The Council of the
Parish of Esh

**Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the council**

**Held on Wednesday 12th June 2024 at the Miners Institute, Langley Park**

**Meeting commenced at 6 p.m.**

**Item 1 Record of Attendance**:

Cllr Ollie Moat (Chair), Cllr Allison Wardman (Vice Chair), Cllr Edwin Simpson, Cllr Carole Greenham-Denny, Cllr Mike Quinn, County Cllr Bev Coult.

Cllr Pat Short and Cllr John Duddy arrived at eight minutes past six.

There were no members of the public present.

**Item 2 Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Jillian Crumbie, Cllr Louise Dudden, Cllr Andy Walker, Cllr Kathryn Thompson.

Cllr George Hawxwell – Failed to respond to summons to attend

**Item 7 County Councillors Report**

Due to the fact that number of councillors were low, meaning that the council was not quorate, Councillor Bev Coult was asked to give her report. The report from County Cllr Coult highlighted upcoming events within Durham and local issues, some of which were embargoed due to the general election on 4th July. Cllrs Short and Duddy arrived part way into the report from County Cllr Coult. County Cllr Coult was thanked by the chair for a comprehensive report.

Resolved: accept County Councillor Coult's report

**Item 3 Election of HR Committee:**

Council was asked which member wished to put themselves forward for a position on the HR committee. It was highlighted that suitable candidates for the position would have managerial experience and there be an odd number of people on the committee then casting vote could be had. Cllrs Quinn, Denny, Duddy and Simpson put themselves forward. Votes were taken and are as follows;

Cllr Quinn – 6 votes, Cllr Moat – 6 votes, Cllr Simpson – 6 votes, Cllr Greenham-Denny – 3 votes, Cllr Duddy – 1 vote

Resolved: The HR committee will consist of Cllrs Quinn, Moat and Simpson.

**Item 4: Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Item 5: Minutes of the previous AA and AGM meeting:**

The AA and AGM took place on Wednesday 29th May. The minutes had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting giving them the opportunity to read and ask for adjustments to be made. Cllr Wardman proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record, this was seconded by Cllr Simpson.

Resolved: To accept the minutes of the AA and AGM as a correct record.

**Item 6 Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of interest:**

No members of the public were present at the meeting; however, it was brought to the attention of the council an enquiry via email from a member of the public. The enquiry raised several concerns about the lack of planting around Langley Park in comparison to other villages, the lack of bus services into Langley Park, the use of rooms at The Miner's Institute, the under use by the people of the village of the cricket ground and Esh parish Council favouring The Old Rec over the cricket ground.

The concerns of the resident were noted and responded to pointing him to the relevant bodies to raise the issues with and that the cricket ground is now private property, hence the parish council involvement as custodians of The Old Rec, to make the space as usable as possible for the residents of Langley Park.

Resolved: The residents' concerns have been noted and responded to.

**Item 7 County Councillors report:**

Mentioned earlier

**Item 8 Co-Option request:**

Deferred until July 10th meeting, due to candidate being on holiday.

Ongoing: Clerk to invite candidate to meeting on 10th July to discuss Co-Option application.

**Item 9 Update from Cllr Quinn re HR Training:**

Cllr Quinn presented information to the council about the HR course that he had attended. All presentations from the course had previously been shared. Cllr Quinn stated that the course had been very informative and had given him an insight into current legislation and updating of policies regarding employment law. HR committee will have responsibility of updating existing HR policies on an annual basis and the creation of new policies as employment law decrees.

Resolved: To accept Cllr Quinns report and the responsibilities of the HR committee be noted.

**Item 10 Funding Application:**

The clerk had contacted the application claimant and the event had taken place therefore the funding was no longer needed. It was agreed by council that applications such as these need more information in the first instance and that it be submitted alongside the application and that a longer lead time is requested moving forward. It was proposed that this application would not be granted, a vote was taken which was returned as unanimous to deny the application.

Resolved: It be noted that the application is denied

**Item 11 Allotment/Smallholding Update:**

Cllr Greenham Denny has met extensively with a representative from NCAA to rewrite and update existing documentation regarding the allotments and smallholdings. Cllr Greenham- Denny presented the documentation in draft form to the council and explained that the process is ongoing and there are changes to be made, it is proposed by Cllr Moat and seconded by Cllr Duddy that the new lease be for 10 years and by Cllr Simpson, again seconded by Cllr Duddy that the draft documentation be taken to Langley Park Allotment Association for feedback. A vote was taken for both proposals which returned unanimous results.

Resolved: Langley Park Allotment Association be invited to meet to discuss the draft documentation.

**Item 12 Payments to be made and bank reconciliation**

The clerk distributed information on payments made, petty cash income / balance and bank balances for councillors to read**.** It was noted that all invoices for the D-Day commemorative event had not been received.

Resolved: Accounts are correct and that payments are authorised by the Council.

**Item 13 Date of Ordinary Meeting**

Date of the next ordinary meeting Wednesday $10^{th}$ July 2024, 6pm, The Miners Institute.