on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 for the Children of Esh Parish.  
The Chair agreed (from the Chairman's Allowance) to support this event for up to £100. Councillor Renneberg to provide further details including hall capacity.
- 112/14 Councillor Vacancies**  
The Clerk reported that the Council still had two vacancies and would produce "a process for replacing a Councillor" and "a suggested method of co-option" for Members to discuss at the next Parish Council meeting.
- 113/14 Council Web Site**  
Mr Rider (IT Officer) updated the Councillors on the present ongoing updating of the Council Web Site. He would be arranging a viewing day/evening for all Councillors to "drop into" the office to view and make any further comments for improvement. Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.
- 114/14 Working Relationship with other Organisations (including residents)**  
Item deferred to the next Parish Council meeting
- 115/14 Financial Statement and Report**  
Members agreed the details of the Financial Statement and for vouchers 49 to 76 should be paid, a copy of the voucher report will be attached to these minutes.
- 116/14 Approval of the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**  
Item withdrawn as report not received from the External Auditor. Return to be circulated to all Councillors via email for "virtual approval" before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- 117/14 Planning Matters**  
a) Planning Application DM/2014/0049/DMFP by Mr R Foreman for the first floor extension. Two storey extension to rear with garage below, alternations to ground levels at rear of Esh Glebe Farm, Front Street,  
**Decision** – Objections on the grounds of appropriateness of the extension, it is large and considering it is on the edge of a conservation area and weather it is appropriate within the landscape. This application should be referred to the Area Planning Committee for consideration.

b) Planning Application DM/2014/02236/FPA by Mr J Facer for two storey front rear extension at 5 Hylton Close, Langley Park.

**Decision** – no objections

c) Planning Application DM/2014/02264/FPA by Mr C Lavelle for two storey front rear extension at 44 The Crescent, Langley Park.

**Decision** – No Objections

d) Planning Application DM/2014/01318/FPA by Mr D Milburn for external wall insulation to various properties in Church Street, D'arcy Street, Lambton Street and Dale Street, Langley Park

Decision – No Objections

e) Planning Application DM/2014/02291/FPA by Mr B Hogg for installation of block paving at 22 Finings Avenue, Langley Park

Decision – No objections

**118/14**

**AAP/PCC/SCF**

Next AAP Board Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Meadowfield at 6pm

Next PCC meeting is the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Langley Park (10am)

Next SCF Meeting is the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014 at Sedgefield (2pm)

**119/14**

**Date and time of the next meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Esh Parish Council is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

**October** 2014 in the Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park commencing at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 9.32pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 6