



*The Council of the
Parish of Esh*

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

0191 3736687

Clerk : Karen Harbisher

Chairperson: Cllr Olwyn Moat

**The Council of the Parish of Esh Minutes of the Annual Assembly Meeting of the Council
followed by the Annual Meeting held on
Wednesday the 29th May 2024 at The Miners Hall, Langley Park.
Meeting commenced at 6:00pm
Annual Assembly of the Council followed by the Annual Meeting**

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllr Louise Dudden, Cllr Jillian Crumbie, Cllr George Hauwxwell, County Cllr Bev Coult.

2. Chairperson's Report:

The Chair provided a report at the meeting which highlighted key areas over the last year including successes for the council, such as the play area refurbishment at Quebec and the Christmas Santa run around the parish. Cllr Moat acknowledged that there are still areas on which to build upon for the coming year, including The Bobby Robson play area refurbishment and ongoing work to make the Centenary Fields (Old Rec) a usable space for the community to enjoy.

Resolved: That the Chairperson's report be noted

Annual General Meeting

1. Election of Chair and Acceptance of Office.

Proposed members for the office of Chair are Cllr Olwyn Moat as proposed by Cllr Wardman and seconded by Cllr Duddy. Following a vote by Cllr Simpson, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Duddy, Cllr Short, Cllr Greenham-Denny, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Wardman, Cllr Walker which returned as unanimous that Cllr Moat be elected to the office of Chair of Esh Parish Council for the coming year.

Resolved: Cllr Moat elected to be Chair for the coming year. Cllr Moat accepted the position and signed the acceptance of office which was witnessed by the clerk.

2. Election of Vice Chair and Acceptance of Office

Proposed members for the office of Vice Chair are Cllr Greenham -Denny as proposed by Cllr Duddy, seconded by Cllr Short and Cllr Wardman as proposed by Cllr Moat and seconded by Cllr Thompson. Following a vote, councillors Duddy, Short, Wardman and Quinn voted for Cllr Greenham-Denny and

Councillors Moat, Thompson, Walker, Simpson and Greenham-Denny voted for Cllr Wardman. Therefore, Cllr Wardman will be Vice Chair for the coming year.

Resolved: Cllr Wardman elected to be Vice Chair for the coming year. Cllr Wardman accepted the position and signed the acceptance of office as witnessed by the clerk.

3. Record of attendance

Chair Cllr Moat, Vice Chair, Cllr Wardman, Cllr Duddy, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Greenham-Denny, Cllr Short, Cllr Walker, Cllr Simpson, Cllr Thompson present.

There was one member of the public present

Clerk : Karen Harbisher

4. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Hawxwell, Cllr Crumbie, Cllr Dudden

County Councillor Coult

5. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Moat item number 19. Quotes for Decorating

6. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 10th April 2024

Accepted as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Allison Wardman and seconded by Cllr Edwin Simpson.

Resolved: to accept Minutes of the meeting on 10th April 2024 as a correct record.

7. Opportunity for Public to raise matters of interest:

The member of the public present was representing the community garden, he gave an update to the progress of the community garden so far. He said that the site of the community garden had been cleared and that a Parish Council grant had been applied for. The money is to fund raised beds and buy plants. Short term plans include making the garden accessible for all including wheelchair users, registering the community gardens as a charitable trust in order to access greater funding opportunities.

Resolved: To note the progress of the community garden

8 County Councillors Report:

County Councillor had sent apologies for the meeting.

Resolved: In County Councillor Coult's absence a report was not forwarded.

9. Schedule of meeting dates for the coming 12 months:

A schedule for meeting dates was distributed to council by the clerk for suitability. After consideration the council unanimously voted to accept the proposed meeting dates for the coming year.

Resolved: It be noted that the meeting schedule for the coming 12 months be accepted.

10. Bobby Robson Play Area:

The clerk has arranged a meeting with contractors in respect of refurbishing the Bobby Robson play area. Cllr Moat proposed that a public consultation be held to gain consensus from the public and to assess interest of a public steering group going forward.

Cllr Short brought to the council's attention the state of the litter in the park and amount of dog fouling that had not been cleared up by dog owners. Cllr Short wanted to relinquish her responsibility for cleaning and emptying the bins. It was agreed that Cllr Quinn would take over this task alongside responsibility for Esh play areas, Cllr Moat will continue to monitor and clear bins of rubbish at Quebec play area.

There was discussion around refurbishing parts of the Old Rec with open air gym equipment. Cllr Quinn expressed an interest in driving this forward and is to be consulted over meeting dates when they are set up.

Resolved: Cllr Quinn has responsibility for litter picking and emptying bins at Quebec, Esh and Bobby Robson play areas.

After meeting with contractors, the clerk will advertise through social media and posters around the parish the consultation on Bobby Robson play area that is to take place.

11. Funding applications update (Langley Park and Bearpark Cricket Club and LP Community Garden:

Applications for both organisations were made and discussed at April's parish meeting. There were questions raised from both applications and it was agreed by council that these questions be answered before committing to pledge funds from the parish council. The clerk relayed information to both groups. Response emails were circulated amongst the councillors for their viewing.

