



*The Council of the
Parish of Esh*

The Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9TZ
0191 3736687

Clerk : Leeanne Owens
Chairman : Cllr Joseph Thompson

**The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on
Wednesday the 8th March 2023 at The Miners Hall, Langley Park.**

Meeting commenced at 6:00pm

Ordinary Meeting of the Council

1. Record of attendance

Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson, Cllr. Kathryn Thompson, Cllr. John Duddy, Cllr Ollie Moat, Cllr. Linda Bushell, Cllr. Ruth Hughes, Cllr. Edwin Simpson, Cllr. Jillian Crumbie, Cllr. Karenza Passmore, Cllr. Louise Dudden, Cllr. Mike Quinn

There were 2 members of the public members present at the meeting

Clerk: Leeanne Owens

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor George Hawxwell	Personal Commitments
Councillor Ross Lardner	Work Commitments
Councillor Allison Wardman	Personal Commitments
County Councillor Bev Coult	Work Commitments

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Linda Bushell declared an interest in Item 20.

Cllr. Ruth Hughes declared an interest in Item 20.

4. Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting on the 8th February 2023

Cllr. Simpson moved that we accept the minutes from the 8th February 2023 and Cllr. Kathryn Thompson seconded this.

Resolved That the minutes from the meeting held on the 8th February 2023, be agreed as a true record.

5. County Councillors Report

County Councillor Coult was absent from the meeting, however she prepared a report for the meeting which was sent to the Clerk. Councillors were in agreement that the Clerk sends this report to Councillors for information.

Resolved That the report from County Councillor Coult be sent to all Councillors.

6. Opportunity for the public to raise matters of interest

The Clerk highlighted that she had received some comments from a public member on the following:

Turning Circle at Esh Village

This item has been brought to Council on a number of occasions, however the member of the public has asked if the Parish Council would reconsider having the small section of the turning Circle tarmacked due to the deterioration of this area. Following a discussion Councillors were in agreement that the Parish Council will not be able to pay to tarmac any area of this road as it is not their responsibility. It was felt that if the Parish Council agree to this then a precedent will be set for future requests from members of the public for other areas. Following a discussion it was suggested that this item is passed to County Councillor Coult for comment on with the Parish Council highlighting that this is an unadopted road.

Planting at Esh Village

The planting at Esh Village has been brought to the meeting again as following the Parish Council's decision to plant only the entrance and exit of Esh Village the member of the public has asked if the Council will reconsider this and consider planting the entrances and the grass triangle where the Parish Notice board is.

Councillors present at the meeting discussed this matter and it was agreed that the Parish Council's decision on planting in Esh Village stands and this will be reviewed in 6 months.

Removal of Tree request from the Allotments Association

The Clerk advised that a request has been received by the Allotment Association to remove some trees due to their deterioration and have these replaced with wildflower. This request was accompanied by pictures showing the current location of the trees. Councillors discussed this request and all Councillors present at the meeting agreed to the Allotment Association's request by a show of hands.

Resolved That the Clerk contacts the member of public in relation to the Turning Circle to advise that the Parish Council will not be able to pay to tarmac any area of this road as it is not their responsibility. The Clerk is to raise this issue with County Councillor Coult for comment, highlighting that the area is an unadopted road;

Resolved That the Clerk contacts the resident in relation to the decision on planting to advise that the Parish Council's decision on planting stands and that this will be reviewed in 6 months;

Resolved The Clerk is to make contact with the Allotments Association to advise that the Parish Council are happy for the trees to be removed and replaced with wildflower.

7. Clerks work in progress

During her report the Clerk discussed the following.

Legionella Testing at the Miners Hall

The clerk advised that she signed the order for the Legionella testing back in January 2023 but Northumbrian Water have yet to confirm a date. It was agreed that the Clerk escalate this as a matter of urgency.

