

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held at The Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park on **Tuesday 13th October 2015** commencing at **7.00pm**

Present: Councillors: G. Hawxwell (Chair), B. Armstrong, J. Armstrong, S. Bell B. Coult, I. Dowson, L. Finch, K. Heartfield, A. Mollon, P. Mollon, M Sands and A. Simpson

Also

Present: G. F. Smith (Clerk) M. L. Rowland (Deputy Clerk) D. Rider (It Officer) Mr J. Cooper and L. Smith (Residents)

144/15 Apologies
Members agreed the following apologies:-

Cllr R. Bowyer (Work)
Cllr S. Cheal (Holiday)
Cllr M McGaun (work)
Cllr R. Moralee (Holiday)

145/15 Declaration of Interest

Councillor B. Armstrong declared an Interest in agenda item 14 – Planning Applications
Councillor Coult, Finch and Heartfield declared an interest in agenda item 11 – Langley Park Allotment Association
Councillor Dowson declared an interest in agenda item 8d (i) Members Reports –Wetlands
Councillor Simpson declared an interest in agenda item 13 – Financial statement – voucher 75 (hanging baskets)

146/15 Representation by Residents

No report

147/15 Police/Pact Report

No Report

148/15 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th September 2015

Subject to 2 minor spelling amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

149/15 Matters Arising from previous meetings

None

150/15 Presentation of Cheque to Robert Daniel Smith Memorial Fund

The Chairman presented L. Smith a cheque for £500 being a donation from the PC to the above mentioned fund.
In addition the two County Councillors presented a cheque for £500 from their Members Initiative Fund to the above mentioned Memorial Fund.

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

Reports**(A) Parish**

- i) Action plans for Langley Park, Esh and Quebec - to be placed on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. Councillors to contact the Clerk if they require copies of the report.
- ii) The Pension regulator – the Clerk informed the Councillors that a letter had been received from the Pensions Regulator that the enrolment date is 1st October 2016.
- iii) Electricity Contract for the Council owned garage (N-Power), to be applied from 3rd November 2015

(B) County

County Councillors J. Armstrong reported on the following:-

- Play area Davis Crescent, Langley Park –further checks required
- Verge hardening, Aged Miners Homes, Langley Park – work to commence 19th October 2015
- Appointment of New Chief Executive, Durham County Council Mr Terry Collins

He also raised the following concerns:-

- Esh Leaves Editorial Group– to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting
- Parish Council Office cover – to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting

County Councillors B. Armstrong reported on the following

- Poppy Wreaths (DCC) for Langley Park – to be carried out by Councillor Heartfield

(C) Chair's**The Chairman reported on the following:-**

- Miners banner for Langley Park (Durham Banners makers approx cost £8000) – to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting
- Letter from M. Berry – thanking the Parish Council for the supply of hanging baskets this year. Also requested the re-introduction of the Village Walkabout (including joint agency working) – to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.
- Letter from the Committee of Langley Park Mining memorial group – It was agreed to invite committee members to the next Parish Council meeting to receive an update report etc.

(D) Members Report

Councillor Heartfield reported on the following:-

- Wetlands – delivery of free clay to the site by DCC
- DCC Environment Awards - unsuccessful
- Storage container/council garage
The Clerk provided cost of hire of container (£104.17 per month); Business Rates (subject to appeal) (£588.00 per annum); Garage income (Ladycraft) (£1800.00 per annum); Garage Business Rates (£393.60 per annum) and garage electricity costs (£104.00 per annum) – to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor S Bell reported on the following:-

- Lease of the Miners Institute Building – The Clerk updated the Councillors on the progress of obtaining a lease from CISWO for the Building, which has yet to be resolved. Awaiting a report from a surveyor on the rental charge of the building, which is a requirement of the Charity Commission. CISWO has suggested that the rent may be as high as £10,000 per annum, It was agreed for the Clerk to chase this matter up and supply a report to the next Parish Council meeting of the legal costs (up to date and proposed).

Councillor I. Dowson reported on the following:-

- Firework display – following a discussion the Council felt they had insufficient information and therefore the item was removed from the agenda
- Recreation Ground(delay in fencing quotations and the work being carried out by the environment group) – The Clerk updated the meeting in which he was awaiting a visit from the representative of Natural England to determine the fencing/footpath routes and he agreed to inform Councillor Dowson and Heartfield of the date of the site visit.

153/15

Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park

Council agreed to continue with the practice of the Parish Council paying of vat Invoices for goods supplied to the EQUal Partnership and claiming the vat back.

Councillor B. Armstrong updated the meeting on the following:-

- Friday morning breakfast – very successful
- Vandalism on the roof
- Damage to kitchen area
- Broadband £450 + service agreement
- Macmillan coffee morning was very well attended

154/15

Electric works for the Christmas tree, Langley Park

A) Members agreed to accept the quotation from DCC (£1615.63 + vat)

to carry out the works as minute 134/15 dated 8th September 2015

B) Members agreed to accept the quotation from Northern Powergrid for £766 + vat for a new connection at the feeder pillar, Front Street, Langley Park

C) Clerk/Councillor Heartfield to arrange N Power to supply the energy/Meter (costs to be confirmed)

155/15

Langley Park Allotment Association

Members agreed the following:-

- For the Allotment Association to place a security fence (same style as the Gates) alongside plot number one running down towards the railway lines. The cost is estimated at £2500 and they would hope to secure some grant funding.
- To the three amendments as proposed to the current tenancy agreement, as follows:-

“If the Committee identify that plot holders are obtaining additional keys without authority and passing them to none allotment holders then a warning letter will be issued.”

“The Tenant shall ensure that they lock the main access gates on all occasions if they are found to be leaving the gate unlocked then they will be issued with a formal letter and persistent offenders may risk losing their plot.”

“All new tenants will be required to pay a £5 refundable deposit for main gate keys, if they revoke their tenancy within six months, then the £5 will be refunded, otherwise the monies will be retained by the Association.”

156/15

Wallnook Footbridge, Wallnook Lane, Langley Park

Email/letter received from DCC regarding the options for the future of the above bridge (i.e. removal of the Public Rights to use this bridge and members of the public would have to utilise a suitable alternative route). Members agreed that the bridge should remain open or replaced to take traffic/walkway i.e. “fit for purpose.”

157/15

Financial Statement and Report

Members agreed to the following: -
Vouchers report 66 to 78 should be paid

158/15

Planning Applications

A) DM/15/02690/AD by Mr Roodbar Mohammadi for the erection of illuminated intermittent sign (retrospective) (resubmission) at the Co-op Retail Services, Front Street, Langley

B) Decision – Application withdrawn

DM/15/02835/TPO by Mr Smedley for tree works at Traves, Esh
Decision – No Objections

C) DM/15/02959/FPA by Miss L Riley for erection of a timber outbuilding to be used for proposed dog grooming business

Decision – No Objections

159/15

AAP/PCC/SCF

Next AAP Board Meeting 11th November 2015 at Brandon (6pm)
Next PCC meeting is the 21st November 2015 at Brandon (10am)
Next SCF Meeting is the 20th November 2015 at Spennymoor (2pm)

160/15

Date and time of the next meeting

Tuesday **10th November 2015** at the Village Hall, Quebec commencing at 7.00pm.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM (IN PRIVATE)

161/15 Report on Parish CCTV System

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm