

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2016**

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

Staff: Mrs G M Crute (Parish Clerk)

Also in Attendance: County Councillor A Surtees

EVPC
15/16/252 **Apologies for Absence**
RESOLVED: Apologies RECEIVED and APPROVED for Councillor P Gibson, T Murray and M Warin.

EVPC
15/16/253 **Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda**
There were no declarations of interest.

EVPC
15/16/254 **Public Participation**
There were no Members of the public registered to speak.

EVPC
15/16/255 **Minutes of the last Meetings held on 11TH January 2016**
RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, to be signed by the Chairman.

EVPC
15/16/256 **Minutes of the Cemetery and Grounds Sub-Committee held on 17th November 2015 and 19th January 2016**
RESOLVED: that the minutes and recommendations be APPROVED.

EVPC
15/16/257 **Matters Arising**
EVPC **Report of County Councillor** – The Clerk had
15/16/232 written to the Environment Agency and Grahame
 Morris MP regarding the flooding on the highway at
 the A1086 between Horden Cemetery and Essington
 Way junction.

EVPC **Village Green Signs** – The no parking signs on the
15/16/235 village green had been positioned uniformly and
 staining would take place once the weather allowed.

EVPC **Burial and Cemetery Fees** – the fees had been
15/16/237 updated ready for implementation in April 2016.

EVPC **Royal Garden Party 2016** – the Clerk had
15/16/248 submitted Councillor Murray’s details to the County
 Durham Association of Local Councils. However, he
 had been unsuccessful.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED;

EVPC
15/16/258 **Police Matters**
The Police were unable to attend the meeting. A written report had been submitted which the Clerk read out. A Member expressed concern with regard to activity to the rear of Craig Terrace during school lunch times and after school had finished.

RESOLVED: that

- i) the information given, be NOTED.
- ii) that the Clerk pass on the concerns to the Police with regard to the problems being encountered to the rear of Craig Terrace.

EVPC
15/16/259

Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Surtees was in attendance and updated Members on the following matters:-

- Funding had been given to set up a scheme at the primary school for Junior Road Safety Officers
- Kings Mews Development – Council Officers were still trying to get a response from the owner of the development. However, correspondence was coming back undelivered. There were new agents appointed to sell the properties.
- Environmental Health Officers were dealing with a pest problem around Thorpe Road
- A new pinch point was scheduled to be installed along North Terrace
- Consultation on Proposal to Remove Street Lights along the B1432 Sunderland Road, Easington. Councillor Surtees advised she had forwarded this information to the Parish Clerk. The Clerk circulated maps of the areas where the street lights were proposed to be removed. Members expressed concern that the Parish Council had not been consulted directly about this proposal and felt that removal of the street lights would be detrimental to residents.

RESOLVED that

- i) the information given, be noted;
- ii) that the Clerk work with County Councillor Surtees with regard to the proposed removal of street lighting and submit the Parish Council's objections to the removal and their concerns over the lack of consultation.

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

EVPC
15/16/260

Easington Colliery Methodist Ladies Circle

The Clerk advised Members that in previous years Easington Colliery Methodist Ladies Circle had received a reduced room hire rate.

RESOLVED: that a reduced room hire rate of £18.00 be GRANTED.

EVPC
15/16/261

Security Alarm and CCTV Systems

The Clerk advised Members that she had met with 3 different security firms to discuss quotations and outlined the various options for upgrading the alarm system and installing CCTV at Seaton Holme.

RESOLVED: that

- i) the Clerk and Chairman be delegated to approve the alarm quotations once all three had been received;
- ii) the quotations for CCTV be considered by the Parish Council once quotations had been received.

EVPC
15/16/262

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
15/16/263

Replacement of Horse Chestnut Tree

The Clerk advised that she had made enquiries of local garden centres to see if they stocked horse chestnut trees and they had advised they did not. A tree could be purchased at a height of 5ft as previously reported.

RESOLVED that the Clerk go ahead with the purchase of the tree as detailed.

EVPC
15/16/264

Parish Council Financial Status – Bank Balances as at 31.01.16

The Clerk reported that the bank balances as at 31.01.16 were £105,965.23 in the Savings Account and £1454.70 in the Current Account totalling £107,420.23

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
15/16/265

Income and Expenditure Report to 31.01.16

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

RESOLVED: that the report, be NOTED.

EVPC
15/16/266

Bank Transfers

The Clerk informed Members that the Transfers for January were £9,654.56 from the Savings Account and £1,194.19 from the Current Account.

RESOLVED: to ENDORSE the Transfers.

