

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View Community School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 17th May 2011.

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

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt, in the Chair and welcoming everyone. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the start of the meeting.

Item 1. 11/50 Election of Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Chairman for the year 2011 / 2012. Cllr. Mrs. M. May was the sole nomination and she confirmed that she was willing to stand as Chairman.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Mrs. M. May is duly elected as Chairman for the year 2011 / 2012).

Cllr. Mrs. May then took the Chair, thanking the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, for all his hard work during the previous year as Chairman and in particular for his work relating to both the Boundary Commission and Transit 15.

Item 2. 11/51 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Mrs. S. Brown for her expected late arrival to the meeting.

Item 3. 11/52 Election of Vice-Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Vice-Chairman for the year 2011 / 2012. Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester was the sole nomination and she confirmed that she was willing to stand as Vice-Chairman.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester is duly elected as Vice-Chairman for the year 2011 / 2012).

Item 4. 11/53 Election of Portfolio Holders

The following were elected as Portfolio Holders for the year 2011 / 2012:-

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. Noble-Nesbitt assisted by Cllr. Mrs. L. LeDune, e) **Planning** - Cllr. S. Tones, f) **Publicity** - Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester, g) **Website** - Cllr. Prof. V. McEwan.

Item 5. 11/54 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO L. Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give the Police report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1).

Re speeding traffic in Blind Lane, the PCSO will ascertain whether or not the figures quoted in the report show a serious problem. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that a metal detectorist had been seen digging on Low Flatts play field. The PCSO advised that as the site was private land it was not a Police matter.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for presenting the report.

Item 6. 11/55 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.

- 1) Re the adoption of two unadopted pavements on North Lodge Estate, the County Council's Street Lighting department would also need to give their agreement. The County Cllr. also advised that he was to discuss with County Council officers the possibility of a speed visor for the area.
- 2) Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester advised that she had involved the Neighbourhood Wardens in the removal of an abandoned vehicle at Queensmere.
- 3) Trees belonging to Park View School were overshadowing a house in Sinclair Drive. The County Council was taking this matter forward with the School Headmaster and County Cllr. May would monitor for a satisfactory conclusion.
- 4) The County Cllr. had received a complaint from a resident re constant and excessive noise from clay pigeon shooting at Lambton Estate. The County Council had taken up the matter with the Estate Manager and had subsequently asked the resident to maintain a diary to ascertain if the Estate was keeping within the 28 days per annum allowed for this activity without planning permission.
- 5) The County Cllr. expressed concern that the Parish Councils of the area were not exerting sufficient influence with the Area Action Partnership. Councillors discussed this and agreed that there should be closer working between the Parish Councils and the Chester-le-Street and District AAP Sub-Committee of the County Durham Association of Local Councils. The Chairman will contact the Chairman of the sub-committee to request that an appropriate item be put on the Agenda for the June meeting of the sub-committee.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 7. 11/56 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th April 2011, draft 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.

Item 8. 11/57 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 11/39 section 3). Re the proposed planting of Northlands roundabout, County Cllr. May advised that he awaited a meeting with County Council officers to move the project forward.

b) Re Minute 11/39 section 4). Re the latest County Council Transit 15 proposal, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt outlined the recently submitted response of the Parish Council, copies of which were distributed to all those at the meeting, which the County Council was to consider before putting the proposal out to a further public consultation. Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his further work on this matter.

c) Re Minute 11/41 section a). Re an improvement scheme for Barley Mow, the County Cllr. kindly agreed to seek documentary evidence from the County Council as to the ownership of the land in question. At the same time, he will also seek documentary evidence for the County Council's ownership of Merlin Drive play area.

d) Re Minute 11/43 section 1). Re the Council's cheque which had not been paid by the Bank due to a dispute over signatories, the Clerk advised that, although the matter remained unresolved in that a formal reply was still awaited from the Bank, the cheque in question had now been paid and therefore the payee had received value.

e) Re Minute 11/43 section 5). Re dangerous steps at Low Flatts, the Clerk advised that there had been no further communication from Sustrans.

f) Re Minute Appendix 5). Re the meeting time analysis, Councillors agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Walton that it was important that sufficient time was made available during meetings to hear Portfolio Holders' reports in full.

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

Item 9. 11/58 Correspondence

1) From Wicksteed Playscapes

Brochure and CD re inspection and maintenance of children's play areas.

2) From Butterwick House Children's Hospice

Invitation to open day to be held on Wednesday 15th June 2011.

3) From Jackie Proud

email re display of daffodils.

The resident complimented the Council on the beautiful display of daffodils at the entrance to Picktree Lodge.

4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re a new structure for the County Council's Planning Development Service.

b) email re consultation on cemeteries and closed churchyards.

c) email re consultation process for the County Durham Plan.

