

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Esh Parish Council meeting held at The Miners Institute Building, Langley Park on **Tuesday 12th April 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, P. Mollon,
R. Moralee, M. Sands and A. Simpson

Also

Present: M Berry, F. Quinn, J. Cooper, (Residents) D. Long, D. Donaghy, J. Dixon
(Miners Memorial), G. F. Smith (Clerk) and L M Rowland (Deputy Clerk)

061/16 Apologies
Cllr M. McGaun (work commitments)

062/16 Declaration of Interest
Councillors **Cheal** and **Coult** declared an interest in agenda item
11 – Application for funding from Langley Park Cricket Club
Councillor **B Armstrong** declared an interest in agenda item 16 – Planning
Applications
Councillor **I Dowson** declared an interest in agenda item **8d (2)** – Update of
on Wetlands
Councillor **A. Simpson** declared an interest in Agenda item 8c (1) –
Hanging Baskets

063/16 Quebec and District Village Hall Association
Councillor B Armstrong updated the meeting on the recent AGM of the
Association in which it discussed:-

- Future uses of the Village Hall
- Possible closure
- Six months funds in reserves

Members agreed to defer any decision on funding the Association and to
Agenda the item for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting (May)

064/16 Site for the Mining Memorial Statue at Langley Park
The Clerk updated the meeting on e-mails received from DCC (Asset
Management – Alex Wannop) and Gwen Blakey (Mining Memorial Group),
copies of which had been sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting.
Members agreed to the following:-

- The Parish Council would be the lease holder
- The Lease will be for a term of 25 years
- The area of land is on the grassed area near Browney Court, Langley
Park
- The cost of the lease is £610, to be funded by £410 from the County
Councillors Members Initiative Fund (MIF) and a contribution from
Esh Parish Council of £200.
- Clerk/County Councillors to check details of grass cutting the area
- Clerk to check with Council's Insurance Company regarding Public
Liability Insurance Premium
- Clerk to contact all parties with regard to the above mentioned points
of action

065/16 Representation by Residents

Mr Malcolm Berry raised the following concerns:-

- State of shop parking area, Front Street, Langley Park (from the Spar shop to Funeral Directors). This area has not been swept for at least 12 months, mainly due to vehicles parking in the area when the cleaning team is in the village.
- The area also suffers from rain water not draining away following any rain storms (possible drainage problem).
- Members agreed for the Clerk to send an e-mail to the relevant DCC Officer (Oliver Sherratt) raising the above concerns and asking for a response and/or site visit to address the problems.

066/16 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th March 2016

These minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

067/16 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 31st March 2016

These minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

068/16 Reports

(A) Parish

- Timetable for Annual Review of Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 (BDO – External Auditors):-
Internal Auditor – May 2016
Meeting to approve Section 1 – May 2016
Meeting to approve Section 2 – June 2016
Exercise Public Rights – commence 17th June 2016
- Ends 28th July 2016
Send Annual Return to BDO – 4th July 2016
Approve Accounts before 30th June 2016
Approve completed Annual Return before 30th September 2016
Copy of Notice to all Councillors and to be placed on the Council's Web Site.
- The Pensions Regulator – Starting date 1st October 2016, Clerk to report compliance to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting
- Notice of vacancy for Councillor (Alan Mollon) – closing date 18th April 2016, if no response for an election the Council may co-opt. Clerk to update at the next Parish Council meeting
- Planning Application DM/15/03725/FPA (land to the North of Fast Fit Tyres, Langley Park) – Clerk updated the meeting on an e-mail received from Andrew Farnie (Northern area team leader, DCC) regarding the lack of Public consultation and the failure to receive the response from the Parish Council (objecting to the proposal) i.e. e-mail not received by DCC. He will be carrying out an investigation and will advise the Parish Council of his decision.

B) County Councillors

County Councillor J. Armstrong reported on the following:-

- DCC Budget for 2016/17

C) Chair's

- Quotation for the provision and watering of hanging baskets for Langley Park in 2016.

Following a discussion on this subject member agreed to the following:-
a) Provide hanging baskets in Langley Park for this season but to review this matter next year (i.e. include Esh and Quebec, Commercial contributions to costs, plants to be provided by allotment holders and water costs etc).

Result of vote 10 for, 3 against 1 abstention

b) Inspection reports for Parish Council play areas

Members raised concerns regarding the list of repairs/maintenance that was required and agreed for the Chair to contact the Contractor to immediately carry out the urgent repairs. The reports to be presented to each Parish Council meeting for member's information/approval.

Councillor Dowson requested a report on previous inspections carried out by the Contractor, Clerk to obtain details.

Members also agreed for the Chair to sanction any urgent works (due to Health & Safety etc) for the Contractor to complete as soon as possible and report actions to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

(B) Members Report

- Update of Cycle Path, Langley Park
Councillor Heartfield updated the meeting on proposed additional sign posts, seats and bins. Environment Group working with AAP Officers (£2500 grant received from County Durham Community Fund)
- Update on Wetlands (Councillor Heartfield)
Next planning meeting scheduled for 14th April 2016 at the Sports & Social Club, Langley Park at 9.30 am.
Details of open day (7th July 2016)
- Playing Field, Recreation ground (Councillor Heartfield)
Litter Pick next week, cutting of grass (to be arranged)
- Openness, Transparency and Honesty (Councillor Dowson)
- Clerk to amend the Public Notice to include Members Reports, Parish Council to review methods of communication (including web site and newsletter)
- Allotment Access Road, Langley Park
Councillor Dowson raised concerns that this matter has not been dealt with by the Clerk (outstanding since November 2015) Clerk to visit the secure container to retrieve the paperwork and report to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

069/16

Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park

Council's Surveyor (Jeff Seed, J W Wood) to carry out Survey on Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 10.00am. All background paperwork presently with Councillor B Armstrong to be made available to Mr Seed on the day of his inspection of the building.

