

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014**

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

Staff: Mrs G M Crute (Parish Clerk)

Also in Attendance: County Councillor D Boyes and Mr N Frain

EVPC  
13/14/227 **Apologies for Absence**  
**RESOLVED:** Apologies RECEIVED and APPROVED for Councillors J Lee  
and J Smith

EVPC  
13/14/228 **Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda**  
There were no declarations of interest.

EVPC  
13/14/229 **Public Participation**  
There were no requests to speak under public participation.

EVPC  
13/14/230 **Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and  
those of the Precept Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013**  
**RESOLVED:** that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record to be  
signed by the Chairman.

EVPC  
13/14/231 **Matters Arising**

EVPC  
13/14/139 **Grasscutting** –The Clerk had received a quotation  
and details were to be received under the relevant  
agenda item.

EVPC  
13/14/198 **Minutes of the Cemetery and Grounds Sub-  
Committee** – All works were in hand and the  
hanging baskets were on order.

EVPC  
13/14/201 **Snow Clearing and Winter Maintenance** – The  
Clerk had contacted the County Council’s Highways  
Officer enquire why he did not attend the December  
meeting of the Parish Council and was awaiting a  
response.

EVPC  
13/14/203 **Request for Free Use – One in a Gillian in Aid of  
Macmillan Cancer** – The Clerk had written advising  
of the Council’s decision.

EVPC  
13/14/204 **Request for Free Use – Easington Village In-  
Bloom** – The Clerk had written advising of the  
Council’s decision.

EVPC  
13/14/214 **Haswell and District Mencap Society** – The Clerk  
had forwarded the Parish Council’s donation.

EVPC  
13/14/225

**Parish Clerk** – The Clerk had made the appropriate arrangements for cover during her absence.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC  
13/14/232

**Police Matters**

The Police were unable to attend the meeting. They had provided an update report which the Clerk read out to Members.

Members requested that the following parking issues be passed onto the Police; car parking at the top of the village green near the roundels and car parking outside of Thompson’s Shop.

**RESOLVED:** that

- i) the information given, be NOTED;
- ii) that the Clerk contact the Police with the issues raised by Members.

EVPC  
13/14/233

**Report of the County Councillors**

County Councillor Boyes reported on the following issues:-

CE/13/01014/OUT – Proposed Residential Development (Outline) at Land at Former Thorpe Maternity Hospital. Councillor Boyes advised that this application had just been put out for consultation. Members discussed the item in great detail. There were a number of points on which objections could be raised. The Planning Meeting was schedule to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and objections need to be received by the end of January.

**RESOLVED:** that the Parish Council object to the development on the grounds of Policies 3 – Protection of the Countryside, Policy 6 – Strategic Gap between Easington and Peterlee and Policy P6 – Mixed use of former Thorpe Hospital Site from the saved Easington Local Plan. Also that the area had not been identified in the County Durham Plan (Pre-Submission Draft) as an area for housing.

Councillors Boyes also spoke about the revised application for the County Council website and answered members questions with regard to parking.

The Clerk advised Members that County Councillor Surtees had advised that the street lighting problem in Thorpe Road was due to underground works that were schedule to take place within the next 4 weeks.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Boyes for his attendance at the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED

*County Councillor D Boyes left the meeting.*

EVPC  
13/14/234

### **Seaton Holme**

The Clerk advised Members that the downstairs reception room formerly occupied by Groundwork North East had now become vacant and requested Members gave consideration at to options for the room and the building as a whole. Members felt that the room should be utilised as an additional function room with works to be carried out within the next financial year. The Clerk was to investigate the different methods available for providing bar facilities at Seaton Holme. She was also to look at options for advertising the existing rooms for long term lease via a lettings agency.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk progress this matter as detailed above and report back to the Parish Council in due course.

EVPC  
13/14/235

### **Report of the Cemetery Superintendent**

Members gave consideration to the report of the Cemetery Superintendent which had previously been circulated.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC  
13/14/236

### **In-Bloom Committee**

Councillor Morton advised that the Children's Christmas Party on the 20<sup>th</sup> December in Seaton Holme had been a huge success.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC  
13/14/237

### **Winter Maintenance/Snow Clearing**

The Clerk advised she had not received any response from Durham County Council. She had been given a link from East Durham AAP for a potential funding source as the County Councillors budgets for 2013/14 have been fully utilised. Members felt that investigations into obtaining funding for a snow plough for winter 2014/15 be pursued over the coming months.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk continue to make enquiries as to avenues for funding.

EVPC  
13/14/238

### **Grasscutting Contract**

The Clerk advised she had received a quotation for grasscutting for 2014 in the sum of £13,500. The Parish Council was charged £1183.09 by Durham County Council for the 2013 Grasscutting service.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC  
13/14/239

### **Parish Council Financial Status – Bank Balances as at 31.12.13**

The Clerk reported that the bank balances as at 30.12.13 were £86,613.67 in the Savings Account and £945.00 in the Current Account totalling £87,558.67

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC  
13/14/240

### **Income and Expenditure Report to 31.12.13**

The Clerk updated Members on the Council's income and expenditure.

**RESOLVED:** that the report, be NOTED.

EVPC  
13/14/241

**Bank Transfers**

The Clerk informed Members that the Transfers for December were £7,646.89 from the Savings Account and £2,200 from the Current Account.