EVPC
15/16/267

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 2016

| DATE | PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT | CHEQUE NO/DD |
|----------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
| 12.01.16 | Barclays | Bacs Charges – December 2015 | £6.00 | DD |
| 08.01.16 | Cateraid | Filter for Water Boiler | £40.80 | 106016 |
| 09.01.16 | Easington Village Allot Ass | Road Planings | £120.00 | 106015 |
| 17.01.16 | Mulcahy Lawns | Christmas Tree | £200.00 | 106014 |
| 12.01.16 | N Power | Electricity – St Marys Church Lights | £75.14 | DD |
| 12.01.16 | Northumbrian Water | Water Rates - Allotments | £21.05 | DD |
| 18.01.16 | Payroll | 3 rd Party Payments – Month 9 | £2304.84 | DD |
| 29.01.16 | Payroll | Month 10 - Nett Wages | £4571.42 | DD |
| 25.01.16 | Plants R Ross | Clover Compost – 40 bags | £120.00 | 106013 |
| 25.01.16 | Plants R Ross | 14 x Conifers/ 3 x Hebes | £37.00 | 106013 |
| 08.01.16 | Scottishpower | Electricity – Seaton Holme | £60.00 | DD |
| 11.01.16 | Unicom | Phone & Broadband | £59.24 | DD |
| 25.01.16 | JRB Enterprise Ltd | Dog Bags | £157.80 | 106017 |
| 03.02.16 | Concept | Cost per Copy | £98.28 | DD |
| 02.02.16 | Arco | Clothing & Wellington Boots | £43.48 | 106018 |
| | | Invoice Total January 2016 | £7915.05 | |

106019 – Petty Cash - £250.00

EVPC
15/16/268

INCOME RECEIVED

January 2016

| Name | Description | Amount |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Easington Village WI | Room Hire | £38.25 |
| Women Aglow | Room Hire | £27.00 |
| Forever Living | Room Hire | £40.00 |
| Member of the Public | Cemetery Fees | £400.00 |
| Art Group | Room Hire – January | £50.00 |
| Easington Colliery Primary School | Room Hire | £67.20 |
| Member of the Public | Venue Hire | £187.50 |
| Easington Village Luncheon Club | Room Hire – December & January | £150.00 |
| U3A Group | Room Hire | £12.50 |
| | | |
| | | £972.45 |

RESOLVED: that information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
15/16/269

Request for Financial Assistance – Easington Village Parish Patch

Members gave consideration to the above request for a donation.

RESOLVED: that a donation of £100.00 be GRANTED under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

EVPC
15/16/270

Request for Financial Assistance – The Children’s Foundation

Members gave consideration to the above request for a donation.

RESOLVED: that no donation, be GRANTED

EVPC
15/16/271

Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED

EVPC
15/16/272

Planning Approvals

DM/15/02290/FPA – Proposed Development of a 5MW Solar Farm at Land North of Mill Hill North West Industrial Estate, Peterlee for Mr D Lord

DM/15/02495/FPA & DM/15/02496/LB - Proposed Change of Use from Offices to three Holiday Let Units at The Tithe Barn for Tithe Barn Cottages.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
15/16/273

Planning Refusals

There were no planning refusals.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
15/16/274

Planning Applications (Withdrawn)

DM/15/02882/FPA – Proposed Subdivision of Property into Two Separate Dwellings at Richmond House, Rosemary Lane for Mr J Froud
RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
15/16/275

Planning Appeals

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

EVPC
15/16/276

Audit Appointment

Members gave consideration to correspondence received from the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council do not opt out of the Small Authorities Audit Appointments Limited.

EVPC
15/16/277

East Durham Creates

Members gave consideration to correspondence which had been previously circulated. The Chairman advised that a potential scheme would be for the annual Scarecrow Competition which could expand to provide workshops and events in the run up to the competition. The competition would be organised by Alice Morton with the Parish Council providing the accounting for the event.

RESOLVED: that an application for funding from East Durham Creates be made for the Scarecrow Competition.

EVPC
15/16/278

Consultation on the Installation of Gym Equipment on the Village Green

Members gave consideration to the report of the Clerk which had been previously circulated. The response from the questionnaires had shown that a high amount of residents did not want gym equipment installed on the Village Green. It was suggested that an open day be held to display a proposal for an enhanced play area with fencing and then a proposal showing the play area with additional equipment and the gym equipment.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk organised an open day to show the proposals as detailed above.

EVPC
15/16/279

Fire Risk Assessment

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the Fire Risk Assessment but also that it was necessary to review the assessment annually.

RESOLVED: that the Fire Risk Assessment be APPROVED.

EVPC
15/16/280

Health and Safety Policy

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the Health and Safety Policy but also that it was necessary to review the assessment annually.

RESOLVED: that the Health and Safety Policy be APPROVED.

EVPC
15/16/281

Service Level Agreement – Human Resources

The Clerk advised that she would shortly be reviewing and updating the Parish Council's human resources and that she may need to seek expert advice on certain issues. She recommended that the Parish

Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Durham County Council as they were able to provide specialist advice to Parish and Town Councils.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council entering into a Service Level Agreement with Durham County Council.

EVPC
15/16/282

Representatives to Outside Bodies

Councillor Hopper advised she had attended the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils meeting which had provided a speaker to discuss Section 106 funding. This had proved to be a very interested and useful presentation.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

EVPC
15/16/283

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 14th March 2016 at 7.00 pm.

RESOLVED: that the information given, be NOTED.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman

Date