



*The Council of the
Parish of Esh*

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

0191 3736687

Clerk : Leeanne Owens

Chairman : Cllr Joseph Thompson

The Council of the Parish of Esh Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on

Wednesday the 14th June 2023 at The Miners Hall, Langley Park.

Meeting commenced at 6:00pm

Ordinary Meeting of the Council

1. Record of attendance

Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson, Cllr. Kathryn Thompson, Cllr. John Duddy, Cllr Ollie Moat, Cllr. George Hawxwell, Cllr. Jillian Crumbie, Cllr. Louise Dudden, Cllr. Mike Quinn, Cllr. Ross Lardner, Cllr Allison Wardman

There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting

Clerk: Leeanne Owens

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Edwin Simpson	Personal Commitments
Councillor Linda Bushell	Personal Commitments
Councillor Ruth Hughes	Personal Commitments
Councillor Karenza Passmore	Personal Commitments
County Councillor Bev Coult	Work Commitments

3. Declarations of Interest

Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson declared an interest in Item 14.

Cllr. Jillian Crumbie declared an interest in Item 13.

4. Minutes from the Annual Assembly and the Annual General Meeting held on the 10th May 2023

The Clerk discussed the amendments to the minutes she has received from Cllr. Crumby, Cllr. Hughes, Cllr. Bushell and Cllr. Duddy and following a discussion in relation to these amendments Cllr. Simpson proposed that subject to the amendments the minutes of the Annual Assembly and Annual General Meeting held on the 10th May 2023 be agreed as a true record. Cllr. Duddy seconded this.

Resolved That subject to the amendments discussed the minutes of the Annual Assembly and the Annual General Meeting held on the 10th May 2023 be agreed as a true record.

5. County Councillors Report

County Councillor Bev Coult was absent from the meeting and in her absence the report was sent to the Clerk. The Clerk agreed to share the report with all Parish Councillors.

Resolved That the report from County Councillor Coult be shared with all Parish Councillors.

6. Opportunity for the public to raise matters of interest

A member of the public present asked about the new car parking spaces in Langley park and asked if these are a standard size.

A member of the public present also mentioned that the nettles at the hospital road and Railway Street are an issue.

A member of the public also mentioned that the path outside of the shop Fresh and Fruity is uneven and residents of the village have mentioned this as a concern.

Further issues were raised from a public member regarding the trees at Magenta Court overhanging gardens and restricting light.

To move the issues forward it was suggested that the clerk raised these issues with The County Councillor

Resolved That the issues raised be noted;

Resolved That the Clerk highlights the issues raised with County Councillor Coult.

7. Clerks Report

The Clerk discussed the ongoing issue with Legionella checks at the Miners Hall and presented to Council 3 quotations she had received in relation to monitoring legionella.

The quotations were received as follows:

Northumbrian Water Group	£820.00 per annum
Integrated Water Services – Water Hygiene	£522.07 per annum
Aqua Ease	£769.00 per annum

The Clerk advised that the quote from Aqua Ease includes an annual maintenance cost for the boiler and the other companies' quotations are purely for monitoring visits.

After discussing the quotations received Cllr. Simpson proposed that the Parish Council accept the quotation for an annual cost of £769.00 from Aqua Ease. Cllr. Duddy seconded this.

Following a vote all Councillors present at the meeting agree to the quote from Aqua Ease by a show of hands.

Resolved That the quotation from Aqua Ease for an annual cost of £769.00 be accepted;

Resolved That the Clerk contacts Aqua Ease to confirm the Parish Council's decision.

8. Planning Application Received - DM/23/01105/TPO, 6 Stargate close, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9FW

Councillors have no objection with the Planning application for 6 Stargate Close, Langley Park.

A discussion took place about a retrospective planning application for 3 storage containers to be sited at the old fire station at Church Street. Councillors have not received the detail of this application; therefore, it was suggested that the Clerk liaise with the Planning Team and ask for the information to enable to Councillors to discuss this further.

Resolved That there are no objections with the planning application for 6 Stargate Close, Langley Park;

Resolved That the Clerk liaises with the Planning Team for the information in relation to the storage containers to enable this to be discussed further at the next meeting.

9. Annual Rent for the Miners Hall

The Clerk advised that CISWO have provided further advice on how they have calculated the revised annual rental cost for the Miners Hall and this information was shared with Councillors.

All Councillors present at the meeting advised they are happy with the explanation and agreed that the invoice for £5,152.46 be paid. It was noted that this new rent is valid for a period of 5 years.

Resolved That the revised annual rent of £5,152.46 be approved.

10. Statement of Internal Control

The Clerk shared the Statement of Internal Control from the Internal Auditor in relation to the Parish Council's accounts for the budget year 2022-2023.

That the Parish Council acknowledge the report.

Resolved That the Report be noted.

11. A Community Building

An update on the Church the Parish Council is looking to purchase was provided by Cllr. Moat. In the update it was noted that the Parish Council have increased their original offer for the Church by £20,000 however the sellers have asked if we can offer more, however it was noted that the Parish Council have declined this request.

In the update provided it was made clear that the Parish Council's offer is still subject to a full survey of both inside and outside of the Church taking place.

During the update a question was raised on how do the Parish Council start public consultation over the potential purchase of the Church to gauge the resident's thoughts. The Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson said in his opinion if we put the idea forward and start gathering views, this is a starting point.

During the update it was confirmed that a roofing company have inspected the roof at the Church and confirmed that the bottom roof does not need any work, however the top roof will need replacing in the future. If a replacement roof is needed it was noted that at the worst this could cost £40,000 however it was confirmed that initially patch work could be done for £5,000.00

It was noted that a member of the public is asking if the Parish Council have a business plan for the purchase of the Church, however it was advised that we are unable to provide this information at the moment. Cllr. Wardman confirmed that she would prepare a response for this question and share this with Cllr. Moat before sending this to the member of the public.

Resolved That the update be noted;

Resolved That Cllr. Wardman prepare a response for the question raised from the public member and share this with Cllr. Moat before sending this.

12. Email Correspondence Received

Cllr. Simpson proposed that the Council accept the emails as read and Cllr. Moat seconded this.

Resolved That the emails received from the Clerk be accepted as read.

13. Small Holdings

Cllr Crumbie provided an update on the small holdings and during the update the Clerk was asked to chase the signed agreement for the small holding at Bridgeway.

The Clerk advised that she has received a quotation from Deerness fencing to clear the site at 78-81 Ear of Durham for £795.00. After discussing this quotation all Councillors present at the meeting agreed to accept this quotation.

The Clerk advised that in relation to the fencing quotes discussed at previous meetings for the small holdings, she has only received one quotation back From Deerness Fencing. It was suggested that the Clerk approaches some different companies to request at least 2 further quotations due the quotation from Deerness Fencing being over £1,000.00.

During the discussions for the small holding at 78-81 Earl of Durham Cllr. Crumbie suggested that the Parish Council purchase some weed killer to maintain this site further. Cllr. Kathryn Thompson seconded this.

Resolved That the Clerk follow up the agreement for the Small Holding at Bridgeway;

Resolved That the Clerk instruct Deerness Fencing to carry out the works to 78-81 Earl of Durham for £795.00 to clear the site and make contact with Cllr. Crumbie when they are scheduled to carry out the works;

Resolved That the Clerk purchase some weed killer as proposed by Cllr. Crumbie and seconded by Cllr. Kathryn Thompson to maintain the site at 78-81 Earl of Durham.

14. Old Recreation Ground

An update was provided in relation to the Old Recreation Ground and it was noted that the Benches the Parish Council purchased have now been installed.

In terms of maintenance for this area it was noted that there are some works needed to the paths which are narrowing due to overgrown weeds.

The Chair also showed Councillors some small rustic play equipment from NBB Recycled Furniture that he thinks would be a good idea for the Recreation ground. Following a discussion in relation to the play equipment Cllr. Moat proposed that Council order the rustic play equipment as follows:

1 x Stilts at £900
1x log weave £670
1 x suspension bridge £1,170
1 x tunnel £1,490 and
1 x inclined balance beam £395

Following a discussion all Councillors agreed for the Clerk to order this equipment. The Chair Cllr. Joe Thompson advised that he is happy to build this equipment.

Resolved That the Rustic Play Equipment as detailed above be purchased for the Old Recreation Ground.

15. Funding Request from Langley Park Primary School

Discussions took place in relation to the funding request from Langley Park Primary School for £300.00 for activities during the school holidays. Cllr. Simpson moved that the funding request is approved. Cllr. Duddy seconded this. Following a vote, with the exception of Cllr. Wardman who abstained from voting, all other Councillors present at the meeting agreed to approve the funding request.

Resolved That the funding request from Langley Park Primary School for £300.00 be approved.

16. Garden at the Miners Hall

Cllr. Moat asked for this item to be brought to Council and at the meeting asked if she was able to paint the garden at the Miners Hall to improve the look of it and make it look more appealing. Councillors present at the meeting agreed to Cllr. Moat's proposal and agreed to allow Cllr. Moat to spend up to £200.00 on this project.

Resolved That Cllr. Moat be granted up to £200.00 to paint the garden at the Miners Hall.

17. Payments to make and bank reconciliation

The Clerk presented a list of payments to Councillors that are due for payment and which are shown on a separate sheet.

Resolved That the payments are authorised by the Council.

18. Cleaner

This was discussed as private and confidential and all Parish Councillors were updated accordingly.

Resolved That the update be noted

19. **Date of next Ordinary meeting – Wednesday the 12th July 2023, 6pm, The Miners Hall.**

Meeting closed at 7:30pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE