

The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday December 10th at The Miners Institute, Langley Park. Meeting commenced at 19:01

1. Record of attendance

Cllr. Ryan Drion, Cllr. Linda Bushell, Cllr. Donna Smailes, Cllr. Ollie Moat (19:06), Cllr. Edwin Simpson, Cllr. Ruth Hughes, Cllr. Stephan Aal, Cllr. Robert Smedley, Cllr. Wilkinson.

County Councillor Bev Coult – Apologies Accepted
County Councillor Arnie Simpson – Apologies accepted

2 members of the public were present. One joins the meeting at 19:20.

Clerk – Ms Patricia Embleton

2. Apologies of absence

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Minutes from the previous meeting of the Tuesday 12th November 2019

Resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record, signed by the Chair.

5. County Councillors Report

Cllr. Bev Coult delivered via email the following report to Council;

- Thanks were given to the two events on the 7th of December – one ran by the Parish Council and the other by the Wetlands Group. It showed great community spirit, praise to all those involved.
- Bev wished the Council members a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year

6. Opportunity for the Public to raise matters of interest;

The member of the public present did not wish to speak and therefore chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

7. Clerks work in progress report

The Clerk delivered a short report on the undertakings of the previous month.

8. Planning application received

9. Job Description for the Parish Council Support/Development Officer for approval for recruitment to be in post in April 2020

An amended Job Description was presented to Council and a short discussion ensued. The Council **resolved** to accept the amended document and return recruitment policy to the January meeting of Council to decide on recruitment panel.

10. Funding and grant policy with amendments

Council **resolved** to accept the amendments.

11. Poppy Appeal totals

Well done to the Langley Park Hotel for raising the most throughout the Parish of £310.41 with an amazing £1441.80 for the Parish in total.

12. National Tree Week – Acceptance, Donation to the Wetlands Group

Edwin visited the Wetlands and enjoyed his tour from the group. The Tree Week application was accepted by Durham County Council and £150 of Crack Willow will be delivered on site week commencing the 13th January 2020.

13. Esh Play Area update including a request for electricity to be routed to the Park

A site visit was conducted with Eibe Play who were in attendance to resolve the low risk items identified in the snagging report. Both Clerk and Cllr. Bushell were pleased with turf which had settled nicely.

The contractor working on the site previously have now, due to staffing issues, withdrawn from the further work including seats, paths and landscaping. They will, however, return to complete top soiling and over seeding once the wet weather holds off.

Esh Village Residents Association have made an informal request to re-route electricity to the play area. They require the permissions of the Parish Council as the Landowners to proceed with a quotation for such works. We await a formal request from Esh Village Residents Association.

It was **resolved** at Council to persist with Eibe Play to honour a follow up ROSPA inspection/report. If this cannot be obtained the Clerk is to instruct an independent inspection for peace of mind.

14. Request from Langley Park Care Home for local resident celebrating their 100th birthday in January

As the Council have no specific power to make donations to such events, the Parish Councillors will donate as individuals to facilitate a gift for the day.

15. Winter Events update including ‘The Peoples Supper’ event support and Christmas Schedule 2020

The Peoples Supper will be on Sunday 15th December 2019 4pm -6pm at the Miners Institute. The Kids Christmas party hosted by DH7 Events is the 14th of December 4pm – 6pm and the Snowman at the Sage is the 23rd of December – meeting at the Miners Institute at 9.30am.

The Council **resolved** to accept responsibility of the tree at Esh Village, this will be added to the installation schedule at Lite Ltd and will be dressed and prelit at the same time as the rest of the Parish.

16. Lights of the North – 150 Years of the Durham Miners Association

Cllr. Bushell, Cllr. Hughes and the Clerk attended the ceremony of 150 years of the Durham Miners Association at Durham Cathedral and had the Mining Heritage of the Esh Parish area entered the messages of remembrance, which read;

“Celebrating and remembering our coal mining heritage in the Parish of Esh and their legacy and spirit that lives on in our communities today”

17. Big Lotto 25 years application including our charitable status, funding opportunities available and the revival of the Miners institute – Cllr Ruth Hughes.

Cllr. Hughes has been researching grants available to the Parish Council and during her research it has become clear that the majority of funding streams do not fund Local Authorities, therefore the Parish Council are the sole trustee to two registered dormant Charities and Cllr. Hughes urged for a committee to form to look at the possibilities available.

Cllr. Hughes will be joined by Cllr's. Smedley, Moat, Bushell, Aal and Simpson and the Clerk is to contact Durham Community Action to meet in January 2020 to explore options and report to a further meeting of the Council.

18 . Payments to make and bank reconciliation

The Council noted the bank statements, approved payments as listed and **resolved** the Clerk to arrange payments

Chairman's Allowance	£300.00
Windows Cleaned Miners Institute	£50.00
Annual Maintenance Fee and Hold Up Cost	£102.00
Delivery of Esh Leaves	£127.50
Electricity Miners Institute	£347.52
Gas at the Miners institute	£593.35
Printing Charges	£50.40
Salary November 2019	£1,608.12
Expenses November 2019	£12.50
Cleaners Salary November 2019	£143.68
Stationary - Paper/labels	£135.46
Labour and Materials for Esh Electricity Box	£206.40
Laminator and Pouches	£78.00
Commission	£4.70
Service Charge	£10.00
Grotto Photo Backdrop and backing materials	£37.84
Post-box & Xmas event materials	£134.80
Mesh and Vinyl Banners Christmas	£432.00
1 x 22ft and 2 x 16ft Trees	£480.00

Concert and Carols around the tree 7/12/19	£300.00
Flyer printing, design Rams Head and Parish Update	£144.00
Christmas Fair Materials	£36.06
Printing Charges	£70.45
Office Kettle - Argos	£14.99
Installation, removal, and testing	£1,740.00
Equipment protection for 2020	£106.80
Lock change at the Miners institute	£353.32
Refund for Office 365 Business	£113.76

19. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 14th January 2020 – 7pm

Meeting closed at 20:05

Signed as a true record _____ 14th January 2019
Chair to the Council of the Parish Esh