**RESOLVED:** to ENDORSE the Transfers.

EVPC  
13/14/242

**Invoices for Endorsement for Payment**

**RESOLVED:** to ENDORSE the following invoices for payment together with payments of donations/petty cash/payroll as previously agreed:-

**INVOICES – DECEMBER 2013**

| DATE     | PAYEE                     | DESCRIPTION  | AMOUNT            | CHEQUE NO/DD |
|----------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|
| 19.12.13 | Barclays                  | BACS Charges November                              | £6.00             | DD           |
| 18.12.13 | Payroll                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Payments – Month 8           | £2292.77          | DD           |
| 19.12.13 | Payroll                   | Month 9 - Nett Wages                               | £4512.18          | DD           |
| 01.01.14 | Scottishpower             | Cemetery – Electricity                             | £1.00             | DD           |
| 01.01.14 | Scottishpower             | St Mary’s Church – Electricity                     | £16.00            | DD           |
| 01.01.14 | N-Power                   | Seaton Holme – Electricity                         | £351.00           | DD           |
| 24.12.13 | Unicom                    | Telephone/Broadband                                | £83.98            | DD           |
| 18.12.13 | Northumbrian Water        | Seaton Holme Water                                 | £569.17           | DD           |
| 31.12.13 | Northumbrian Water        | Cemetery Water                                     | £121.20           | DD           |
| 21.12.13 | RIALTAS                   | Cemeteries Software Maintenance                    | £204.00           | 105794       |
| 21.12.13 | Cateraid                  | Filter Replacement                                 | £36.00            | 105795       |
| 21.12.13 | Tree & Garden Maintenance | Tree Removal                                       | £170.00           | 105796       |
| 08.01.13 | TJ’s Heating & Home Imp   | Replacement/Repair/Painting Windows – Seaton Holme | £4,600.00         | 105797       |
| 12.12.13 | Café Yum Yum              | Buffet   | £114.00           | 105798       |
| 16.12.13 | Sam Turner & Sons         | Fencerails   | £141.57           | 105799       |
|          |                           | <b>Invoice Total</b>                               | <b>£13,218.87</b> |              |

105793 – Mencap Section 137 - £50.00

EVPC  
13/14/243

**Income Received**

**DECEMBER 2013**

| Name         | Description         | Amount         |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Individual   | Vase                | £35.00         |
| Easington WI | Room Hire           | £20.00         |
| Art Group    | Room Hire           | £20.00         |
| Scotts       | Cemetery Fees       | £39.00         |
| Individual   | Book                | £9.99          |
| Art Group    | Room Hire           | £20.00         |
| Pretty Wild  | Room Hire           | £288.00        |
| Individual   | Book                | £9.99          |
| OCN NE Ltd   | Room Hire           | £67.20         |
|              |                     |                |
|              | <b>Total Income</b> | <b>£509.18</b> |

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

- EVPC  
13/14/244  
**Council Tax Bases and Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant**  
Members gave consideration to correspondence received from Durham County Council with regards to the above.  
The Clerk advised that there were no alterations to the figures given for Council Tax Base and Support Grant  
**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC  
13/14/245  
**Once in a Gillian in Aid of Macmillan Cancer**  
Members gave consideration to a request for a donation from One in a Gillian in Aid of Macmillan Cancer  
**RESOLVED:** a donation of £50.00 be GRANTED under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.
- EVPC  
13/14/246  
**County Durham School Benevolent Fund**  
Members gave consideration to a request for a donation from County Durham School Benevolent Fund.  
**RESOLVED:** no donation be granted on this occasion.
- EVPC  
13/14/247  
**Planning Applications**  
CE/13/01541/TPO - Proposed Crown Lift and Thin of 4 No. Sycamore Trees and crown Reduction of 1 No. Oak Tree at 8 St Thomas Close, Easington Village  
**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC  
13/14/248  
**Planning Approvals**  
PL/5/2013/0106 – Proposed Residential Development of up to 900 No. dwellings & Local Retail Centre (Outline) at Land North of Lowhills Road, Peterlee for Southlands Management Ltd  
PL/5/2013/0107 – Proposed Formation of Ponds and Upgrading of Existing Footpaths at Land East of Thorpe Road, Easington for Southlands Management Ltd  
**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC  
13/14/249  
**Planning Refusals**  
There were no planning refusals.  
**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC  
13/14/250  
**Planning Applications (Withdrawn)**  
There were no planning applications withdrawn  
**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC  
13/14/251  
**Planning Appeals**  
There were no planning appeals.  
**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC  
13/14/252  
**Draft Tree Management Policy – Durham County Council**  
Members gave consideration to correspondence received from Durham County Council.  
**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.
- EVPC  
13/14/253  
**Buckingham Palace Garden Parties 2014**  
Members gave consideration to correspondence received from County Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils.

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor T Murray name be submitted to County Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils.

EVPC  
13/14/254

**Absence Management Policy**

Members gave consideration to the Absence Management Policy which had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED:** that the Absence Management Policy be ADOPTED.

EVPC  
13/14/255

**Recording of Parish Council Meetings**

Councillor T Murray requested that consideration be given to recording Parish Council meetings to enable Parish Councillors to listen to the meetings when they had been unable to attend.

The Clerk advised that any such recordings would fall within the reach of the Freedom of Information Act and thereby such recordings would need to be made available to members of the public.

**RESOLVED:** that the recording of Parish Council meeting would not proceed.

EVPC  
13/14/256

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Due to the absence of the Parish Council Clerk there would be no Parish Council meeting in February. The next meeting should be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 with the April meeting being brought forward a week to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman .....

Date .....