

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at the Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street on Wednesday 19th May 2010.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. E. Forrester,
Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May, Prof. V. McEwan,
Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. C. Walton, C. Jukes.
County Councillors: P. May.
Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.35pm with the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. M. Caygill, welcoming everyone. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1. 10/45 Election of Chairman

The outgoing Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, requested nominations for the office of Chairman for 2010 / 2011. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt was nominated. There were no further nominations and Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt was duly elected as Chairman.

(Resolved - that Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt is duly elected Chairman of the Council for the year 2010 / 2011).

Councillors expressed their thanks and gratitude to Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her tremendous efforts as Chairman during the past year.

Item 2. 10/46 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor S. Tones.

Item 3. 10/47 Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chairman requested nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman for 2010 / 2011. Cllr. Mrs. M. May was nominated. There were no further nominations and Cllr. Mrs. M. May was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Mrs. M. May is duly elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the year 2010 / 2011).

Item 4. 10/48 Election of Standing Committees

The Clerk advised that, at present, there was just one Standing Committee, the Finance Committee, on which all Councillors were members. The current advice of the National Association of Local Councils was that there was no practical advantage in the full Council delegating to a committee consisting of all Councillors and no others, as this had the effect of the full Council delegating to itself. Councillors discussed this and agreed that the Finance Committee should be stood down, with future finance matters coming under the full Council agendas for June and November each year. It was important, however, that a Finance Portfolio Holder should remain in place.

(Resolved - that the Finance Committee is to be stood down).

Item 5. 10/49 Election of Portfolio Holders

The following Portfolio Holders were elected.

a) Play Areas - Cllr. Mrs. M. Caygill, b) Horticulture - Cllr. Mrs. C. Walton assisted by Cllr. Mrs. D. Prest, c) Finance - Cllr. C. Jukes, d) Highways - Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt assisted by Cllr. Mrs. L. LeDune, e) Planning - Cllr. S. Tones, f) Publicity - Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester with Cllr. Prof. V. McEwan leading the website development.

The Chairman thanked all those Councillors who had put themselves forward for a Portfolio position.

Item 6. 10/50 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited the PCSO to give her report. The PCSO reported on the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1).

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. S. Brown arrived at the meeting.

The PCSO also advised that the Neighbourhood Police Team were now on Facebook, and that unfortunately no-one had attended the first Police Surgery at the Lambton Worm pub. The Chairman suggested that the word "surgery" might have negative connotations and an alternative word might be sought.

The Chairman thanked the PCSO for her report.

Item 7. 10/51 Reports of the County Councillors

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor P. May to the meeting and invited him to give his report which included the following matters. **A)** County Council wardens were now operating in the town car parks. **B)** County Cllr. May had received many approaches in response to the public consultation on the future of the County Council's care homes. **C)** County Cllr. May thanked all those Parish Councillors who had delivered leaflets advising residents of the recent bus lanes proposals drop-in session at the Lambton Worm. Consequently, this had been well attended and many residents' comments had been written in the book provided. The Chairman thanked County Cllr. May and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for organizing the session, and advised that there were many points to consider on this matter. He proposed an extra meeting of Councillors to establish the Parish Council's response to the County Council and Councillors agreed to meet on Tuesday 25th May. The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

At this point, County Councillor May and Councillor Jukes left the meeting.

Councillors agreed to take Agenda item 11(Publicity) next.

Item 11. 10/52 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Forrester to give her report.

a) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester's report included the following matters. 1) Cllr. Mrs. Forrester had attended an excellent meeting of the Police Community Consultative Group and gave details of crime levels in the area, 2) The "Policing Pledge" could be included in the Newsletter, space permitting, 3) Cllr. Mrs. Forrester had attended a Market Town Welcome workshop, 4) the mobile cinema was being well received, 5) "ChesterFest" was now planned to be held in the Riverside Park car park.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her report.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. Forrester left the meeting.

Item 8. 10/53 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st April 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated, were adopted as a true and accurate record of the Meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Cllr. Mrs. May advised that North Lodge Residents' Association would welcome a copy of each set of Minutes as they became available and Councillors agreed that these should be provided, free of charge.

(Resolved - to provide copies of future minutes, free of charge, to North Lodge Residents' Association).

Item 9. 10/54 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 10/38 section a). Re the proposed bus lanes scheme and the drop-in session, the Chairman thanked Councillors for delivering leaflets.

b) Re Minute 10/38 section c). The Chairman advised that a new road surface had been laid to a high standard on Lombard Drive. Replacement "No Stopping" signage and road markings were now awaited.

c) Re Minute 10/38 section d). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that rubbish and litter had been removed from Low Flatts play area and Footpath no. 5 up to the Sustrans bridge. Re-painting of the bus shelter wall outside Lombard Drive by the County Council was still awaited.

d) Re Minute 10/38 section e). The Chairman advised that the replacement crossing refuge on North Road had still not been installed by the County Council.

e) Re Minute 10/39 section 5a). County Cllr. J. Cordon had advised Cllr. Mrs. Caygill that he continued to pursue progress with the speed surveys for Picktree Village.

f) Re Minute 10/39 section 5e). Re the Planning for Visitors to Chester-le-Street & District workshop, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that, after consulting with Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and the Clerk, she had attended the workshop and put forward several suggestions.

g) Re Minute 10/39 section 5h). Re festive lighting on lamp standards, the Clerk advised that a quotation had been received from the County Council. Councillors considered this to be too expensive and no further action was to be taken.

h) Re Minute 10/39 section 6c). Re building work at 7 Blind Lane, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that it was understood that bats had been found in the house, and expert advice was now being taken by the owners.

i) Re Minute 10/41. Re the proposed CHYPS Foyer at South Burns, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that confidential talks were due to take place soon between the developers and the County Council. Cllr. Mrs. May advised that she was not aware of any Change of Use application being submitted yet to the County Council Planning Department.

