

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2014**

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

Staff: Mrs G M Crute (Parish Clerk)

Also in Attendance: Mr R Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner, County Councillor D Boyes and Mr N Frain

EVPC
14/15/146 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were APPROVED for Councillors J Andrews and M Burn.

EVPC
14/15/147 **Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda**
Councillor J Smith declared a personal interest in item 12(g) as she was the person making the request for seating in Stockton Road.

EVPC
14/15/148 **Public Participation**
Mr N Frain spoke about the County Durham Plan Examination. He asked who was funding the demolition of the North East Industrial Estate and what conditions had been attached to the planning permission. He also asked how many houses had been granted planning permission in the Easington Village Boundary since 2001. The Chairman advised that the Clerk would respond in writing within 14 days.

EVPC
14/15/149 **Mr Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner**
The Chairman welcomed Mr Hogg to the meeting. Mr Hogg gave members an insight into his roles and responsibilities. He explained in great detail each of his policing priorities and how he worked in partnership with the Chief Constable to achieve these targets. Members were then invited to ask questions of Mr Hogg.
A Councillor asked what could be done to stop queues of methodone users outside chemists as this quite often caused concern to residents especially the elderly?
Mr Hogg advised that many chemists were now providing drug treatments rooms which meaning that methodone users were dealt with in a private room.
Another Member advised that he knew of many chemists that ran an appointment system for such cases.
County Councillor Boyes advised that he was a member of the Safer Communities Committee at Durham County Council and as part of this role had seen how the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable provided a forward thinking leadership and how well they worked together.
A Member asked about Mr Hogg's view on the decriminalisation of drugs and how this would be funded as it would cost between £200/£300 per addict?
Mr Hogg advised the Scheme could be funded by working together with other Government Departments ie the NHS.
A Member expressed concern that the minimum unit pricing on alcohol would cause more damage to the poorest in society?

Mr Hogg said that the minimum unit price they were looking at was 45p – there were many places ie Supermarkets where they sold alcohol as a loss leader.

Another Member said that young people could quite easily get hold of alcohol and that this was a problem.

Mr Hogg said that sometimes children obtain alcohol from their homes and any young person found drinking was taken home to their parents. He also said that public information was useful regarding any places that were selling alcohol to underage people. Once Police were notified, test purchasing could be put into operation. A Member asked what is there whether any education packages that could be used in schools.

Mr Hogg stated that they were looking into Police Officers going into school in a preventative role.

A Member advised that County Councillors Boyes and Surtees had put funding into creating a Junior Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Mr Hogg said that there was a scheme in place for children aged 12 – 16 to act as junior wardens where they would take part in community events and initiatives. It was hoped that the Scheme could be accredited so that this would help the young people in their future education.

A Councillor stated that the local neighbourhood police team for Easington was excellent and highly respected in the community.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hogg for an informative presentation and questions and answer session. Mr Hogg then left the meeting.

EVPC
14/15/150

Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 8th September 2014

RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman.

EVPC
14/15/151

Minutes of the Cemetery and Grounds Sub-Committee held on 16th September 2014

RESOLVED that

C&G 14/15/013 that the Clerk purchase suitable shrubs for planting in the Penfold and that enquiries be made with Durham County Council to see if it would be acceptable to place planters in the locations identified above.

C&G 14/15/014 that costs be obtained for a small ride-on tractor.

C&G 14/15/015 that the actions of the Clerk be ENDORSED.

C&G 14/15/016 that the Clerk place the order for the summer bedding scheme as discussed.

C&G 14/15/017 that the Clerk and Councillors Andrews and Hopper compile a draft Cemetery Rule Book.

EVPC
14/15/152

Matters Arising

EVPC
14/15/086

Fencing Village Green – The Clerk had contacted a local company which was arranging a site visit and a quotation for the work.

EVPC
14/15/118

Police Matters – The Clerk had contacted Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner’s office, regarding his attendance at a future Parish Council meeting. Mr Hogg would be attending the October meeting.

