

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held at The Miners Institute Building, Langley Park on **Tuesday 8th March 2016** commencing at **7.00pm**

Present: Councillors: G. Hawxwell (Chair), B. Armstrong, J. Armstrong, S. Bell
R. Bowyer, S. Cheal, B. Coult, I. Dowson, L. Finch, K. Heartfield, M.
McGaun, P. Mollon, R. Moralee and M. Sands

Also

Present: B. Ainsley, H. Pegum, J. Reay (Quebec Residents) J. Cooper (resident,
Langley Park) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

**040/16 Apologies
None received**

041/16 Declaration of Interest
Councillor **B Coult** declared an interest in agenda item **7d - (i, ii and iii)**
Members reports
Councillor **I Dowson** declared an interest in agenda item **7d – (iii)**
Members reports
Councillor **K. Heartfield** declared an interest in agenda item **7d – (iii)**
Members reports
Councillor **R Moralee** declared an interest in agenda item **7d – (i) Members reports**
Councillor **L Finch** declared an interest in agenda item **7d – (i) Members reports**
Councillor **B Armstrong** declared an interest in agenda item **16 – Planning Applications**
Councillor **J Armstrong** declared an interest in agenda item **16 (c) – Planning Applications**

042/16 Representation by Residents
Councillor M McGaun introduced members of Quebec and District Village Hall Association who presented a request to the Parish Council for financial assistance towards repairs to the village hall roof and ongoing shortfall of balances (mainly due to loss of County grant £1600.00).
Members agreed the following:-
a) To place this request for funding on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting (12th April 2016)
b) That the village hall committee obtain a further two quotations for the roof repairs
c) That the village hall committee obtain at least three quotations for the replacements of three toilets
d) That the Clerk check the records for Parish Councillor representation for the Quebec Ward

043/16 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 1st February 2016
Amendment Minute 020/16 line 9 **seams** should read **“seems”**
Subject to the above amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

- 044/16 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th February 2016**
 Amendment minutes 004/16 and 024/16 minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 12th January 2016 **should read:-**
 “Funding was also mentioned and both County Councillors made £5000 finance available from their Neighbourhood Budgets”.
 Amendment minute 025/16 (c) Chair’s Report – PACT Meetings **should read** “no more PACT Meetings (due to lack of Police resources) but informal meetings with the Police would be held each alternative Friday (10.00 to 12.00) in the Miners Institute Building – Breakfast Club.
- 045/16 Matters Arising from the above meeting**
Minute 029/16 new IT classes
 1) Clerk explained the situation regarding changes to the minute prior to the six month period being lapsed, Members again approved the changes to minute 043/16 dated 10th November 2015
 2) Councillor B Armstrong raised concerns on the availability of laptops, software problems and also a breakdown of the printer during the first class held on 24th February 2016.
- 046/16 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 22nd February 2016**
 Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 047/16 Reports**
(A)Parish
- Application for funding – Langley Park Cricket Club
 Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk to obtain a copy of the bank statement for the organisation.
 - Summer Activities Schemes 2016 2017 (Mid Durham AAP) – Parish Councils Contribution (£500)
 Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk to send all Councillors any further information by email.
 - DCC – Temporary Road Closure, Wallnook Bridge, Wallnook Lane, Langley Park (letter dated 7th March 2016 circulated to all Councillors by e-mail prior to the meeting).
 - Appointment of External Auditors – Members agreed to “opt-in” to the SAAA arrangements and continue to receive an audit from the Auditors appointed by the SAAA.
 - Members also agreed to appoint Mr G Richards as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2015/2016
 - Year End Procedure (Accounts and PAYE) – Members noted that some staff may be required to work a small amount of overtime to complete the year end procedure for 2015/16
 - Setting the Budget for 2016/17
 Members agreed to hold a Special Meeting during April to discuss the Budget for 2016/17 (date to be arranged)

(B) County Councillors

County Councillor J. Armstrong reported on the following:-

- Wallnook Bridge
- Langley Park Primary School – play area (10,600 funding)
- Fencing at Quebec play area
- Vennels at Railway Street, Langley Park
- Allotment path, Langley Park

County Councillor B. Armstrong reported on the following:-

(For information only):-

- Freedom of Information requests

(C) Chair's

The Chair read out a letter of resignation from Councillor A Mollon. Members accepted the resignation and asked the Clerk to write to Councillor A Mollon thanking him for the dedicated work he had carried out during his many years as Councillor/Chairman of the Parish Council.

