

**The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park at Meeting commenced at 19:00**

## **Ordinary Meeting of the Council**

### **1. Record of Attendance**

Cllr. Linda Bushell, Cllr. Ryan Drion, Cllr. Donna Smailes, Cllr. Rita Moralee, Cllr. Edwin Simpson, Cllr. Malcolm Renneberg, Cllr. Ruth Hughes, Cllr. Siobhan Kennedy, Cllr. Olwyn Moat.

Clerk; Ms Patricia Embleton

County Councillor Arnie Simpson

### **2. Apologies of absence**

**Apologies have been received and accepted by Council by the following Councillors;**

Cllr. Richard Bowyer – Medical Absence  
Cllr. Stuart Wilkinson – Personal Commitments

County Councillor Mike McGaun – Work Commitments

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

**Declarations of Interest expressed by Cllr. Rita Moralee for Agenda Item 8 and Cllr Olwyn Moat for Agenda Items 7 and 21 (confidential matters)**

### **4. Minutes from the previous meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Signed as a true record**

### **5 . Matters arising**

### **6. County Councillors Report**

**Update delivered by County Councillor Arnie Simpson regarding the Bollards instructed by Durham County Council. The will be a meeting held between Highways and County Councillors on Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup>. County Councillor Simpson will report outcomes to the Clerk. Updates were including the Langley Park Cricket Club being removed from their Home field. No updates on the development at Wallnook.**



**7. Funding request from the Environment Group, DH7 Events and Langley Park Bowling Club of £300 Pounds each**

Interest expressed from Cllr. Olwyn Moat as the co-founder of DH7 events who self-excluded from the vote for the DH7 grant request

**Resolved by unanimous Council the all 3 Community Groups were to be awarded the £300 each. Clerk to notify groups of outcomes and arrange payment.**

**8. Clerks recess update for information including updates on Esh Play Park Arson, Neighbourhood budget application, The Armistice and Armed Forces Communities Programme Tommy statues, Parish Seat refurbishments, Play Park inspections and AAP Licence to occupy**

Interest expressed from Cllr. Rita Moralee, Cllr. Moralee will not comment or vote should a vote arise.

Esh Play area was the target of an arson attack and therefore has once again been closed to the public. Meetings will be held to discuss potential reopening and options available on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The invite has been extended to EVRA at this stage. The Police are investigating, and CCTV has been obtained from one of the nearby houses which will hopefully lead to a conviction. The play area is badly damaged, and a claim has been made against the insurance. Praise was given to the Chair and Clerk who had attended site 30 mins after the attack and closed off the park. The damaged equipment will be requiring 'haras' type fencing to take the whole piece of equipment out of use safely. The Clerk, in line with law, will arrange for this as an outcome of a meeting with the head of Parks BA from Durham County Council.

The Neighbourhood Budget application for environmental improvements has been approved and the Parish was awarded £6000 from County Councillors Mike McGaun and Arnold Simpson. The Clerk is working with Durham County Councils Green and Clean Team who will be fulfilling most of the clear up work and will also instruct Abbey Memorials to carry out the cleaning and enhancements to the War memorial and gateway.

The Armistice and Armed Forces Communities Programme Tommy statues have been awarded and dispatched to Council and once received will be distributed to our local schools, churches and community spaces.

Parish Seat refurbishments and Play Park Inspections. Following the resignation of the appointed Handyman earlier in the year, the Parish Council had agreed works outstanding and an offer was made by Lindsay Hall and Shaun Moralee to take on the seat refurbishment programme. This was a priority of the Council as some of the seats throughout the Parish were in terrible state. The Clerk during recess awarded the contract to L & S Maintenance which had already been through the tendering process left an open, unfilled contract of £1800 outstanding. The warm and enjoyable summer weather had led to great and frequent use of the parks within the Parish and these also had suffered the loss of the Handy Man. L & S Maintenance worked closely with the Clerk and carried out full and detailed inspections of the park resulting in the disclosure of multiple defects to flooring and play equipment leaving the Park users at risk. The Clerk contacted Durham County Council who carried out interim repairs to surfacing and equipment, never previously identified to the value of £495.00 it is the duty of the Parish Council to provide Play areas in a safe and usable state.

The AAP Licence to Occupy is slowly, but surely, moving forward with Durham County Council Asset and Legal Teams. An update will be provided by the Clerk to the Council upon receipt.

Resolved by Council that L & S Maintenance will fulfil the contract of seat refurbishments and continue with Play Park inspections in the interim and the item will be represented to Council at a future meeting. Seat refurbishments; which are now well underway and before and after photos were provided to the Council. Praise was given to the Clerk from Cllr Edwin Simpson for acting on behalf of the Council during recess and providing a detailed report of actions.

9. Environmental project update for Front Street, Langley Park including prices for Centenary seating Langley Park, Esh and Quebec, Rubbish bins and Christmas tree pit alterations

Clerk to Action the following;

Resolved Durham County Council via the Neighbourhood Budget application was awarded the contract to fulfil the works to the Front Street area in Langley Park.

It was resolved that two benches one for Esh and Langley Park will be ordered from David Oglevie at £645 per bench with installation costs of £170 from Durham County Council.