Item 10. 10/55 Correspondence

1) From Parish Residents

Letter re open space between North Lodge Estate and Picktree Lodge Estate.

Before consideration of the next item, Cllr. Prof. V. McEwan declared an interest.

2) From a Parish Resident

Letter re fence at Merlin Drive play area.

Councillors discussed the repeated request of the resident for an additional fence at the south side of Merlin Drive play area, and again considered that with the installation of the "No Ball Games" sign and the planting of hedge plants along the line of the existing fence the cost of a supplementary fence could not be justified. The resident is to be advised that, as the play area is now owned by the County Council, any further requests should be directed to them.

- 3) From Durham Police Authority
Agenda for the Police Community Consultative Group meeting held on Wednesday 12th May 2010.
- 4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
a) email re the County Council's Safety Advisory Group.
b) Letter requesting nominations for the Executive Committee.
c) email re the Youth Opportunities Fund 2010-11.
d) email re Renewable Energy meeting.
e) Newsletter - Durham Association News, Issue 29, April 2010.
- 5) From Durham County Council
a) Letter re Register of Interests.
The Clerk advised that the County Council required all Councillors to complete a fresh Notification of Personal Interests form. A form had been issued to each Councillor for completion and return to the Clerk.
b) email re festive lighting.
c) Letter re request for safety fencing, A167 by-pass.
d) email re civil parking enforcement.
Councillors agreed to invite the County Council to the July Parish Council meeting to make a short presentation on this matter.
e) Notification of Area Action Partnership Board Meeting to be held on Monday 24th May 2010.
f) Invitation to selection process to choose artists for three public art schemes.
- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
a) Application for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of part single-storey / part two-storey extension at rear of dwelling, at 44 Lombard Drive.
b) Approval for erection of first-floor extension over existing attached garage, at 45 Longdean Park.
c) Approval for erection of first floor extension above existing garage at side of dwelling and construction of porch / pitched roof at front, at 78 Kingsmere.

Item 11. 10/52 (Continued) Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report.

b) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters. 1) Low Flatts play area was being well used and not suffering any vandalism. 2) At Merlin Drive play area, the recently planted shrubs were growing well.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Walton to give her report.

c) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2).

(Resolved - to accept the quote of £125 from Abbey Trees for the work to the Picktree Lodge bed).
Re the proposed new flower beds, Councillors agreed to proceed with this project which is to be closely monitored during the first year and if found to be successful consideration is to be given to the installation of a further bed.

(Resolved - to proceed with the creation of two new flower beds by the County Council at a cost of approx. £530 per annum).

Councillors agreed that the Council needs to establish how to deal with the Area Action Partnership to obtain grants, and Council representatives at the AAP are to raise this matter whenever possible. In addition, a representative of the County Council is to be invited to a future

Parish Council meeting to discuss various schemes available.

Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that a resident of Blind Lane had requested the planting of daffodils there and three sites had been identified for the future.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report.

d) Highways Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters: 1] A new road surface on Lombard Drive, as far as its Leander Avenue junction. 2] The continuing absence of the promised replacement crossing refuge on North Road. 3] Consultation on the recent Bus Lanes/ Northlands Roundabout proposals.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

e) Planning Cllr. Tones had advised the Clerk of two matters. 1) A planning amendment application had been submitted to re-position a planned house on a plot of land near the west end of Park Road North. This might provide the landowners with the opportunity to develop a second property on the land. 2) A resident had complained that some gardens in Kingsmere were encroaching on the former railway embankment. Councillors discussed this and considered that the complainant's remedy would be to request the owners of the embankment, Sustrans, to take up the matter.

f) Finance In the absence of Cllr. Jukes, no report was made.

Item 12. 10/56 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman provided an up-date on the current position regarding the Boundary Commission's review of electoral arrangements in the area.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

Item 13. 10/57 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. May 10	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 10	
Mrs. E. Prest (via Klondyke G. C.	£9.00	Purchase of Plants	
C.C. Ltd	£792.32	Annual Insurance Premium	
Npower Northern Ltd	£67.74	Power for Christmas Tree Lights	£9.18
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages May 10	
Thomas Fattorini Ltd	£289.95	Refurbishment of Chain of Office	£43.19
Picture the Past	£10.00	Supply of Photograph	

(Resolved - the accounts rendered be approved for payment).

Item 14. 10/58 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Cllr. Prof. V. McEwan reported on a County Council Equality and Diversity Consultation meeting which she had attended (Appendix 3, attached).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Prof. McEwan for her report.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st April 2010.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell	£	Salary/Exps. April 10	
Durham County Pension Fund	£	Clerk's Pension April 10	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£22.32	Stamps	
County Durham Assn of Local Councils	£255.23	Annual Subscription	
Durham County Council	£258.50	Christmas Tree Lights	£38.50

Balance to 31st March 2010

Balance b/f	£20314.94	Bank:-		
			Current	£692.15
Deduct Payments - March 10	£1051.36		30 Day	£18847.85
	£19263.58		Total	£19540.00
Add Bank Interest Received	£7.55			
Add Tree Week Grant Received	£150			
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		£118.86
Balance c/f	£19421.13			£19.421.13