



*The Council of the
Parish of Esh*

**The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on
Wednesday 8th September 2021 at The Miners Institute, Langley Park.**

Meeting commenced at 6:00pm

Ordinary Meeting of the Council

1. Record of Attendance

Cllr. Joe Thompson, Cllr. George Hawxwell, Cllr. Linda Bushell, Cllr. John Duddy, Cllr. Ian Dowson, Cllr. Ollie Moat, Cllr. Allison Wardman, Cllr. Ruth Hughes, Cllr. Kathryn Thompson, Cllr. Louise Dudden, Cllr. Mike McGaun, Cllr. Edwin Simpson, Cllr. Sue Carver, Cllr. Ian Dowson

County Councillors Bev Coult and Arnie Simpson

Clerk: Leeanne Owens

7 members of the public was present at the meeting.

2. Apologies of absence

Resolved by Council to accept apologies from the following members:

Eric Bushell - Work commitments

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Ollie Moat declared an interest in agenda item 8

Cllr. Ian Dowson declared an interest in agenda item 13

Cllr. George Hawxwell declared an interest in agenda item 13

Cllr. Louise Dudden declared an interest in agenda item 13

Cllr. John Duddy declared an interest in agenda item 13

Cllr. Joe Thompson declared an interest in agenda item 10.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting held on the 18th August 2021

A number of amendments to the previous Minutes were raised which were noted by the Clerk.

Cllr. Crumbie made a suggestion that on other meetings she attends amendments are sent to the minute taker prior to the meeting and suggestions for amendments are considered prior to the meeting, meaning less time is spent going over corrections to the minutes. It was noted that this suggestion would have to be put on the agenda for a future meeting to enable this to be considered.

Resolved That the Clerk makes the necessary amendments to the minutes. In addition, the Clerk also puts Cllr. Crumbie's suggestion as an agenda item for the next meeting, to allow further discussion to take place.

5. County Councillors Report

On behalf of DCC Councillor Bev Could presented a verbal report to councillors on activities and events since the last meeting. A copy of the report may be viewed at the Miner's Institute on request.

6. Opportunity for the public to raise matters of interest

A member of the public read out a statement regarding her personal opinion of the Parish Council. No further action required.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding cyclists and horse riders using the public footpath between the village and Kaysburn. The Chair advised that the PCSO is aware of these issues and as a Parish Council we need to encourage residents to continue to raise similar community issues of concern so that the PCSOs and Warden can then deal with them,

Resolved That the Parish note and take on board valid concerns raised by members of the public. In addition, the Clerk is to highlight any further concerns raised in relation to cyclists and horse riders with the PCSO and Wardens.

7. Clerks work in progress

The Clerk updated Councillors on the work she has ongoing at present and advised that the new bank signatories are with the bank at present who are processing this information. The Clerk advised that she continues to update Councillors with information on available training courses which are of interest.

Resolved That Councillors note the Clerks update

8. Planning Applications Received

Cllr. Ollie Moat advised Councillors that a retrospective planning application has been submitted for the church yard at Quebec and currently 10 objections have been put forward, against this application. Cllr. Moat has further information which she will send to the Clerk to enable the Clerk to share the information with Councillors.

Resolved That Councillors note the update from Cllr. Moat and await further information from the Clerk.

9. The Annual Return for Mazars Audit

The Clerk shared the annual return with Councillors which requires full Council approval before the audit is sent to Mazars for their final, external audit. Cllr. Moat did state that she has never seen this audit paperwork in previous years. The Clerk explained the paperwork to full Council and explained the auditing process.

Cllr. Wardman proposed that we accept the internal audit and Cllr. McGaun seconded this.

Resolved That the internal audit report is accepted by full Council.

10. The Recreation Ground

It was confirmed that County Councillor Bev Coult and County Councillor Arnie Simpson have some funding for a play park in the village. Discussions took place in relation to this.

Cllr. Hughes suggested that the group form a constitution and put a plan in place to make the Recreation ground better.

Cllr. Kathryn Thompson confirmed that she has spoken to the Fields in Trust about the idea of the Recreation Ground been turned into a park and they have no objections. It was suggested that public consultation needs to be sought in relation to this idea. Cllr. Dowson stated that the old Recreation ground was associated with a charity and queried whether or not the charity was still active.

Resolved That we move that all Councilors are in favour of the Recreation Ground been turned back into a park and that once further details are received in relation to the progress of the Recreation Ground the Clerk shares this information with Councillors. In addition, the Clerk is to make contact with the Charities Commission for further information.

11. Bins at Quebec and Sir Bobby Robson Play Park

It was confirmed that a bin at Sir Bobby Robson Play Area has been destroyed and a bin at Quebec Play Area has been used to dispose of excrement. Cllr. Dowson suggested that in addition to looking at procuring further bins, we also look at installing some picnic tables at Sir Bobby Robson Play Area.

Resolved That the Clerk sources quotes for 4 street bins, 1 picnic table and 2 dog poo bins and bring these back to the next meeting for consideration. In addition, the Clerk is to send the Tenancy at Will the Parish has in place for maintaining the Sir Bobby Robson Play Area to all Councillors.

12. Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Events

The Parish had a lengthy discussion about preparations for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. Cllr. Wardman suggested that a good place to start would be to look at paperwork in relation to these events, from previous years.

For Remembrance Sunday it was noted that the Parish purchase wreaths and the Chair lays one. It was noted that Michael Peers the Reverend for the Local Church.

Resolved That the Clerk contacts Reverend Peers to establish the order of the day for Remembrance Sunday;

That Cllr. Wardman, Cllr. Carver, Cllr. Moat and Cllr. Kathryn Thompson form a working group to focus on Christmas events; and report back to the next meeting.

That Councillors share any ideas they have for Christmas with the Clerk who will then send this detail to the working group;

That the Clerk establishes what has happened in the past in relation to the events and share this detail with the working group.

13. The Wetlands

Cllr. Hughes left the meeting whilst this item was being discussed.

Cllr. Dowson advised that as the Parish meeting is being held the Wetlands are currently undergoing an inspection to ensure that the running of the site meets regulations. Whilst providing this update Cllr. Dowson received confirmation that the inspection was successful, and all measures were in place for the effective running of the Wetlands.

Resolved That the update be noted.

14. Update on trees in Quebec – Parish Council Land

As requested at the previous meeting, the Clerk had obtained Quotes from 3 contractors for this agenda item. the Clerk confirmed that when obtaining quotes, she was purely looking for local companies who done this line of work. Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson advised that although LME's quote is more expensive than the other quotations, LME have provided a comprehensive quote and not only have they quoted us on what we have asked, they have inspected all of the trees in this area. It was suggested that this may be the better option as we will need to get all this work done at some point.

Following discussion and in order to move matters, forward Cllr. Wardman suggested that we go with LME and have a vote for all in favor of this quote. Following the vote Cllr. Simpson, Cllr. Moat, Cllr. Wardman, Cllr. Carver, Cllr. McGaun, Cllr. Hawxwell, Cllr. Duddy, Cllr. Dudden, Cllr. Kathryn Thompson were all in favor of LME completing the work.

Cllr. Joe Thompson and Cllr. Ian Dowson did not vote due to having some knowledge of the companies who had provided quotes.

Cllr. Bushell and Cllr. Hughes abstained from voting.

Resolved That the Clerk instructs LME to carry out the necessary work.

15. Maintenance at the rear of Finings Street

This item was brought to the meeting by Cllr. Dowson who was approached by a member of the public who has issues with the land to the rear of Finings Street.

Resolved That the Clerk speaks with Assets at DCC to establish who the land belongs to before we move forward with this item.

16. Maintenance at Sir Bobby Robson Play Area

A quotation has been received from one company in relation to carrying out maintenance work at the Sir Bobby Robson Play Area. However, Standing Orders require 3 quotations for this work.

Resolved That the Clerk approaches other companies for suitable quotations for the required work.

17. Quotation for fencing at Esh Village Green

The Clerk shared with Councillors a quotation relating to work that is required for Esh Village Green in relation to a fence that needs replacing.

Resolved That the Clerk speaks with the contractor who provided the quote to request a full breakdown of exactly what is needed and that the quotation is presented as an official quote, rather than an email quotation.

18. Funding Request from Langley Park Football Club £300.00

Cllr. Wardman proposed that we agree the funding request. Cllr. Moat advised the Clerk check that it is over one year since the last funding was provided to the football club before we agree to this.

Resolved That the funding request is approved on the premise that this was last approved over 1 year ago.

19. Members Code of Conduct Policy

The Clerk presented the new DCC Code of Conduct Policy which the CDALC Executive Committee are suggesting that all member councils consider adopting.

Cllr Hughes moved that we accept the new policy and Cllr. Simpson seconded this.

Resolved That the Parish adopt the new DCC Code of Conduct Policy

20. AAP Licence to Occupy space within the Miners Institute

The Clerk shared with Councillors the AAP Licence to Occupy space within the Miners Institute which is due for renewal from August 2021.

It was moved that we continue this Licence.

Resolved That the Clerk sends the AAP the new licence to occupy space within the Miners Institute.

21. Payments to make and bank reconciliation

The Clerk presented a list of payments that are due for payment which are shown on a separate document.

Resolved That all payments be processed for payment when the banking arrangements are in place.

22. Youths of the village

Kristina from Durham youth Group attended the meeting to provide an update on her service. Due to the nature of the groups work Cllr. Dowson asked if the Parish would consider letting the Youth Group use a room at the Miners Institute.

Council members were able to raise questions and discussion took place.

Cllr. Moat asked if Esh Village and Quebec can also be considered as part of the project.

Resolved That Kristina provides a brief on the whole work of the service and sends this to the Clerk to forward to Councillors for consideration.

23. Change of future meeting schedule

The Chair advised that following feedback he had received from some Parish Councillors with employment and other regular commitments that future meetings are changed to a Wednesday night as opposed to a Tuesday and commence at 6pm as opposed to 7pm.

Following a vote 13 Councillors were in favour of agreeing to the new meeting dates, however Cllr. Hughes and Cllr. Hughes disagree with this.

Resolved That the newly proposed meeting dates are accepted.

24. Date and Time of the Next Ordinary Meeting – Wednesday the 13th October 2021, 6pm at Esh Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 20:03pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE