

The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 25th May 2021 at the Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park. Meeting commenced at 19:02

Annual Meeting of the Council

1. Election of Chair and Acceptance of Office

Proposed members for the Chair were Cllr. Joseph Thompson and Cllr. Ollie Moat. Following an initial vote for both Councillors where the vote was tied, a further vote took place from Council and it was **resolved that Cllr Joseph Thompson will Chair the Council for the coming year.** Cllr. Joseph Thompson signed the acceptance of office witnessed by the Clerk.

2. Election of Vice Chair and Acceptance of Office

Proposed members for Vice Chair were Cllr Ollie Moat and Cllr George Hawxwell. Following a vote for Vice Chair it was **resolved that Cllr George Hawxwell will be Vice Chair for the coming year.** Cllr. Hawxwell signed the acceptance of office witnesses by the Clerk.

3. Co-option Requests

There were 3 Co-option requests to join the Council and discussions took place around these. A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to the Co-option requests, and it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Parish as Councillors felt that as they are new to the role it is important to settle into their roles as Councillors before any Co-option requests can be considered.

Resolved to look at the 3 Co-option requests received at the next meeting.

4. Record of attendance

Cllr. Joseph Thompson, Cllr. George Hawxwell, Cllr. Ryan Drion, Cllr. Allison Wardman, Cllr. Ollie Moat, Cllr. Mike McGaun, Cllr. Ian Dowson, Cllr. John Duddy, Cllr. Edwin Simpson.

Seven members of the public present

5. Apologies of absence

Resolved by Council to accept apologies from County Councillors Bev Coult and Arnie Simpson.

6. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received at the meeting.

7. Minutes from the previous meeting of Tuesday 4th May 2021

Cllr Ollie Moat referred to Item 4 of the previous minutes in which she had objected that the minutes were a true record. Cllr Edwin Simpson was happy to second the previous minutes as a true record and all other Councillors agreed.

Resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true record.

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

A resident in attendance highlighted the ongoing drug problem in Langley Park and said this is becoming worse and that police presence throughout the village needs to be heightened. Cllr Ryan Drion commented that he has details of the Wardens who cover the area, and he is happy to provide their details, in addition he also has a number for the Police to enable the resident to raise his concerns directly.

Councillor Ian Dowson asked if County Councillor Bev Coult was aware of the drug issues in the village.

Resolved Chair Cllr. Joseph Thompson will arrange to meet with County Councillors Bev Coult and Arnie Simpson to address the concerns raised from a resident present at the meeting.

9. County Councillors Report

In the absence of County Councillor Bev Coult, the Clerk presented the report received from County Councillor Bev Coult.

- Firstly Cllr Bev Coult and Cllr Arnie Simpson would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote for them at the recent elections. They are thrilled with the result and look forward to serving the residents in the coming years.
- DCC is currently in a position of no overall control by any party. Discussions are presently ongoing with key members and more information will follow after the AGM of DCC on the 26th May 2021, which will be held at Spennymoor Leisure Centre

DCC –Covid Dashboard – Information as at 25.05.2021

- 10.4 Per 1000,00 ranking Durham as 111th out of 149 Local Authorities
- 6 People in hospital
- No confirmed cases in Langley Park

Vaccinations – Covid Information as at 20.5.2021

- 92.7% eligible people in cohorts 1-9 have received the 1st dose and 62% have received the 2nd dose
- GP'S and the vaccination centre at the Arnison Centre continue to vaccinate the general population and deliver 2nd doses

DCC other business

- Lots of services have resumed across the County and venues have re-opened such as Killhope Mine, Durham Town Hall. In addition, Leisure Centres have restarted indoor fitness classes
- Currently promoting national walking month

- New Elvet Bridge is currently in the final stages of work and is due to re-open in October
- Mid Durham AAP are offering funding for activities during the Summer holidays. More information can be located on their Facebook page, Mid Durham Area Action Partnership
- Mobile and homebased businesses are getting longer to apply for Financial Support

<http://durham.gov.uk/article/25564/Financial-support-scheme-for-mobile-and-home-based-businesses-extended>