It was resolved the WW1 Commemorative Plaques would be purchased from Signs of the Times and would be erected on the Village Hall at Quebec, Miners Institute Langley Park and the seat rear for Esh Village with a budget of £1000.

Dog Poo Bins for the Centenary field will be supplied and installed for £678.60 by Durham County Council.

A new rubbish Bin to replace damaged bin at Sir Bobby Robson Play Park at £240.00

Graphite grey chippings will be purchased for under the Christmas tree to compliment works scheduled with Neighbourhood Budget monies for the Christmas tree pit.

Installation of new and removal of old notice board Langley Park £220. Durham County Council.

10. Date for a meeting to discuss ongoing improvements to the Miners Institute Building, kitchen, snooker room and décor

The date of the meeting will be Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7pm – Matters raised will be reported to a future meeting of the parish Council.

11. Christmas light quote from Lite – re additional lighting for Langley Park and Esh Village including electrical installation and infrastructure

Resolved that the Council have agreed on the quote for new and improved lights for the parish for the 2018 Christmas. The Quote of £4998.00 one off costs including delivery installation, removal and storage was accepted. The electrical infrastructure was agreed to be continued from Safety Checked who has undertaken all the electrical works for previous years. This will include the addition of 5 commando switches at various buildings which will host the additional lighting, with a budget of £300 per installation.

Christmas trees for Esh, Quebec and top of Langley park will be ordered by the Clerk from Morlaees Farms installed by David Oliver and Lite.



**12. WW1 Beacon update and quote for Quebec from Bullfinch and gas prices from Lanchester Hardware**

A late request from Esh Village for a beacon has been received by the Clerk and will be considered at this point on the agenda.

**It was resolved that 2 additional beacons to take part in a Nations Tribute; A Battles Over is to be placed by the Clerk at a price of £360 each unit. These will be delivered to the Parish Office and distributed the local communities organising the Events before 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Clerk to undertake risk assessment for the event**

**13. Donation to EVRA for use of equipment during the summer fete**

**Resolved that £50 would be donated to EVRA for use of helium, balloons and marquees during summer fete, Clerk to arrange payment.**

**14. Other Councillors reports including Cllr Drion – Bollards and Front street report and correspondence. Cllr Edwin Simpson – Planning matters. Cllr Siobhan Kennedy – Electorate Survey**

**Cllr Drion – Bollards – A report was produced to council which was resolved to be passed to Highways for consideration. This included the photographs of the parked vehicles on the Front street.**

**Cllr Simpson – Planning matters, the Council will consider the delegation of planning matters a future meeting of the Parish Council**

**Cllr Kennedy – Electronic residential survey – The Council requested further information and research into what the Council would like to know and have powers to act upon.**

**15. Date for the Budget & Precept meeting 2019/2020**

**16. Opportunity for the Public to raise matters of interest**

**Meeting closed at 20:45**

**Signed as a true record of the meeting** *R. Mearns* **16<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

## **Part B Confidential Matters**

### **18. Minutes of the Previous meeting Part B of the 10<sup>th</sup> July**

The minutes agreed and signed as a true record.

### **19. Matters Arising**

#### **20. Cat Locksmiths amended invoices for consideration**

The Council resolve unanimously to refuse payment for works at the rates outlined as no prior agreement of the new rates £30/hour rate or additional worker was ever discussed or agreed at council. The Clerk is instructed to re-calculate invoices using the original accepted hourly rate of £20 for 1 worker as per original letter of tender when the contract was first awarded in May 2017 and write to Mr Joe Thompson making a full and final offer to him and to enclose a cheque that if banked will be deemed of acceptance and therefore conclude and matters or business with Cat Locksmiths.

#### **21. Proposal for the Garage to the rear of Garden Ave -DH7 Events**

Cllr. Olwyn Moat declared an interest and therefore self-excluded herself from discussion and a vote, should a vote arise.

It was resolved that the Parish Council and DH7 events will share 50/50 the garage space at Garden Ave, Langley Park. DH7 events will pay monthly in advance the sum of £118 inclusive of electricity on a month by month basis. The Clerk is to arrange contract and invoicing.

#### **22. NWG Business Account mandates for signature – Corona and Wave**

Due to the absence of Cllr. Bowyer the Clerk will arrange delivery of said mandated for signature to the Councillors home address.

The 2-hour time limit Standing Order is waived with a maximum time increase of 15 minutes to be applied with the full agreement of Council

#### **23. Recruitment of administrative support for Parish Council/Facilities Manager for the Miners Institute and date for a meeting to establish the relationship with Friends of the Miners Institute, arrangement for ongoing bookings and key holders**

The Clerk is to start the mapping and consultation process, with support for HR at Durham County Council for the recruitment of a development worker. Updates will be given to a future meeting of the Parish Council. Clerk has recommended reviewing the budget and looking at a precept increase to facilitate a new employee.

#### **24. Payments made/to make and bank reconciliation to date**

Agreed, payments to be arranged by the Clerk.



Date of the Next meeting Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018, postponed one week due to holiday commitments of Councillors.

Meeting closed at 21:15

Signed as a true record of the meeting R Marshall 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018