The cost of the Survey will be £780 including vat. E-mail received from CISWO (dated 6th April 2016) "I (Alison Turner Mills) have now had the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Chief Executive and at this stage it is not believed that a meeting with the Parish Council would assist. As previously advised, CISWO will now terminate the lease to the Community Association, and is prepared to grant a new 25 year lease to the Parish Council at a market rent. I realise the rent previously quoted is a significant increase from that which would have been payable if the existing lease had been assigned, there is some room for negotiation and in this regard I would

suggest that the Parish Council instruct their own Surveyor to obtain a market valuation of the rent for the property”.

Councillor Dowson asked a question regarding the use of the lease to apply for funding Councillor B. Armstrong responded that the lease had been used to obtain funding.

Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Mr Vince Clement, CISWO Area Manager at Gateshead for him to meet with the Parish Council before his retirement.

070/16 Miners Lamp at Langley Park

- Councillor Dowson to meet with DCC Highways Officers regarding the positioning of the lamp on the Wetlands site.
- Both County Councillors agreed to meet the costs of the planning application for this scheme from their Members Initiative fund.

071/16 Application for Funding from Langley Park Cricket Club

The Clerk updated the meeting with the required financial information for the club.

Members agreed to the following:-

- Donate £1500 to the Langley Park Cricket Club with immediate effect
- Review the application later in this financial year

072/16 Cross Keys, Esh – Asset of Community Value

Clerk updated the meeting with e-mails received from DCC (Peter Howson, accommodation Strategy Officer) and Cross Keys, Esh Supporters Group (Anthony Hardwick) copies of which had been sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Members agreed to support this representation and noted that the group had a constitution in place.

073/16 Dog Fouling

Members referred to the e-mail received from Linda Birbeck, 8 Bridgeway, Langley Park regarding a number of issues:-

- Cutting grass (not clearing dog fouling bags prior to the cut) – to be reported to the appropriate DCC Officer for comment.
- Cost of dog bags (50p at present) to be made free of charge and to be made available at other premises (post office and shops in the village) – Clerk to arrange.

074/16 Parking in Langley Park

Members referred to an e-mail received from Anne and Ken Robertson, 16 Cherry Tree Drive, Langley Park regarding the request to replace “keep clear” lines on the road at the junction of Beech Court and Front Street with “Double Yellow” lines.

Members agreed to pass the request onto the appropriate County Council Officer

075/16 Summer Activities Scheme 2016/17 – Parish Council contribution (£500)

Members agreed to support this scheme by donating £500 towards delivering the scheme over the next two years

076/16 Langley Park Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground – Charity Commission

The Clerk updated the members on the following Charity Registered with the Charity Commission on the 28th August 1991:-

- Held in the name of Esh Parish Council (Charity Trustees)
- Objectives “Upon trust for an open space for the recreation ground and playing fields for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Esh”.
- Financial history – overdue and outstanding (Clerk/Deputy Clerk to update the Charity Commissions web site as a matter of urgency)

077/16 Recreation Ground, Langley Park

Update:-

- Rural Payment agency (£4157) – remittance advice dated 10th March 2016 received into the Council’s Bank account
- Recreation ground bank account to be converted into a current account (i.e. cheque book facilities) and for yearly maintenance fees from Natural England to be transferred from the Council current account.
- Still outstanding – clearing of the footpaths/removal of fencing and replace with original/replacement stonework (Clerk/Deputy Clerk to chase this matter up as soon as possible).

078/16 Sir Bobby Robson Park, Langley Park

Quotation received from Wicksteed Playgrounds Ltd for £7778.00 (Excluding vat) to supply and install the damaged equipment, existing surfaces and patch repair the existing wet pour area at the junior flat swings. Details to be forwarded to the Council’s Insurance Company (copy of quotation to be sent to all Councillors).

Young people are still gaining entrance to the play area despite the gates being locked and a prohibition notice in place (No Admittance).

079/16 Financial Statement and Report

Members agreed for vouchers 153 to 162 be paid (voucher 163 cancelled)

080/16 Planning Applications

A) DM/16/00754/FPA by Mr J. Simpson for the erection of single storey side extension at 7 Eldon Close, Langley Park

Decision – No Objections

B) DM/16/00767/FPA by Mr A. Rayner for the erection of a storage building at plot 10, Esh Winning Industrial Estate

Decision – No Objections

C) DM/16/00808/FPA by Mr I. Henderson for the installation of a new shop front at 48 Front Street, Langley Park

Decision – No Objections

081/16 AAP/PCC/SCF

Next AAP Board Meeting 11th May 2016 at Lanchester (6pm)

Next PCC meeting is the 21st May 2016 at Brandon (10am)

Next SCF Meeting is the 13th May 2016 at Horden (2pm)

082/16

Date and time of the next meeting

Annual Assembly commences at 7.00pm in The Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park followed by the Annual General Meeting which is followed by the Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 10th May 2016

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm