



*The Council of the
Parish of Esh*

The Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9TZ
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Clerk : Leeanne Owens
Chairman : Cllr Joseph Thompson

**The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on
Friday the 31st March 2023 at The Miners Hall, Langley Park.**

Meeting commenced at 6:00pm

Extra-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. George Hawxwell, Cllr. Jillian Crumbie, Cllr. Karenza Passmore, Cllr. Louise Dudden, Cllr. Mike Quinn, Cllr. Ross Lardner, Cllr Allison Wardman

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Edwin Simpson

Personal Commitments

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

4. A Community Building

An extra ordinary meeting was set up to discuss that a Methodist Church is up for sale in the village and the Chair and Vice Chair are looking to gather other Parish Councillors views on buying this property and turning this into a Community Centre. It was confirmed that the Church is currently up for sale for £220,000.00. Vice Chair Cllr. Moat advised that a viewing has been secured for the Parish Council to look at the property on Monday the 3rd April at 11:30am.

Cllr. Bushell advised that as a Parish Council the Parish Council cannot take this property on as they cannot indebt Parish Councils in the future. It was confirmed from Vice Chair Cllr. Moat that it is in the act that the Parish Council can buy property.

Various discussions took place over the potential of buying the Methodist Church and it was discussed that if the Parish Council do agree to buy this property, then public consultation will need to take place to ensure that the residents within the Parish support this idea.

Discussions took place in relation to a Management Group taking on the running of the building and Vice Chair Cllr. Moat has sought advice from the DCA on this who have confirmed that they will speak to the Parish Council on this process if this is the agreed way, if successful in buying the property. It was highlighted that the DCA have suggested that a Management Group will be the best way forward if the Parish Council purchase the property.

A survey of the property was discussed as part of the discussion. In addition, Cllr Bushell asked are we going to use some of the precept money to buy the property. Vice Chair Cllr. Moat said if the Parish Council purchase the building it does need to be community led.

Various discussions took place in relation to the Parish Council purchasing the Methodist Church and Cllr. Quinn said to conclude and move forward with the discussion he did agree in principle that the Parish Council look to make an offer on the Methodist Church and then look to get a survey done to establish the condition of the building. It was explained that whatever bid we put in is subject to a buildings survey.

Further discussions took place and some of the queries highlighted were the fact that the majority of the Parish Council have not seen the building and therefore they do not feel that a full decision can be made until they have viewed the said building. In addition, Cllr. Bushell highlighted that if we do purchase this building and are planning on still leasing the Miners Hall then we need to be mindful of the ongoing costs of the Miners Hall. The Clerk did advise that she would look at all budget information to enable Parish Councillors to make an informed decision.

To move this forward it was agreed that a sub committee be set up. The sub committee would then view the building on Monday the 3rd April 2023 at 11:30am and then come back to the full Council to agree a price for the purchase of the Methodist Church.

Following a vote, it was agreed that the following Councillors be part of the Sub Committee:

Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson, Vice Chair Cllr. Moat, Cllr. Duddy, Cllr. Quinn, Cllr. Hughes and Cllr. Lardner.

Resolved That a subcommittee be set up and consist of Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson, Vice Chair Cllr. Moat, Cllr. Duddy, Cllr. Quinn, Cllr. Hughes and Cllr. Lardner.

Resolved That the subcommittee view the building on Monday the 3rd April 2023 at 11:30am and then come back to the full Council to agree a price for the purchase of the Methodist Church.

Meeting closed at 19:15pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE