

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE  
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**

Present: Councillor L Morton (Chair)  
Councillors J Andrews, M Burn, P Gibson, E M Hopper, J Lee, T Murray and J Smith

Staff: Mrs G M Crute (Parish Clerk)  
  
Mrs A Day, Mr W Day and Mr P Wood

EVPC  
16/17/001 **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**  
A nomination was received for Councillor L Morton.  
**RESOLVED:** that Councillor L Morton be ELECTED.

EVPC  
16/17/002 **CHAIRPERSON'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**  
Councillor Morton signed the declaration of acceptance of office.  
**RESOLVED:** that the declaration of acceptance of office be ACCEPTED.

EVPC  
16/17/003 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**  
A nomination was received for Councillor J Andrews.  
**RESOLVED:** that Councillor J Andrews be ELECTED Vice-Chairperson for the forthcoming year.

EVPC  
16/17/004 **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH  
COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2015/16**  
I would like to start by thanking members and our county councillors for the work they have done in the past year. I would also like to thank the police and the PCSO's for their help in keeping the village crime rate as low as it is.  
I am pleased to inform that all upstairs offices in Seaton Holme are now occupied and the downstairs rooms are being used for an ever-increasing variety of events.  
The venue is also popular for weddings, christenings and special occasions and still continues to be used by local groups. Improvement works to Seaton Holme have included this year boiler and heating repairs and upgrading of the security alarm. The hanging baskets, window boxes and floral containers competition judging was undertaken by Councillors Mavis Burns, Jane Smith and Joan Andrews. Ross Weightman from Plants r Ross sponsored the event; awarding gift vouchers to the winners. Joint first place went to Mr and Mrs Lee Albion House, Low Row and Mr and Mrs Dawlish, St Thomas Close.  
UK sustainable energy Ltd gave a presentation to the Parish Council on the proposed application for a five MW solar farm at Mill Hill. The solar farm is now up and running and seems to have no ill effects on the village and no complaints received from any residents.  
A problem on the allotments was resolved with the tenants of plot 21 given notice to leave. The Parish five-year plan approved and a review of Seaton Holme room hire fees approved along with a complaints procedure and grants and donations policy.  
The recent success of covert CCTV cameras at points throughout the village has resulted in heavy fines to fly tippers.  
Reverend Emma Parker gave a blessing and led the count down by the children of the C of E primary school to the lighting of the Christmas tree at Seaton Holme. The Parish Council responded to concerns about

persistent parking on the green and grassed areas in the village and no parking signs were erected on the village green.

The problem of the horse fair (for lack of a better name) is ongoing, signs will be going up very soon saying no unauthorised motor vehicles on the green, and we will take advice on what we can legally do to stop motor vehicles unlawfully parking on the grassed area.

The consultation and open day for improved play equipment and potential gym equipment has at the very least got the village talking! Residents were asked for suggestions and encouraged to make their views known on how Section 106 funding will or will not be spent. Section 106 funding has to be spent on play and recreation.

The Shoulder of Mutton planning application for conversion into flats has been approved; Tithe barn planning application to convert offices to 3 holiday cottages has also been approved. The Kings Head site is still at a standstill with no information available. Outline planning applications have been made for 43 residential units at the site of the Village Club, Seaside Lane; 26 units at Little Thorpe; 55 behind Seaside Lane North side and also a potential development of 80 west of Fennell Grove (when will it end).

Staff training has been ongoing and all staff are up-to-date.

Correspondence on the proposed Devolution Bill was given to parish council members for consideration by CDALC and the DCC David Boyes. The PC submitted two nominations for the County Durham Volunteering Awards 2015; the first for the volunteers who run the Millennium Luncheon Club and the second Alice Morton for her work in the community. Certificates from Durham County Council were presented by myself at the Luncheon Club to the volunteers and Alice.

Our financial status is in good shape, however when the Parish Council debated the setting of the precept 2016/2017, although that Parish Council has continued to make savings in order to catch up with costs, a 2% increase was agreed this equates to just 6p a week on a D band property.

**RESOLVED:** that the report of the Chairman, be RECEIVED.

EVPC  
16/17/005

**TO REVIEW STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**RESOLVED:** that

- i) the amendments to the Standing Orders be APPROVED and ADOPTED;
- ii) the financial regulations be APPROVED.

EVPC  
16/17/006

**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

- a) Easington Area Action Partnership  
**RESOLVED** that Councillors L Morton, J Andrews, P Gibson, J Lee and M Warin Plus the Clerk be the Parish Council's representatives.
- b) Easington Area Association of Parish and Town Councils  
**RESOLVED** that Councillors E Hopper, L Morton and J Smith plus the Clerk be the Parish Council's representatives.
- c) Small and Medium Council's Forum  
**RESOLVED** that Councillors L Morton and J Andrews plus the Clerk be the Parish Council's representatives.
- d) Easington Village Allotment Association  
**RESOLVED** that Councillor P Gibson be the Parish Council's representative.

EVPC  
16/17/007

**TO APPOINT PERSONS TO PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

Cemetery and Grounds Committee

**RESOLVED** that Councillors J Andrews, M Burn, E Hopper, J Lee and J Smith, be appointed to the Cemetery and Grounds Sub-Committee.

EVPC  
16/17/008

**TO CONSIDER PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Members gave consideration to the payment of the annual subscriptions which had been previously circulated. It was felt that the NEREO subscription should not be renewed.

**RESOLVED:** that the payments be AUTHORISED for County Durham Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks.

EVPC  
16/17/009

**TO APPOINT CHEQUE SIGNATORIES**

**RESOLVED** that Councillors L Morton, J Smith and J Andrews be APPOINTED as cheque signatories.

EVPC  
16/17/010

**TO APPOINT KEYHOLDERS**

a) Seaton Holme

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk, Caretaker and Chairman be APPOINTED as keyholders.

b) Cemetery

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk and Cemetery Superintendent be APPOINTED as keyholders.

EVPC  
16/17/011

**MEETING DATES FOR 2016/17**

Members gave consideration to meeting dates for 2016/17 which had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED** that the meeting dates be APPROVED.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....