- EVPC
14/15/119 **Room Names** – History Boards were ready to be installed outside of the rooms and the name plaques had been ordered.
- EVPC
14/15/129 **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** – The Clerk had forward a cheque in the sum of £60.00.
- EVPC
14/15/140 **Easington Seed Pods** – The Clerk had contact the organisation advising of the Parish Council’s decision.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/153

Police Matters

The Police were unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report which highlighted incidents that had taken place over the last month. A Member expressed concern regarding the underage drinking that had been taking place at the Thorpe Road Playing Field and commented on the large amount of empty bottles and cans that had been retrieved by a member of the public.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/154

Report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Boyes updated Members on the following:-

- Fly-tipping at Andrews Hill. The Neighbourhood Wardens were monitoring the situation.
- The advertising sign at North Terrace had been removed
- The former Thorpe Maternity Hospital Site planning application was still on-going
- The Post Office consultation that was taking place
- A temporary Traveller Stop Over Site had been identified at Trimdon
- The Former Village Club was in the process of being demolished. A change to the Planning Laws now allowed development outside of the settlement boundary.
- Underground Coal Classification (the process where coal was burnt underground and then converted to energy). One of the sites identified was at Easington Colliery. If the Nature Reserve at the former colliery site is approved then it would be difficult for permission to be obtained to carry out such a process at the site.

Councillor Boyes also expressed his thanks to Alice Morton for once again running a successful Scarecrow Competition.

A Member asked about the implications of the King’s Head site being placed on the blight list? Councillor Boyes replied that it meant the area would be kept clean and tidy.

Another Member asked whether Council tax had to be paid on unoccupied properties? Councillor Boyes advised he would look into the current situation with regards to Council tax payments and report back.

A Member also asked if the shutters had been taken down from the Shoulder of Mutton because it was in a conservation area? Councillor Boyes advised that this would be the case.

The Clerk provided Members with an update she had received from County Councillor Surtess:-

- The flytipping in the layby along South Hetton Road had been removed.
- The re-painting of road markings at the top of the village green would be carried out in the near future

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Boyes for his attendance. He then left the meeting.

EVPC
14/15/155

Seaton Holme – Room Hire Charges

The Clerk advised Members she would like to amend the amount of time allocated for setting up and clearing away before room hire charges apply. This was currently 15 mins either side. As the room was set up and cleared by the Parish Council this was effectively giving half an hour of free use. Members felt that the amount of time allocated for set up/clear up could be reduced but the discretion of the Clerk should be used in enforcing the times allowed.

The Clerk also requested further clarification on the granting of exclusive rights to an individual for providing a bar service for events held at Seaton Holme. The Chairman advised that he felt that as the individual identified had provided an excellent service and had been the only person that had provided a bar service then he be offered the rights. Another member felt that this should be for a term until March 2016 when it could be reviewed.

RESOLVED: that

- i) the Clerk be AUTHORISED to make the necessary alterations to the guidance for setting up/clear up times for room hire;
- ii) that exclusive bar rights be offered to the current provider for a period until March 2016 when this could be reviewed.

EVPC
14/15/156

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
14/15/157

In-Bloom Committee

Councillor Morton advised that there was nothing to report at present.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be RECEIVED.

EVPC
14/15/158

Request for Seat

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council had no objection to a seat being placed in the location requested along Stockton Road provided that it was 2 metres away from the roadside and that the Parish Council would be responsible for its maintenance.

RESOLVED: that a seat be installed at the location detailed up to a cost of £500.00.

EVPC
14/15/159

Salt Bin

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council had advised that they had no record of a Salt Bin being located along Stockton Road as raised at the last Parish Council meeting. However, if the Parish Council could provide evidence that there had been a Salt Bin in this location then they would look at re-instating one.

RESOLVED: Members would make enquires and provide any evidence to the Clerk if found.

EVPC
14/15/160

Parish Council Financial Status – Bank Balances as at 30.09.14

The Clerk reported that the bank balances as at 30.09.14 were £118,788.65 in the Savings Account and £1,111 in the Current Account totalling £119,899.65

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/161

Income and Expenditure Report to 30.09.14

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

RESOLVED: that the report, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/162

Bank Transfers

The Clerk informed Members that the Transfers for September were £10,906.99 from the Savings Account and £1,638.40 from the Current Account.

RESOLVED: to ENDORSE the Transfers.

