



*The Council of the
Parish of Esh*

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the council

Held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at the Miners Institute, Langley Park

Meeting commenced at 6 p.m.

Item 1 Record of Attendance:

Cllr Ollie Moat (Vice Chair), Cllr Allison Wardman, Cllr Kathryn Thompson, Cllr John Duddy, Cllr Mike Quinn, Cllr Jillian Crumbie, Cllr George Hawxwell, Cllr Edwin Simpson, Cllr Pat Short, Cllr Carole Greenham-Denny.

Item 2 Apologies for absence:

Cllr Joe Thompson, Cllr Louise Dudden, Cllr Linda Bushell, Cllr Ruth Hughes, Cllr Ross Lardner., County Cllr Bev Coult.

Councillor Passmore resigned effective from 1st December 2023

Item 3 Declarations of interest:

Cllr Jillian Crumbie – item 8

Item 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 8th November 2023

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

Resolved: to accept Minutes of the meeting on 8th November 2023 as a correct record.

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

There were no members of the public present at the meeting

Item 6 Playparks:

The council were presented with plans to refurbish both play areas that fall under its jurisdiction, Quebec and The Bobby Robson play areas. The presentation included graphics and costings from two companies, Playdale and Pennine with a third quote provided from Play Giant. Councillors were given the opportunity to examine the plans and quotes. It was discussed that permission be sought to remove the palisade fence that surrounds The Bobby Robson play area and to place this refurbishment on hold until that has been granted. It was suggested that the refurbishment of Quebec go ahead, this was proposed by Cllr Wardman and seconded by Cllr Simpson. A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour of the refurbishment.

Pennine had also supplied a quote to fit play equipment already purchased by the parish council. Cllr Moat proposed that this goes ahead, seconded by Cllr Duddy. A vote was taken which was unanimous for the installation of play equipment on The Old Rec subject to clarification from Pennine if safety compliant.

Resolved: to proceed with the refurbishment of Quebec play area. The clerk to contact Playdale in respect of awarding them the contract for Quebec and notify them of plans to seek permission to remove the palisade fence at The Bobby Robson play area with a view to Playdale being awarded that contract also. Clerk to make contact with James Young of the council planning department re. the removal of the fence.

Item 7 Fencing:

In August 2023, quotations were sought to replace fencing at The Old Rec and at the smallholding at The Crescent, Langley Park. Three companies were contacted and performed on site visits, however only two of them quoted for the work. As per the council's policy of providing three quotes the third company was unsuccessfully chased in regard of their quote. The third quote has been supplied from another company. All three quotes for both areas were given to council, after a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Duddy and seconded by Cllr Hawxwell that the work commence to replace the fence at the smallholding at The Crescent, Langley Park. A vote was taken by the council which returned unanimous, Cllr Crumbie abstained from the vote.

Cllr Duddy proposed for work to commence at The Old Rec. This was seconded by Cllr Hawxwell, a vote taken by the council returned a unanimous decision to go ahead with the refurbishment of the fence and for the chosen contractor to be awarded the contract.

Resolved: Clerk to approach the contractor, to inform them of Esh Parish Council's decision to award them the contract.

Item 8 Smallholding Quotes:

There have been incidents of youths occupying and setting fires to an abandoned shed on a vacant small holding. The community warden for Langley Park has visited the clerk raising concerns and requesting removal of the shed asap to prevent further incidents. A landscaping company was contacted to provide quotes for the removal of the shed and a mound of earth and detritus on the other smallholding. Each quote is below £1000, therefore as per council policy only one quote be obtained, also the urgency to remove the shed is a contributing factor. Cllr Moat proposed that the contract be awarded and for the work to be carried out. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hawxwell. A vote was taken by councillors, Cllr Crumbie abstained, the rest returned a unanimous decision.

Resolved: Clerk to make contact with contractors in respect of being awarded the contract and the commencement of work at his earliest convenience.

Item 9 County Councillors report;

A report was provided prior to the meeting from County Councillor Coult. Councillors were given the opportunity to look at the report which highlighted the success of the Lumiere festival for the city, the continuing work of the gritting of roads during the inclement weather and support with childcare and bereavement services. Locally, within the parish there have been new bins installed. Plans are progressing to install parking areas to Lambton Street and Browney Court. Investigatory work is being carried out for the flooding in the Wallnook Lane area.

Resolved: To accept the report from Cllr Coult.

Item 10 Chairmans Bonus:

The annual payment to the chair of £300 was discussed by the council. Cllr Moat proposed that the payment be made to Cllr J. Thomson to be spent however he chooses. Cllr Hawxwell seconded this, a vote was taken by the councillors, Cllr K. Thompson abstained from the vote, which was unanimous that chairman J. Thompson receive the allowance.

Resolved To pay the allowance to Cllr J. Thompson.

Item 11 Christmas Committee update:

Councillors received an update from Cllr Moat regarding progress to date with Christmas lights around the parish and the plans for the afternoon tea the two Santa runs. The contractors for the installation of the Christmas lights around the parish were due to install the lights on 30th and 31st November, they were not able to fulfil this obligation and lights were installed in Langley Park on 4th and 5th of December and at Quebec on 6th December. There had been a query from the contractor y about Esh village, in them saying it was not in the contract to supply lights for there.

Cllrs Moat and K. Thompson contacted the company to inform them that they were contracted to provide lights to the tree in Esh Village. They gave assurances that the work would be completed by 8th December, however the lights were put on the tree on 13th December.

Members of the public have consulted the parish council to complain about the lights being missing from Esh Village, a post was made on Facebook stating that the parish council was aware and that

the matter was being dealt with. There were complaints received from a resident regarding lights in the tree outside the property, moving forward the clerk consults with residents informing them of positioning of lights. The light switch on event at Langley Park was well attended by the public, children from the primary school sang. Thank you to all involved.

The parish council would also like to thank Olivers Tree Services for their part in erecting Christmas trees in Quebec and Esh Village.

The afternoon tea is scheduled to take place on the 20th December from 1pm -3pm. Food has been ordered and a musician booked to play at the event.

The annual Santa runs are to take place on the 22nd December in Langley Park and 23rd December for the remaining villages of the parish. The parish council were approached by TRACC at Cornsay Colliery and Hamsteels Community Centre to extend the Santa run to include them. There will be collection buckets available both nights, Friday night all monies collected will be donated to CRY and Saturday to DH7.

There are leaflets needing to be distributed around the parish that advertise the Christmas events and church services. Cllr Moat requested that councillors volunteer to deliver leaflets in the streets where they reside. The clerk is to place leaflets in the charity shop and Coop and Cllr Short took leaflets to be given to the children from the primary school.

Resolved: Preparations are in full swing for the Christmas events, the clerk has sought selection boxes to distribute on Santa runs. Letters from Santa have been made with a key and Christmas message to be given to small children during the Santa runs. Food for the afternoon tea is ordered and volunteers to staff all events have been sought.

Item 12 Payments to make 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 13 Date of next ordinary meeting:

Confirmed as Wednesday 10th January, 6 p.m. at The Miners Institute