5) From Durham County Council

a) Letter re Parish and Town Council Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee.

b) Invitation to the AAP Community Groups & Buildings Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 19th May 2011.

c) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting to be held on Monday 23rd May 2011.

6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-

a) Application for upgrading of internal doors to achieve fire safety rating and provision of additional railings to south and east terraces and steps, at Lambton Castle.

b) Application for provision of additional railings to south and east terraces and steps, at Lambton Castle.

c) Application for internal alterations to include provision of new male and female toilets, hot water heating system and replacement of electrical services, at Lambton Castle.

d) Application for conversion of existing garage to habitable room and erection of first floor extension above existing garage / kitchen at side of dwelling, at 62 Lombard Drive.

e) Application for removal of lower limb of one oak tree, lift one oak tree, fell to ground level one sycamore and one conifer and works to various conifers, all protected by a tree preservation order, at 20 North Lodge.

f) Approval for extension of time limit for the implementation of previously approved planning application 08/00074/FUL - erection of one detached bungalow and garage, at 27 Blind Lane.

Item 10. 11/59 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters. At Low Flatts play area, 1) The recently cut hedging was now thickening well, 2) The Gardener had planted new shrubs to fill gaps in the hedging, 3) The County Council had filled the rabbit holes but the fill had been removed, presumably by the rabbits. Councillors agreed that the County Council was to be requested to fill rabbit holes, at the expense of the Parish Council, as and when holes appeared, 4) Councillors agreed that the pest controller should be asked to attend again to the rabbit problem, 5) The recently erected dog fouling warning notices were not having sufficient impact. Councillors agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Caygill should pursue this with the County Council. At Merlin Drive, 6) The two recently planted trees were suffering from lack of water during the current period of dry weather. Councillors were asked to either provide water themselves or to approach local residents to seek their assistance in doing so, 7) Repairs to the vandalised safety surfacing had been carried out but not to a good standard. The Clerk will contact the County Council to request that a better repair be carried out.

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

b) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Re the raised bed at Picktree Village, 1) the Clerk will contact Lambton Estates to ascertain if the adjacent area is their responsibility, 2) the Clerk will contact the estate agents to request that the "for sale" board be removed immediately. The Clerk will also contact the County Council to request that they clear weeds from the area underneath the Sustrans bridge over North Road.

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

c) Finance Cllr. Jukes advised that there were no matters to report on.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Jukes and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

d) Highways Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3, part 2).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and invited Cllr. Tones to give his report.

e) Planning Cllr. Tones advised that there were no matters to report on.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Tones and invited Cllr. Mrs. Forrester to give her report.

f) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester's report included the following matters relating to the town. 1) The new "Hub" for young people was due to open in September, 2) Young people were requesting a skatepark, 3) The youth centre would close shortly and the building would be demolished, 4) An activity week was to be held in August for young and older children.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester and invited Cllr. Prof. McEwan to give her report.

g) Website Cllr. Prof. McEwan reported that the website was still on target to go live in September. Photographs were still required for inclusion in the website.

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

Item 11. 11/60 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman invited the outgoing Chairman to give the report and Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt therefore reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3, part 1). Re item 5 of the report, 1) County Cllr. May kindly agreed to provide some details to form the basis of a celebratory item for the Newsletter, 2) Councillors agreed that a donation of £50 should be made to the Chester-le-Street Branch of Cancer Research.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

Item 12. 11/61 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. May 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 2011	
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire	
Community Consultation Ltd	£857.61	Annual Insurance Premium	
M. Caygill	£1.96	Card and Stamp	
Beamish Clematis Nursery Ltd	£57.00	Purchase of Plants	
D. Carins	£265.75	Horticultural Work	

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

Item 13. 11/62 Other Matters for Consideration

Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that utility company boxes at the entrance to Picktree Lodge and at Barley Mow remained of very poor appearance. The Clerk will contact the County Council to seek assistance in having the companies attend to this matter.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council on Tuesday 21st June 2011.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. June 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension June 2011	
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire	
Country Care Pest Control	£240.00	Pest Control	
M. May	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Picture the Past	£10.00	Supply of Postcard	
Ian Herberson	£40.00	Fee for Internal Audit	
Cancer UK Chester-le-Street Branch	£50.00	Donation	
Durham County Council	£56.87	Filling of Rabbit Holes	£9.48
D. Carins		Horticultural Work	

Balance to 31st May 2011

Balance b/f	£42415.58	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - May 2011	<u>£ 1822.05</u>		
		Current	£ 2256.43
		30 Day	<u>£38528.95</u>
		Total	£40785.38
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 191.85</u>
Balance c/f	£40593.53		<u>£40593.53</u>