



Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the council

Held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at the Miners Institute, Langley Park

Meeting commenced at 6 p.m.

Item 1 Record of Attendance:

Cllr Ollie Moat (Acting Chair), Cllr Allison Wardman, Cllr Kathryn Thompson, Cllr Edwin Simpson, Cllr Pat Short, Cllr Carole Greenham-Denny, Cllr Mike Quinn, Cllr John Duddy

County Councillor Bev Coult was present. There was 1 member of the public present.

Item 2 Apologies for absence:

Cllr George Hawxwell, Cllr Jillian Crumbie, Cllr Louise Dudden

Item 3 Declarations of interest:

Cllr Ollie Moat – item 11.

May it be noted that Cllr Moat, acting chair proposed that item 21 on the agenda be brought forward to this point to discuss the co-option of Mr Walker. Cllr Duddy seconded this motion. Mr Walker was interviewed by councillors with his responses noted. A vote was taken to have Mr Walker as a co-opted member of the parish council. This vote returned in favour for Mr Walker to become a member of Esh Parish Council.

Resolved: Mr Walker is now a serving parish councillor and the parish council look forward to working alongside him.

Item 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 14th February 2024

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

Resolved: to accept Minutes of the meeting on 14th February 2024 as a correct record.

Item 5 : Opportunity for Public to raise matters of interest:

There were no points raised by the member of the public.

Item 6 County Councillors Report:

County Councillor Bev Coult presented her report to councillors on local issues. Councillor Coult requested that the area around the carved seats become the responsibility of the parish council, therefore the parish council would have the responsibility for cutting the grass around them and maintaining them. County Cllr Coult informed councillors that there is an opportunity for councillors to be trained in conducting speed watch patrols. The training would be conducted by Consett Police and would be free, however the parish council would have to purchase their own speed awareness equipment which would be for the sole use of the trained councillors.

County Councillor Coult also mentioned in her report that there would be a pop-up PACT meeting in April. Councillor Simpson thanked County Councillor Coult for providing a comprehensive report to the parish council.

Resolved: To accept County Councillor Coult's report. Clerk to contact Consett Police in regards to speed watch training for parish councillors and the cost of purchasing equipment to carry out speed watch duties.

Item 7 PCSO report:

A report from PCSO Hart was circulated amongst councillors. The report highlighted several incidents of anti-social behaviour in Langley Park, alongside incidents of youths riding quad bikes on land without permission. PCSO Hart stresses the need to report any incidents through 101 and 999 in an emergency. Other channels of reporting are Livechat and Crimestoppers.

Resolved: To accept PCSO's report.

Item 8 Big Spring Clean:

County Councillor Coult has organised an event to clean up areas around the village of Langley Park by asking for volunteers to take part in the litter picking activity. The event is to run from 10am till 12 on Sunday 24th March, volunteers will meet at the Miner's Institute, which will act as a base and there will be the provision of light snacks and refreshments for those taking part.

Resolved: The Miner's Institute will be a base for the event and will provide litter picking equipment for volunteers.

Item 9 Quebec play area report:

Work on the refurbishment of the Quebec play area is now complete. A post installation report has been carried out by an independent company. The play area has passed the inspection and can now be opened to the public once the fence and welfare amenities have been off hired by the installation company. Cllr Moat proposed that the play area be opened, Cllr Duddy seconded the motion, which returned a unanimous vote for the play area to be opened.

Resolved: Clerk to inform the public via social media that the play area is now open.

Item 10 Allotment/ Small Holding update:

Cllr Denny has met with a representative from the Norther Counties Allotment Association, to take advice from them in the restructuring of the allotment and small holding documentation held by the parish council. The NCAA has recommended that Esh Parish Council and Langley Park Allotment Association meet with them to discuss updates to the documentation held by both parties and that this consultation period run over the cultivation period between April and September. This consultation would allow time for the NCAA to write bespoke documentation for Esh Parish Council. The lease for Langley Park Allotment Association is due for renewal. Cllr Moat proposed that the lease be extended until January 2025 to allow time for changes to be made in the documentation. Cllr Duddy seconded this and a unanimous vote returned supporting the extension of the lease.

Resolved: The lease for Langley Park Allotment Association be extended until January 2025 due to the caveat of the ongoing restructuring of paperwork.

Item 11 Area Action Partnership Room:

In February's meeting it was proposed and voted for that the clerk move into the vacant room that was used by the AAP. Upon reflection and due to safety issues around the clerk being a lone worker and the parish room being equipped with CCTV, it is now proposed that the clerk stay in the parish room. Cllr Duddy proposed this, seconded by Cllr Simpson with a unanimous vote returned.