Website

The Clerk provided Councillors with a quotation from Alv IT Solutions at a cost of £1,450.00 for the Parish website. Following a discussion Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson, Cllr. Moat, Cllr. Simpson, Cllr. Crumbie, Cllr. Quinn, Cllr. Duddy, Cllr. Passmore, Cllr. Kathryn Thompson and Cllr. Dudden accepted this quotation.

Cllr. Hughes and Cllr. Bushell abstained from voting.

Voter ID

Following the requirements to vote using photographic evidence the Clerk has asked Electoral Services for some Voter ID application forms. Cllr. Quinn said he is happy to assist members of the public to complete the application forms and the Parish Council are to look at providing stamps if the cost of postage is an issue for anyone.

Training

Cllr. Simpson asked if the Clerk can book him on the course named Funding Net Zero Transmissions.

Resolved That the Clerks report be noted;

Resolved That the Clerk inform Alv IT Solutions that the Parish Council wish to proceed with the quotation for the website.

8. Planning Applications Received

There were no planning applications for discussion at the meeting.

9. Email Correspondence Received

The Parish Council note all emails received.

Resolved That the emails received from the Clerk be noted.

10. Rota for the Emergency Contact

The Parish mobile phone was discussed and it was agreed that a rota is to be put in place so Councillors each take their turn answering any general queries from members of the public. Following this discussion Cllr. Simpson, Cllr. Bushell, Cllr. Hughes and Cllr. Dudden confirmed that they do not wish to be responsible for the phone and do not want to be part of the phone rota. Other Councillors present at the meeting said they were happy to be on the rota to have the mobile phone, therefore the Clerk is to liaise with the other Councillors present at the meeting to look at preparing a rota for which Councillor is responsible for the Parish Emergency Mobile phone. In addition, it was agreed that the Clerk is to look at a protocol for the use of the mobile phone and bring this to the next meeting.

Resolved That the Clerk liaises with the Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson, Cllr. Moat, Cllr. Duddy, Cllr. Kathryn Thompson, Cllr. Crumby, Cllr. Passmore and Cllr. Quinn to agree a rota for when the Councillors will each be responsible for the mobile phone;

Resolved That the Clerk is to look at a protocol for the use of the mobile phone and bring this back to the next Parish Council meeting.

11. Emergency Plan

Following a discussion both Cllr. Passmore and Cllr. Moat agreed that they are going to work on the Emergency Plan and bring this to a future meeting.

Resolved That the information be noted;

Resolved That the Emergency Plan be brought to a future meeting for Parish Council approval once finalised by both Cllr. Passmore and Cllr. Moat.

12. Christmas Committee

Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Quinn, Cllr. Passmore, Cllr. Simpson, Cllr. Duddy and Cllr. Kathryn Thompson be on the Christmas Committee. Cllr. Moat will be available to offer any experience if required.

Resolved That the update be noted.

13. Preparations for the Coronation

Discussions took place in relation to the Coronation and it was noted that County Cllr Coult has suggested a party in the park event. It was noted from Cllr. Dudden that The Wetlands are preparing an event and Cllr. Quinn said the Parish Council should support this event and in addition possibly look at holding an afternoon tea as a Parish event.

Cllr. Simpson suggested we should support any other community events for the Coronation and invite other groups to come forward for funding for the Coronation and set a budget. Cllr. Quinn proposed that we replicate every bit of funding for the Coronation that we did for the jubilee and Cllr. Passmore seconded this.

It was also suggested that we ask any groups who apply for funding that they share the details of their events with us so we can promote them on their behalf.

Resolved That the Parish Council set a budget of £1,500 for the Coronation which will fund 5 applications at £300 each.

14. Small Holdings

Cllr. Crumby updated Councillors on the allotments and highlighted that concerns had been brought to her attention via members of the Allotment Group. It was also highlighted that there is also a big stretch of fencing that needs renewing near the allotment area which goes onto the street side. Cllr. Simpson said that in his opinion this is the Parish Councils responsibility. It was suggested that a letter is sent to the tenant with whom we have the concerns with allowing them 28 days-notice to clear the allotment up and at which time Cllr.