EVPC
14/15/163

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 – SEPTEMBER 2014

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO/DD
17.09.14	A1 Trophies & Engraving	Trophies & Engraving Scarecrow Competition	£44.00	105869
16.09.14	IOS	Stationery/Stamps	£143.32	105870
09.09.14	P Rudland	Pruning of Trees – Mill Cottage and Cemetery	£330.00	105871
28.09.14	Kala Services	Service of Gas Oven	£80.00	105872
06.10.14	Café Yum Yum	6 x Buffets	£288.00	105873
14.08.14	Concept Group Ltd	Cost per Copy	£67.48	DD
29.09.14	Northumbrian Water	Water Rates – Seaton Holme	£525.00	DD
12.09.14	Barclays	Bank Charges – August	£6.00	DD
01.09.14	Scottishpower	Seaton Holme – Electricity	£295.00	DD
01.09.14	N-Power	Seaton Holme – Electricity	£156.00	DD
18.09.14	Payroll	3 rd Party Payments – Month 5	£2494.31	DD
29.09.14	Payroll	Month 6 - Nett Wages	£5226.12	DD
01.09.14	Scottishpower	Cemetery – Electricity	£1.00	DD
01.09.14	Scottishpower	St Mary's Church – Electricity	£16.00	DD
11.09.14	Unicom	Phone/Broadband	£81.05	DD
01.10.14	N-Power	Seaton Holme – Electricity	£852.69	CR
		Invoice Total for September 2014	£9753.28	

INCOME RECEIVED

September 2014

Name	Description	Amount
Millenium Luncheon Club	Room Hire	£50.00
Scarecrow Competition	Entry Fees	£3.00
Scarecrow Competition	Stall	£10.00
Women Aglow	Room Hire	£24.00
Scarecrow Competition	Entry Fees	£3.00
Scarecrow Competition	Stall	£10.00
Scarecrow Competition	Entry Fee	£1.00
H Tait	Craft Fair	£10.00
Scarecrow Competition	Stall	£10.00
Scarecrow Competition	Entry Fee	£14.00
Art Group	Room Hire	£10.00
Member of the Public	Burial Plots	£190.00
Members of the Public	Burial Fees	£227.00
K F Training	Room Hire	£984.60
Scotts Memorials	Cemetery Fees	£84.00
Member of the Public	Burial Plots	£190.00
Main	Room Hire	£404.00
Relate	Room Hire	£18.00
Dalton Homes	Office Rent	£100.00
R Shelton	Room Hire	£75.00
		£2417.60

RESOLVED: that information given, be NOTED.

Great North Air Ambulance

Members gave consideration to correspondence received from the Great North Air Ambulance requesting that the Parish Council make provision for a donation from their 2015/16 budget.

RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted and the Clerk write to advise that requests for donations would need to be made within the year they were required.

Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED

Planning Approvals

DM/14/02393/VOC – Proposed Variation of Condition 4 (Compliance with approved plans) relating to approval of PLAN/2006/0502 for 7 houses at 5 Stonelea Court, Easington for Mr J Harris.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

Planning Refusals

There were no planning refusals.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/169

Planning Applications (Withdrawn)

There were no planning applications withdrawn
RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/170

Planning Appeals

There were no planning appeals.
RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/171

CDALC – AGM – Saturday 8th November 2014

Members gave consideration to attending of the CDALC AGM to be held at County Hall, Durham on Saturday 8th November 2014.

RESOLVED: that no-one was available to attend.

EVPC
14/15/172

Samaritans Central Durham AGM

Members gave consideration to attending the Samaritans Central Durham AGM to be held on Thursday 30th October at City of Durham Rugby Club.

RESOLVED: that no-one was available to attend.

EVPC
14/15/173

Visit County Durham – 2014 Autumn Conference

Members gave consideration to attending the Visit County Durham – 2014 Autumn Conference on Tuesday 4th November at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground.

RESOLVED: that no-one was available to attend.

EVPC
14/15/174

Standing Orders

The Clerk advised that subject to the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the Parish Council's Standing Orders would need to be amended to reflect the changes to the recording of meetings. A copy of the Standing Orders reflecting the change to 1.13 had been circulated.

RESOLVED: that the Standing Orders as amended be adopted.

EVPC
14/15/175

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING 2014

The Clerk advised that the Christmas Tree Lighting usually took place on the 1st Wednesday in December and requested members give consideration to who would undertake the official turning on of the tree lights.

RESOLVED: that the

- i) the Christmas Tree Lighting take place on Wednesday 3rd December;
- ii) the Clerk undertake the usual arrangements for the event;
- iii) that the primary school nominate a pupil to officially switch on the lights.

EVPC
14/15/176

Community Work Placements

The Clerk advised Members of the Community Work Placement Scheme. An individual could provide 30 hours work for 6 months at no cost to the parish Council. Members felt that this type of placement would be suitable for employment with the Parish Council's grounds maintenance team.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk, Cemetery Superintendent and Chair or Vice-Chair interview candidates for the role.

EVPC
14/15/177

Representatives to Outside Bodies

There were no reports to make.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/178

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 10th November 2014 and a Budget meeting would be held at 6.30 pm on the same date.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date