Resolved Clerk to stay in the parish room.

Item 12 Garage Door Quote:

The clerk has made enquires to several companies in respect of fitting a new garage door to the lock up. One company has quoted, with no responses from the others tried. The quote was distributed amongst councillors. As the current garage door poses a security risk because it is not secure, the councillors deemed it necessary to accept the quote obtained and for work to commence as soon as possible.

Resolved: Clerk to make contact to fit the roller shutter door at their earliest convenience.

Item 13 Grass cutting quote:

Two companies have been contacted to tender quotes for the grass cutting contract, one from the current contractor and another from a local landscaping company. The quotes were distributed amongst the council for inspection. The quote from the current contractor being substantially less than other. Cllr Wardman proposed that the council stays with the current contractor, which was seconded by Cllr Moat. A vote was taken which was unanimous to stay with current contractor.

Resolved: Current contractor to remain in place. Clerk to inform them of the council's choice.

Item 14 Peterlee Fire Company quote:

After a routine inspection of the fire equipment in the Miner's Institute, it was highlighted that two of the bulkhead lights in the hall no longer worked. A quote to replace them has been issued, which the council examined. Cllr Wardman proposed that to accept the quote which was seconded by Cllr Short. A vote was taken that returned a unanimous decision to have the work carried out.

Resolved: Clerk to make contact with Peterlee Fire Company to get the bulkhead lights replaced.

Item 15 Toilets at the Miner's Institute:

The toilets at The Miner's Institute are in need of decoration and the skirting in the toilets to be replaced with UPVC due to its ease of cleaning and longevity. After a discussion it was decided that the clerk seek quotes for decoration and UPVC skirting.

Resolved: Clerk to contact decorators in respect of quotes for painting and supplying and fitting of UPVC skirting to all toilets including the disabled toilet.

Item 16 Handy Person:

The council are in need of a person to carry out weekly park inspections and litter picking in the play areas around the Esh Parish, also taking responsibility for maintenance works in the Miner's Institute and maintenance of benches around the parish. This would be on a self-employed basis at an agreed hourly rate, suitable candidates would have public liability insurance. It was agreed that the clerk look into the provision that other parish councils have for this.

Resolved: Clerk to look into provision of this role within other parish councils and bring back to meeting in April.

Item 17 Newsletter update/ Volunteers for delivery:

The printed newsletter was distributed amongst the council and a call for volunteers to help with the delivery. Several councillors have said that they will deliver in the streets where they live. Once completed the councillors will inform the clerk so that streets where deliveries have been made can be tracked by the clerk.

Resolved: Clerk to track deliveries of the newsletter and assess until letter drop completed around the parish.

Item 18 Langley Park Cricket Club grant:

An email has been received requesting a grant to help Langley Park Cricket Club. This has been responded to and an application form forwarded. The council feel unable to make a decision until application has been returned and assess the amount and use of any allocated monies.

Resolved: Defer until application is returned.

Item 19 Easter Event:

The parish council are to hold an Easter Event for the children of the parish. The event will be an Easter treasure hunt that requires the participation of children to hunt for letters from clues. Once all the letters have been found they can then be assembled to make a word associated with Easter. Local shops have agreed to have displays which hold the letters for the children to find. The clues that the children are given direct them to the shop and location of the display within the shop. The preparation for the event is well underway, participating shops and other locations have been sought, displays to put into the shops are being made and the clerk has purchased Easter eggs that will be given to all participants. On the day there will be other competitions for the children to enter such as colouring, easter bonnet and decorated egg competitions.

There was also an update for the 80th Commemoration of D Day. The plans are to hold an event in the school field with a number of attractions for people to enjoy. The preparations will be discussed further during April's meeting.

Resolved: Preparations for the Easter event underway and D Day to be discussed further in April's meeting.

Item 20 LITE company:

The clerk has received an order acknowledgement breakdown of the schedule for next Christmas. There are still matters to resolve from last Christmas, which Cllr Moat is currently dealing with.

Ongoing: Cllr Moat looking into issues.

Item 21 Clerks' report

The clerk presented her report to council which highlighted several ongoing projects including an update on the progress of the play area at Quebec, which is now completed, the safety report has been carried out and the play area is able to be opened. Ongoing updating of the phone system to VOIP at the Miner's Institute has been completed and is fully operational. The report included ongoing issues with the fencing company awarded the fencing contract at The Old Rec and The Crescent, both of which aren't up to standard and needs to be rectified before payment is made.

Resolved: To accept the clerks' report

Item 21 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

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

Item 22 Date of next ordinary meeting

Date of next ordinary meeting Wednesday 10th April 2024, 6pm, The Miners Institute