(C) Members Report

- Councillor Coult updated the meeting on the re-opening of the community garden on Langley Park allotment site and the work that was ongoing with the three primary schools in the Parish.
- Councillor Coult updated the meeting on funding arrangements/ongoing work to track/footpath/grassed area near the railway walk (AAP grant – awaiting response).
- Councillors Coult, Dowson and Heartfield updated the meeting on the Wetlands Nature Day to be held on Thursday 7th July 2016. A planning meeting had been held on 4th March and details (safety, theme, initiations, advertising and sponsorship) were being explored, a further meeting is planned for Thursday 17th March at the Sports & Social Club at 9.30am).
- Councillor Coult and Dowson reported on the work that had been carried out (DCC) to the access path/hedge to the allotment site from Garden Avenue.
- Councillor Moralee raised concerns on parking problems local residents were experiencing on the access road (unadopted) towards the allotment site and garages at Cross Fell Site. It was suggested that the matter be referred to the local Police Inspector.
- Councillor Sands updated the meeting on her recent visit to the Deric Youth Bus Project.

048/16

Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park

As there was no progress to report from CISWO and the Council's Solicitor (on holiday until 14th March). Members instructed the Clerk to write to the Council's Solicitor to meet with Councillors at a Special Parish Council meeting (date to be confirmed).

Councillor Armstrong reported on the following:-

- Queen's Birthday Celebrations
- Arts and Crafts session (new)
- Updating laptops (funding required)
- Part-time Caretaker (funding required)

- 049/16 Miners Lamp at Langley Park**
Councillor Dowson suggested that the best appropriate site could be the entrance to the Wetlands site (subject to approval by the Planning and Highways Department of DCC).
Members agreed to these recommendations and for the necessary approvals to be obtained and report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.
- 050/16 Site for Mining Memorial at Langley Park**
Councillor B Armstrong had no further update other than the suggested site at Browney Court.
- 051/16 Application for Funding**
Application for funding had been received from the following organisations:-
A) Durham Cathedral
unable to make a contribution towards this project
B) Great North Air Ambulance-
unable to make a contribution towards this project
C) The Children's Foundation
unable to make a contribution towards this project
- 052/16 Christmas Tree at Quebec**
Member agreed to purchase a cut Christmas tree for this year and to review the situation in 2017
- 053/16 Recreation Ground, Langley Park**
The fencing contract has been completed on time and the necessary claim form (Ref AG00448293) has been completed, countersigned and submitted to Natural England on 4th March 2016.
Some works are still outstanding (Boundary wall, footpath, Planting of trees on the playing field), some concerns have been raised with the proposed work on the management plan (subject to possible fines if not complete).
Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.
- 054/16 Problems at the Sir Bobby Robson Park**
1) Vandalism
The Chair reported on recent vandalism caused to the soft play area, swings and small play area equipment which resulted in the play area being closed until repairs can be carried out (Health & Safety Issues).
Members agreed to the following actions:-
 - Report to the Police (obtain incident reference number)
 - Police/DCC to check cctv in operation (any evidence)
 - Clerk to complete an Insurance claim form to repair/replace all damages.
2) Locking of Gates
Councillor Moralee updated the meeting on her recent attempts to open/close the main gate entrance to the play area, problems had been experienced with the padlock and eventually the padlock had been stolen and since has not been replaced. She has not returned to locking/unlocking the gate (for information)

- 055/16 Financial Statement and Report**
Members agreed for vouchers 142 to 152 be paid.
- 056/16 Planning Applications**
A) DM/16/00566/FPA by Mr B Cross for two storey side extension and single garage to rear of 52 Finings Avenue, Langley Park
Decision – No Objections
B) DM/16/00365/FPA by Visage for change of use of first floor from flat to beauty therapy rooms (retrospective) at Root 66 hair studio and visage beauty salon, 34 Quebec, Langley park
Decision – No Objections
C) DM/15/03456/VOC by Swale Valley Construction for variation to condition two of original planning application (Ridge Height of flats 15 – 18, front election of plot 18 and other roofing details) at All Saints Youth Centre site, Langley Park
Decision – No Objections
D) DM/16/00520/FPA by Wrights Removals for change of use to storage for removal company and siting of eleven shipping containers at Hedley Terrace/Park Drive, Langley Park
Decision – Members objected to this application on parking problems and nuisance concerns for local residents. Report to Enforcement Officer as some containers are already on site. Also the application should be referred to committee for determination.
E) DM/16/00556/FPA by Mr I Cowan for a new five bedroom detached house at land to the North of 10 Church View, Quebec
Decision – No Objections
- 057/16 AAP/PCC/SCF**
Next AAP Board Meeting 9th March 2016 at New Brancepeth (6pm)
Next PCC meeting is the 19th March 2016 at Langley Park (10am)
Next SCF Meeting is the 13th May 2016 at Horden (2pm)
- 058/16 Date and time of the next meeting**
Tuesday 12th April 2016 at The Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park commencing at 7.00pm.

IN PRIVATE (CONFIDENTIAL)

The meeting finished at 9.10 pm