Langley Park and Bearpark Cricket Club – it was agreed that questions raised had been answered and therefore £500 be awarded to them. This was proposed by Cllr Moat, seconded by Cllr Thompson and returned a unanimous decision when voted on.

LP Community Garden - Again the questions raised from last month have been answered. Cllr Moat proposed that LP community Garden be awarded the whole amount eligible of £500. This was seconded by Cllr Thompson and returned a unanimous decision when voted on.

Resolved: Funding applications granted and clerk to inform applicants of council's decision and arrange for transfer of funds.

12. Funding Application

The council were approached by a member of the parish in regards to assisting in funding a school trip. The applicant had already raised money towards the trip through a go-fund me page for litter

picking in the local community. The application was discussed by the council but it was decided that further information was needed in order to grant the application.

Resolved: clerk to contact applicant for further information.

13. Allotment/smallholding update

Cllr Greenham-Denny updated the council in regards to the updating of the documentation for the allotments and smallholdings, which will be ready for use by August and September. Councillor Greenham-Denny has collaborated with the Northern Counties Allotment Association to compile the documentation. The Northern Counties Allotment Association have recommended that the tenants of the parish's small holdings/ large allotments take on Public Liability insurance. Councillor Greenham-Denny is currently carrying out inspections to the small holdings with the intention of informing the council of her findings.

Ongoing: Cllr Greenham Denny is continuing to liaise with Northern Counties Allotment Association. It was noted that documentation is to be ready to go after the growing season ends in September.

14. Fencing update

The fencing that was erected by contractors has since been removed due to the poor workmanship of the installation. The clerk has sought new quotes and the contract has been assigned to a new company. Installation of the fence commencing week beginning 3/06/24.

Resolved: new fence to be installed and work monitored.

15. Events Committee

An update was presented to council regarding the Parish D-Day on the 1st June. There are many acts and artists booked to make the event successful. A music license has been sought from PPL PRS. The event has come in on budget. The marquee is to be erected on Friday 31st, Cllr Short is going to be on site for this to happen. Cllr Moat gave an itinerary of events throughout the day and invited all councillors to attend to help to make the event run smoothly.

Resolved: All event activities have been confirmed and all is in place for the event to begin.

16. Handy Person

The clerk has compiled an advert for the role of a handy person to clear the parks across the parish of litter, empty bins, inspect play equipment and carry out repairs to the Miner's Institute on an as when needed basis. The advert was distributed amongst councillors and some suggestions were made of additions and amendments to make.

Resolved: Clerk to make amendments to advert then to present back to councillors.

17. Rec gates update.

Motorbike inhibitor gates have been installed at the bottom and top of The Rec, there has also been a stile installed at The Rec and motorbike inhibitor gates have been installed at Esh Village. There has

also been work carried out to remove old tyres, further work is needed to remove the brambles from The Rec. Quotes are to sought for the removal of brambles and to secure the farm gate at the top of The Rec with a post and bolt.

Resolved: Work in progress to make The Rec a suitable place for the community.

18. Garage Door Update

There are ongoing issues with the supply and fitting of a new door to the parish lock up. The company awarded the contract has not fulfilled their part of the contract by supplying and fitting the garage door. There were a percentage of monies paid up front to the contractor. The clerk has started procedures to claim all monies. The contractor has been informed by letter and email regarding this and has failed to communicate with the clerk and Chair of Esh Parish Council.

Ongoing: Legal proceedings to recoup the money paid to the contractor are underway. The clerk to update councillors as and when. The clerk to obtain new quotes for the garage door.

19. Quotes for decorating

The clerk has obtained three quotes for the decorating of the toilet area of The Miner's Institute. Councillors examined the quotes, Cllr Wardman proposed that the contract be awarded and Cllr Simpson seconded, a vote was taken from which Cllr Moat abstained. Cllrs, Wardman, Simpson, Duddy, Thompson, Short, Greenham-Denny and Walker all voted in favour of the contract being awarded.

Resolved: Clerk to contact the contractor and request a date for work to be completed.

20. Clerks report:

The clerk presented her report to councillors, which includes oversight of ongoing issues relating to various contracts and contractors, including ongoing issues with contractors for fencing and the garage door installation. The accounts have been audited and have been returned in readiness to forward the report to Mazars.

There have been damage to the newly installed stile at The Rec and damage to the fencing at the vacant smallholding, both of which have been reported to the police and logged for reference due to the lack of CCTV footage or other evidence.

Resolved: To accept the clerks' report

21. Payments and bank reconciliation

The clerk distributed the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024, including bank reconciliation and all income and expenditure for the financial year. The report from Gordon Fletcher (auditor) was available

Resolved: Accounts are correct and accepted by the Council.

22 Date of Ordinary Meeting

Date of the next Ordinary Meeting is for Esh Parish Council Wednesday 12th June 2024, 6pm, The Miners Institute.