Local

- Cllr Simpson and I are delighted that the works on Low Moor Road C62 are being completed today. The only outstanding works are the road markings to be refreshed
- We would like to thank residents for their patience. We encountered a few issues with people using short cuts, but otherwise nothing too significant
- We have arranged for four bollards to be sited in the footway outside of the two residential properties to the left of Bob Smiths Garage. Regrettably we cannot give a definitive start date at present until Traffic Management confirm this
- Derelict garage/overgrown trees at the end of Larch Street. The garage is secure and cleared up. Conifer trees have been removed and local residents were very happy with the outcome
- Cllr Simpson and I are working hard to attract some new activities into the Parish. Recently we have met with the District Commissioner for Durham City Scouts with a view to have a group up and running for September
- Cllr Simpson and I are also working to recommence the Tuesday Club at the local Catholic Church
- Last year we had some costings and plans drafted up for a new play area in the village. One of the greatest challenges is proving to be finding the correct location. The initial idea of placing it on the land to the rear of the Crossways was not favourable, so we would like to work with everyone to find out the best location
- Cllr Simpson and I have additional meeting scheduled with Durham City Youth Project and also the Youth Justice Teams
- We have positive relation with the local NHW and PCSO'S and will continue to attend walkabouts and raise and address concerns. A walkabout was undertaken on Wednesday 19th and several untidy gardens were identified and will be followed up.

Planning

- We attended a meeting at Quebec Village Hall on the 25th May to discuss concerns with residents about a proposed planning application.
- Statutory consultation is currently being undertaken with regards to extending the double yellow lines around the top of Durham Street, Langley Street area. This is a result of a large volume of complaints regarding parking and road safety

Any other Business

- Cllr Simpson and I are intending to undertake a survey in order to collate residents views on their priorities for the village. We want to work alongside everyone to improve key areas for all villages within the Parish

10. Review and nomination of committees 2021/2022

Discussions took place between Councillors on the Committees that the Parish has and what needs to be in place.

Resolved Councillors agreed that the Clerk look at previous Committees that the Parish has had and bring this detail to the next meeting to enable future Committees to be agreed.

11. Review of Standing Orders

Discussions took place on this document and Councillors questioned whether or not this document could be changed. Cllr Ryan Drion confirmed that the document has been produced by NALC and we need to follow NALC'S policy.

Resolved all Councillors to review this document and bring this item back to the next meeting for discussion. In addition, Cllr Ryan Drion will check with NALC and CDALC and ask if amendments can be made to this document by individual Parish Councils.

12. Review of Financial Regulations

Resolved as accepted without amendment.

13. Amended Asset Register

Discussions took place around the up-to-date asset register and Cllr Edwin Simpson asked for some clarification on some items on the asset register, which Cllr Ryan Drion was able to provide.

Resolved to accept the up-to-date asset register.

14. Bank Signatories

Discussions took place in relation to bank signatories. It was confirmed that Cllr Edwin Simpson is a signatory but has no access to the online bank. Cllr Ryan Drion confirmed that we do need further signatories and in addition the Clerk needs to have a debit card.

Resolved for the Clerk to liaise with the bank and ask how many signatories are needed. The Clerk is also to send the bank signatory forms for Councillors to look at and bring this item back to the next meeting for further discussion.

15. The year ahead in summary including Council Meeting Timetable and delegation to Working Groups

Councillors discussed the schedule of meetings for the next year and the venues specified. Discussions took place around the difficulty of travelling to Ushaw College and Councillors asked about the cost of the venue at Ushaw College and in addition the cost of parking at Ushaw College. The Clerk confirmed the cost of the bookings for Ushaw College which are

£90.00 per half day. The majority of Councillors felt that this was quite a substantial cost and that it may be better to continue to hold meetings at the Miners Institute and Quebec. Councillors were however reminded that Esh Parish is warded and we need to have meetings in Quebec and Ushaw Moor also to ensure all residents have a fair chance of attending meetings.

Resolved that the Clerk is to establish if we can book the venue at Ushaw College at an hourly rate rather than a half day rate. The Clerk is to also establish if Councillors will receive a parking permit if we use Ushaw College as a venue. Once these issues are clarified Councillors will be able to accept the Calendar of meetings but stated that these were subject to change or additional meetings as and when the Council requires.

16. Payments to make and bank reconciliations

The paperwork for this meeting was not provided by the Clerk, however when asked by councillors the Clerk was able to provide details of the precept for the Parish.

Resolved to ratify this at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:27pm