

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2015**

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

Staff: Mrs G M Crute (Parish Clerk)

Also in Attendance: County Councillor A Surtees

The Chairman offered his congratulations to Councillor T Murray on his recent appointment to the Board of East Durham Trust.

EVPC
14/15/276

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were APPROVED for Councillor P Gibson

EVPC
14/15/277

Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

EVPC
14/15/278

Public Participation

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

EVPC
14/15/279

Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12th January 2015

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

EVPC
14/15/280

Minutes of the Cemetery and Grounds Sub-Committee held on 20th January 2015

RESOLVED that

C&G 14/15/029 – be APPROVED.

C&G 14/15/030 – be APPROVED.

C&G 14/15/031 – be APPROVED.

EVPC
14/15/281

Matters Arising

EVPC
14/15/260

Request for Financial Assistance – “Together we Achieve” the Clerk had contacted the organisation and was awaiting a reply.

EVPC
14/15/261

Request for Financial Assistance – “Community Counselling and Support CIC – the Clerk had advised the organisation of the Parish Council’s decision.

EVPC
14/15/269

Buckingham Palace Garden Parties 2015 – the Clerk had submitted Councillor Murray’s name to be entered into the draw. Unfortunately Councillor Murray’s name was not selected from the draw.

EVPC
14/15/270

Possible NALC 2015 Ceremony to Recognise parish Council Achievements – the Clerk had advised CDALC that the Parish Council would be interested in taking part in the ceremony.

EVPC
14/15/272

Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation Event – Friday 30th January 2015 – The Clerk had registered Councillor Murray’s attendance at the event.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/282

Police Matters

There were no police officers in attendance, however, the Clerk submitted a report which she had received from the Police.

RESOLVED: that

- i) the information given, be NOTED;
- ii) the Clerk write to the Police advising of the Parish Council’s disappointment at their lack of attendance at Parish Council meetings.

EVPC
14/15/283

Report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Surtees was in attendance at the meeting and provided the following information:-

- Following a request received the street sweeper had been to North Terrace
- The dog fouling issues in the village had been reported
- Parking problems around West View/North Terrace area had been reported
- Demolition Orders – As the building had been demolished this issue had not been pursued
- Kings Mews Site – A meeting had been held with Senior Planning Officers regarding the site and consideration was being given to enforcement action.
- Councillor Boyes had asked Councillor Surtees to inform members that works had been undertaken to the road at the rear of Carlton Terrace.

A Member stated that he had spoken to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the recent speed traffic survey carried out at Stockton road and he advised that average speeds can be manipulated. County Councillor Surtees advised that she had provided the Parish Council with the details of the results of the survey previously and had been requested to ascertain the cost of installing traffic markings at the entrance to the houses across the bridge on Stockton Road. The cost would be £450 and could not be funded by Durham County Council.

A Member also advised that the replacement street lighting provided poorer illumination compared to that of the old lights. County Councillor Surtees informed the Parish Council that this scheme would eventually save the County Council £1m per annum.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Surtees for her attendance. County Councillor Surtees then left the meeting.

EVPC
14/15/284

Seaton Holme

The Clerk advised Members that L G Therapy has undertaken a 6 months lease at Seaton Holme from 1st February and it was hoped that this would be extended.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/285

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
14/15/286

In-Bloom Committee

Councillor Morton advised that a meeting of the Committee had recently taken place. New barrels had been purchased and would be planted with herbs and vegetables. The In-Bloom Committee was also going to run the Halloween disco this year.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be RECEIVED.

EVPC
14/15/287

Fencing to Village Green

The Clerk advised Members that she had received a much higher quotation for the work. Members felt that a whole scheme should be considered for the village green to possibly be funded from the potential S.106 money from the building of new properties on the former Council Offices site.

RESOLVED: that

- i) the information given, be NOTED.
- ii) the Clerk obtain information with regard to the amount of Section 106 money for this site and when it would be available.

EVPC
14/15/288

Cemetery Rule Book

Members gave consideration to the Cemetery Rule book which had been previously circulated. Members highlighted two issues with regard to the memorial garden plots and Saturday internments.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk make the necessary amendments and inclusions to the rule book for approval at the next meeting.

EVPC
14/15/289

Parish Council Financial Status – Bank Balances as at 31.1.15

The Clerk reported that the bank balances as at 30.1.15 were £87,408.47 in the Savings Account and £1,364.00 in the Current Account totalling £88,772.47.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/290

Income and Expenditure Report to 31.1.15

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

RESOLVED: that the report, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/291

Bank Transfers

The Clerk informed Members that the Transfers for January were £7,390.83 from the Savings Account and £1521.46 from the Current Account.

RESOLVED: to ENDORSE the Transfers.

EVPC
14/15/292

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 – JANUARY 2015

EVPC
14/15/293

INCOME RECEIVED

January 2015

Name	Description	Amount
Scotts Memorials	Cemetery Fees	£12.00
Angela Jones	Room Hire – December	£24.00
Art Group	Room Hire	£20.00
Women Aglow	Room Hire	£24.00
Ann Burnham	Room Hire - December	£24.00
Member of the Public	Cemetery Fees	£42.00
Member of the Public	Cemetery Fees	£190.00
Member of the Public	Room Hire	£100.00
Ann Burnham	Room Hire – January	£32.00
Easington U3A Group	Room Hire	£10.00
Angela Jones	Room Hire – January	£30.00
Art Group	Room Hire	£40.00
		£548.00

RESOLVED: that information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/294

Request for Financial Assistance – ‘together we achieve’

The Clerk advised Members that following the last meeting she had asked how many individuals from the parish benefit from the scheme. She had been informed that there were two students who attended the college who resided in Easington Village.

RESOLVED: that a donation of £20.00 be GRANTED under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

EVPC
14/15/295

Request for Financial Assistance – County of Durham School Benevolent Fund

Members gave consideration to the above request for a donation.

RESOLVED: that no donation be GRANTED on this occasion.

EVPC
14/15/296

Request for Use of Free Rooms – Helping Hands North East

Members gave consideration to the request from Helping Hands North East for the use of rooms for cooking and washing facilities for homeless people once a week.

RESOLVED: that the request not be acceded to and the Clerk write to the applicant informing her of the Parish Council’s decision.

EVPC
14/15/297

Financial Regulations

The Clerk advised Members that following changes in Government legislation Parish Councils were now able to undertake payments electronically. The Clerk outlined how this would enable the Parish Council to become more efficient and save money. Accordingly, the Financial Regulations would need to be altered to include procedures and guidance for such payments to be undertaken. This was detailed in 6.5 to 6.11, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED: that the alterations to the financial regulations as detailed be APPROVED.

EVPC
14/15/298

Insurance Agreement

The Clerk advised Members of the potential savings that could be achieved by entering into a 3 year agreement which equated to £3,035.85 over the 3 year period. She also informed members that she had undertaken an extensive review of the Parish Council's requirements which had meant that there was a saving of £803 per annum from the previous 3 year agreement.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council enter into a 3 year agreement with Zurich Municipal.

EVPC
14/15/296

Durham Miners 131st Gala Brochure

Members gave consideration to placing an advertisement in the 2015 Durham Miners Gala Brochure.

RESOLVED: that an advertisement be placed at a cost of £80 be GRANTED under Section 142 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

EVPC
14/15/297

Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED

EVPC
14/15/298

Planning Approvals

DM/14/03621/LB – Proposed Erection of First Floor Extension to Rear and Application of Render to Dwelling at Lambourn, Little Thorpe for Mr C Holmes

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/299

Planning Refusals

There were no planning refusals.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/300

Planning Applications (Withdrawn)

There were no planning applications withdrawn

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/301

Planning Appeals

There were no planning appeals.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/302

Town and County Planning Act 1990 – Section 247 – Stopping Up of Highway at Easington Colliery 'B' Streets; Bolam, Boyd, Bulter Street, Four Streets, Associated Footways: East of Bede Street, West of Rear 24-64 Station Road, South of Bradley Streets Rear Lane North of Baldwin Street

The Clerk advised members that the above Stopping Up order had been approved.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/303

New Local Council Award Scheme

Members gave consideration to information received regarding the above Scheme. She advised that the Parish Council would be in a position to apply for the Foundation Level Award following the inclusion

of some items required on the criteria. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council register for the Award.

EVPC
14/15/304

Representatives to Outside Bodies

Councillor Murray advised that he had attended a meeting organised by the Police and Crime Commissioner where he raised the problem of speeding in Easington Village. He had also attended the AAP Meeting and informed members about the Volunteer Driving Scheme being ran by The Social Resource Centre Ltd.

Councillor Hopper informed Members she had attended a meeting of the Limestone Landscape Project and organisation was underway for the launch event to be held at Seaton Holme on 7th March. She also advised that she had attended the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils and had been appointed Auditor for the Association. **RESOLVED:** that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
14/15/305

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 9th March 2015.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date