

**MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 1800 Hrs ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

Present: Cllr L Morton (Chair)  
Councillors: WS Day, J Lee, A Lumsden, A Childs, L Birkett. R Parker

Staff: Mr P Moore (Clerk to Council)  
Mrs H Hall (Admin Assistant)

In Attendance: DCC Cllr Angela Surtees (Joined meeting at 1845 hrs)  
Aby Dent  
Susan Gibbins

Prior to the meeting starting, the Chairman called upon all attending to observe a minute of silence with respect to the passing of Cllr Stan Laws.

EVPC 23/24/064 **Apologies for Absence**

None received. - NOTED

EVPC 23/24/065 **Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda**  
There were no declarations of interest.

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

EVPC 23/24/066 **Public Participation**  
There were no members of the public registered to speak.

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

EVPC 23/24/067 **Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 12 June 2023**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, and as such were signed by the Chair of that meeting (Cllr Morton)

EVPC/23/24/068 **Minutes of the Cemetery and Grounds Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, and as such were signed by the Chair of that meeting (Cllr Lee)

EVPC/23/24/069 **Councillor Vacancy – to receive an application for co-option from Miss Aby Dent, a resident of Easington Village**

Council received a verbal statement from Miss Aby Dent giving details of how she hoped he would be able to serve the community of Easington Village by serving as a Parish Councillor.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) The information received be NOTED

- ii) Miss Aby Dent be co-opted to Council. (Miss Dent then took her seat at the Council table)
- iii) It was NOTED that there remains one vacant seat on Council which is available for co-option.
- iv) Council received a verbal expression of interest by Susan Gibbins.

It was NOTED that Susan Gibbins would submit an application for co-option to be received at next council meeting on 09 October.

EVPC/23/24/070

**Police Report**

- a. A Police Report was received covering crime statistics and Anti-Social behaviour in the period 09 Aug to 8 Sep. The next Easington PACT meeting will be held at Easington Welfare Hall on Wed 27 Sep at 1800 hrs. – NOTED
- b. A letter of apology was received from minor Jenson who had been involved in anti-social behaviour at or near the Green Seat. – NOTED
- c. A report was received regarding the Government Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and its potential roll-out in 2024, with the main strand being 'Immediate Justice' whereby offenders may be required to repair any damages, pick up litter, plant bulbs etc. Easington locality is a designated 'Hotspot area' and therefore Council may be able to 'Opt in' to this programme. It was RESOLVED that Council opt-in to this programme when it becomes available.
- d. ASB – The Green Seat. Information had been received from PC Ramshaw that crime numbers had been issued for three incidents relating to the Green seat and that some youths had been identified and will be spoken to in the near future. - NOTED
- e. In response to a request from residents regarding speeding on Stockton road, safety camera deployments were increased on Stockton Road and in other areas around the village. This resulted in 164 'triggers' which broken down are:  
 7 drivers fell within Process Level (Court action)  
 131 drivers fell within Conditional Offer level (Fine and points)  
 131 drivers fell within Speed awareness Course level.

**RESOLVED** that the information received be NOTED

EVPC/23/24/071

**Report from Durham County Councillors**

DCC Councillor Angela Surtees reported the following and took questions where appropriate:

- a. CCTV @ Green Seat - working with partners, Stress test not back from Street lighting however the cameras and maintenance requirements are all in place ready to go once the tests are done. It is important to note that CCTV will not resolve the issue on its own and public intelligence will still be required as the cameras are not monitored so people will still need to report incidents to enable CCTV to be checked.

- b. MTFP (DCCs medium term financial plan) out for public consultation - survey online - it is a challenging budget and public comments are welcome there is an expectation of £12.1M work of cuts to achieve for 2024/25 and anticipated £53M over next four years. It is anticipating a maximum Council Tax rise of 4.99% and DCC are seeking views from residents on where council should focus future 'savings'.
- c. Still raising concerns about the lack of school crossing patrol on Hall Walks for the C of E school.
- d. Speeding in the whole Easington division is a problem and highways improvements to alleviate speeding can be challenging but working through the report commissioned last year to see if any measures are possible to be implemented.

Reports to follow up:

Tree in the Penfold – Information required from Clerk EVPC  
Speak to Believe/Planning dept about speed bumps in the Village development to support the proposed 20mph speed limit.  
Bus stop on Village Green still without panels due to vandalism.

Council thanked Cllr Surtees for attending the meeting and engaging where appropriate on behalf of EVPC and residents.

Council **RESOLVED** that the information received be NOTED.

EVPC/23/24/072

#### **Financial Matters**

- a. **Annual Governance and Accounting Report** – the Clerk reported that the Annual Governance and Accounting Report (AGAR) had successfully passed External Audit and that the Notice of Conclusion has been posted on the website and village noticeboard.

**RESOLVED:** that the verbal report be APPROVED

- b. **Monthly Financial Report for July 2023**

**RESOLVED:** that the monthly financial report for July 2023 be APPROVED

- c. **Monthly Financial Report for August 2023**

**RESOLVED:** that the monthly financial report for August 2023 be APPROVED

EVPC/23/24/073

#### **Amendments to Barclays Bank Mandate**

**RESOLVED:** To remove Cllr Stan Laws and to add Cllr Bill Day and Hayley Hall (Admin).

It was NOTED that verification documents are to be submitted to the bank for authorisation.

EVPC/23/24/074

**The Public Sector Deposit Fund**

The Clerk informed Council that the account is now open and requires a deposit to be made.

**RESOLVED:** that an initial £50,000 would be deposited.

EVPC/23/24/075

**PC / IT Upgrade for Admin Assistant**

The Clerk reported that the PC / IT equipment used by the Admin Assistant is out of date and is unable to sustain the recent IT upgrades that have been necessary. This has affected the ability of the Admin Assistant to sustain her usual rate of work.

**RESOLVED:** That authorisation be given to obtain sufficient quotes for a replacement PC to be brought before Council.

EVPC/23/24/076

**Planning Applications**

- a. **Planning Applications** – The information as received was NOTED.
- b. **Planning Refusals** – It was NOTED that DCC had placed a Tree Preservation Order on a tree belonging to EVPC and which EVPC had sought permission to manage the tree adjacent to 2 East Grange Court. (TPO/323/2023)
- c. **Planning Applications Withdrawn** – none to report
- d. **Planning Appeals / Objections** – The Clerk had OBJECTED to DCC TPO/323/2023 (EVPC/DCC/L&A/23/08/24)
- e. **Other Planning Matters** –
  1. Stopping Up Order (202) Durham lane – in place as of 10 Aug. – NOTED.
  2. Request for Council comment on planning application DM/22/03504/FPA (Loaning Burn, SR8 3TX). The applicant did not attend Council Meeting to put their case, however, it was pointed out that it might be worth checking if the decision is delegated and if so, request a Committee decision.
  3. Discussion took place on several (9) items of planning that had been brought to Council at the request of Cllr Childs. After discussion, it was suggested to Cllr Childs that she may wish to put these matters to DCC as a private citizen rather than from EVPC. - NOTED
  4. DCC proposed extinguishment of public footpath No5 Easington Village Parish – NOTED
  5. DCC proposed 20mph speed limit traffic regulation order Seaside Lane. - NOTED

EVPC/23/24/077

**Member Reports – Attendance at Meetings and Events on Behalf of The Paris Council**

- a. East Durham AAP (12 July) – Cllr Lumsden – nothing to report.
- b. CDALC Small Councils Meeting (20 July) – Clerk – nothing to report.
- c. CDALC AGM Saturday 07 October – two nominees are required.

RESOLVED: that the information as given be NOTED.

EVPC/23/24/078

**Cemetery Building Roof Repairs**

RESOLVED: that as insufficient quality quotations had been received this item will be moved to the next Council meeting

EVPC/23/24/079

**Allotment Management Plan 2023/2024**

RESOLVED: that the allotment plan as presented be approved.

EVPC/23/24/080

**Report From Clerk** – a verbal update on items not covered elsewhere.

- a. Section 106 Funding – approx. £106K is available for projects which must be in the realm of sports, recreation and welfare. A site visit would be made to the sports pitch to evaluate its suitability for a project.
- b. Request for Council to consider sub-committees to investigate and review the following:
  - 1. Review of Fuel / Energy prices as supplied to EVPC.
  - 2. Review of all tenancies and leases, event and room hire charges.
  - 3. To set the Council 'vision and intent' for public events at Seaton Holme and Easington Village.

RESOLVED: that the sub-committees be formed in due course and the information as received be NOTED.

EVPC/23/24/081

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 1800 Hrs in the Burn Room, Seaton Holme.

RESOLVED: that the information given be NOTED

EVPC/23/24/082

**Exclusion of the Press and Public** – In accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

EVPC/23/24/083

None received

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman ..... 

Date ..... 9/09/23

Distribution / Publication:

All Easington Village Parish Councillors

EVPC Website

DCC Councillor Surtees

DCC Councillor Boyes