



*The Council of the
Parish of Esh*

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the council

Held on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at the Miners Institute, Langley Park

Meeting commenced at 6 p.m.

Item 1 Record of Attendance:

Cllr Joe Thompson (Chair), Cllr Ollie Moat (Vice Chair), Cllr Allison Wardman (Minutes), Cllr Kathryn Thompson, Cllr John Duddy, Cllr Louise Dudden, Cllr Jillian Crumbie, Cllr George Hauxwell, Cllr Edwin Simpson, Cllr Ruth Hughes, Cllr Linda Bushell.

Also in attendance County Cllr Bev Coult and 2 members of the public

Item 2 Apologies for absence:

Cllr Karenza Passmore Cllr Mike Quinn and Cllr Ross Lardner.

Item 3 Declarations of interest:

Cllr Ollie Moat – Item 7, Cllr Jillian Crumbie Item 9

Item 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Minutes of the ordinary council meeting held on 14th June 2023

A query was raised regarding whether the proposed amendments suggested had been made.

Resolved: Acting Clerk to check amendments made and report back to the next meeting.

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 21st Jun 2023

Accepted as a correct record Proposed by Cllr Louise Dudden and seconded by Cllr Kathryn Thompson.

Resolved: to accept Minutes of the meeting on 21st June 2023 as a correct record.

Item 5 County Councillors Report:

Will be circulated to members via email for information. Cllr Coult highlighted some of the recent activities and events taking place over the summer period.

Resolved: to accept Cllr Coult's report

Item 6 Opportunity for Public to raise matters of interest:

A member of public present raised the issue of overgrown nettles along Hospital Road and also Railway Street. It was noted that Hospital Road is private land, and should be maintained by residents. Cllr Coult noted the issues regarding Railway Street.

A member of the public also raised concerns regarding the retrospective Planning application for storage Units at the Old Fire Station and was advised by the Chair that this item is on the agenda for discussion.

Item 7 Planning Application Received:

A retrospective planning application has been submitted to DCC for 3 storage containers sited behind the garage at the Old Fire Station. Following discussion, the acting clerk was requested to raise an objection to retrospective planning permission being granted on the grounds that

1. One of the containers is allegedly being used as a private gym and there is no indication within the application of what is being stored in the other two units.
2. The placing of these containers has reduced the number of parking spaces available within the grounds of the Fire Station Garage, and concerns have been raised by members of the public around the volume of vehicles visiting the business parking on the streets around the Fire Station, which are perceived to be causing a safety hazard to both pedestrians and other road users.

Resolved: An objection to the granting of retrospective planning permission be raised on behalf of the Parish Council

Item 8 Summer Activities:

Cllr Moat circulated information regarding Outdoor Cinema Events when a popular family film would be shown and access would be free to the local community.

Cllr Moat proposed that on behalf of the Parish Council she investigate the possibility of putting on two outdoor cinema events on The Rec over the summer holidays. Potentially two Saturday evenings, dates to be confirmed. Seconded by Cllr Dudden

Following a show of hands, Councillors J. Thompson, K Thompson, J Duddy, J Crumbie, G Hauxwell, E Simpson and A Wardman were in favour of the proposal.

Cllrs Bushell and Hughes abstained.

Resolved: Cllr Moat to make further enquiries and proceed with these events if viable.

Item 9 – Smallholdings:

Cllr Crumbie updated on actions since the last meeting, stating that she had identified homes for all the chickens left on site, and advising that part 1 of the clearance has taken place, there's still a mound that needs removing. A quote for approximately £2000 has been received, however it is the only quote to date. She informed members that the former tenant had been verbally threatening and abusive. It was confirmed by Cllr Coult that the tenant had been spoken to by the allotment

association and had received a warning letter from them. Cllr Crumbie was advised that if issues persist, the Police need to be informed, and Cllr Hughes advised her to log the existing issues with Police, which she said that she would consider. The former tenant will be issued with an invoice for the costs incurred in clearing the smallholding if they continue to be disruptive. Once the final bills are in a further discussion needs to take place to decide what the approach will be if any on recuperation costs to the former tenant.

Resolved: that Cllr Crumbie update be noted and if there are more incidents from the former tenant, then Cllr Crumbie will notify the police.

Item 10 – Christmas lights:

Cllr Kathryn Thompson advised that information and a quotation for new lights for the village has been received, which were circulated for members' information. Cllr Dudden proposed that the Parish Council go ahead with the purchase, seconded by Cllr Duddy.

Following a show of hands, Councillors J. Thompson, K Thompson, O Moat, J Crumbie, G Hauxwell, E Simpson and A Wardman were in favour of the proposal.

Cllrs Bushell and Hughes abstained.

Resolved: that the proposal be accepted and actioned. Acting Clerk to ask Quebec if they would like to be included in the proposal.

Item 11 Memorial Plaques:

Cllr J Thompson advised members that he had checked with CDALC and had it confirmed that whilst the Parish Council are not able to purchase memorial benches, two memorial plaques (information circulated) – to be dedicated to Cllr Richard Bowyer and Cllr Ian Dowson could be purchased. Cllr Edwin Simpson proposed that the plaques be purchased; seconded by Cllr Duddy.

Resolved: that Cllr J Thompson action purchase of plaques.

Item 12 Payments to make and Bank reconciliation:

In the absence of a Clerk, Councillor Moat presented a list of payments due, added to which would be a reimbursement to Cllr Moat Business account for incidentals purchased on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Crumbie has also submitted request for payment in relation to items purchased for incidentals such as weed killer and chicken feed for use on smallholding.

Due to technological issues the Acting Clerk explained that it had not been possible to provide an up to date list of Income for this meeting but it is hoped issues will be resolved by the September meeting

Resolved: that payments are authorised by the Council

Item 13 Date of Ordinary Meeting:

Confirmed as Wednesday 13/09/23 6 p.m. at Miners Institute

Private and Confidential

Item 14 Community Building

It was noted that the Methodist Church has indicated it is willing to accept the offer of £170,000, made, subject to survey and to agreement to go ahead being gained following public consultation.

Cllr Moat displayed some information and initial ideas relating to the use of the community building.

Cllr Moat shared the information that will be disseminated at the public meeting including initial costings etc, and advised that the Parish Council will look to apply for matched funding to progress this project if successful and will be looking for community volunteers to help take the project forward.

It was noted that Cllr Quinn will Chair the Public Meeting which will take place on 18th July 2023 in the Gym at the School, followed by 10 weeks of consultation events, dates and venues to be confirmed.

It was noted that Parish Councillor attendance at these meeting as a show of support towards the project would be appreciated, although it was accepted that not all councillors will be available to attend all the meetings.

Resolved: that the Parish Council delegate authority to the community building sub group to deal with progression of the project, practicalities of arranging consultation meetings, identifying opportunities for matched funding and arranging a survey if required.