Crumbie will re inspect the site. If after this inspection the Parish Council are happy that the work has been carried out satisfactorily then a new tenancy will be issued.

After further discussions it was;

Resolved That the Parish Council delegate Cllr. Crumbie to have the discussions with the tenant to highlight the concerns found and that following this discussion a letter is to be sent to the tenant to allow them 28 days to clear the allotment up and at which time Cllr. Crumbie will re inspect the site. If after this inspection the Parish Council are happy that the work has been carried out satisfactorily then a new tenancy will be issued;

Resolved That after the next meeting the Parish Council look at sending out a quarterly letter to tenants stating that the Parish Council will be conducting quarterly inspections of all allotments.

15. Planting and Hanging Basket SLA

Discussions took place in relation to the Hanging Basket SLA as at the last meeting it was agreed that this would be looked into as it was noted that some areas could benefit from planting and it was also noted that in the village a lot of money is being spent on planting and hanging baskets mainly in Langley Park. Cllr. Dudden did advise that in her opinion if the planting is reduced in Langley Park she feels that there will be complaints. Suggestions were discussed in relation to the planting outside of the Miners Hall and the Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson suggested that the 3 planters outside of the Miners Hall are relocated and that 2 window boxes are put in their place. Suggestions also took place in relation to contacting businesses in both Quebec and Esh Village to ask if the businesses would like hanging baskets.

Following a discussion, it was;

Resolved That the Clerk liaises with businesses in Old Esh and Quebec Village to establish if they would like hanging baskets then once numbers are known contact our contractor for the work to be completed;

Resolved That the Chair. Cllr. Joe Thompson is to decide where the planters outside of the Miners Hall are to be relocated and once decided the Clerk is to liaise with our contractor to relocate the planters;

Resolved That the Clerk also liaise with our contractors to ask about window boxes outside of the Miners Hall.

16. Ongoing works at the Recreation Ground

The Clerk presented the quotation received from OJM Tree and Landscape Services Ltd for £840.00 for the installation of the 4 new benches at the old Recreation Ground and 2 benches within the Recreation Ground that need moving. Cllr. Simpson moved that we accept the quotation and Cllr. Moat seconded this.

Resolved That the quotation from OJM Tree and Landscape Services Ltd for £840.00 be approved by the Parish Council;

Resolved That the Clerk contact OJM Tree and Landscape Services Ltd to request for the work to be carried out.

17. Funding Request from the Friendship Club for £300.00

The Clerk presented Councillors with paperwork from the Friendship Club who are requesting £300 towards an event they are holding for the Coronation. All supporting documentation was submitted with the application and following a discussion all Councillors agreed to honour the funding request for £300.00

Resolved That the funding request from the Friendship Club for £300.00 be approved by the Parish Council;

Resolved That the Clerk contacts the Friendship Club to inform them of the Parish Council's decision.

18. Payments to make and bank reconciliation

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

Following a discussion all Councillors in attendance accepted the payments that are due.

Resolved That the payments due are authorised by the Council.

19. Paperwork for Meetings

The Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson asked that this item be brought to full Council as he feels that there is a lot of paper being wasted at meetings. The Chair explained that the Clerk always emails Councillors with paperwork prior to the meetings taking place and advised that most Councillors have laptops/I pad's etc and are able to access the information and therefore the Chair wanted Councillors views on this. Cllr. Quinn suggested that Councillors be given the opportunity to opt in or out to decide whether or not they want the paperwork for meetings printed for the meeting.

Following a discussion, it was;

Resolved That the Clerk email Councillors to ask who wishes to go paperless for meetings.

20. Update on Current Money Claim

This was discussed as private and confidential and all Parish Councillors were updated accordingly.

Resolved That the update be noted.

21. Date of next ordinary meeting – Wednesday the 12th April 2023, 6pm at The Miners Hall

Meeting closed at 19:33

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE