

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 15th May 2012.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester
Councillors: Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May, Mrs. C. Walton, Mr. N. Alderson, Mr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.35pm with the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. M. May, welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 12/48 Election of Chairman

The outgoing Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. M. May, requested nominations for the office of Chairman for 2012 / 2013. Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester was proposed and seconded. There were no further nominations and Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester was duly elected as Chairman.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester is duly elected Chairman of the Council for the year 2012 / 2013).

Councillors expressed their appreciation of the work done by Cllr. Mrs. M. May as Chairman during the past year.

Item 2. 12/49 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from resident Mary Judson and from Councillors Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. C. Caygill, Mrs. D. Prest and Mr. S. Tones.

Item 3. 12/50 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Item 4. 12/51 Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chairman requested nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman for 2012 / 2013. Cllr. Mrs. M. May was proposed and seconded. 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 2012 / 2013).

Item 5. 12/52 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) Website - Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt. Re the Publicity Portfolio, the Chairman will contact Cllr. Mrs. S. Brown to enquire if she would like to be considered as Portfolio Holder.

Item 6. 12/53 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give the Police report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). Councillors discussed the ongoing youth activity problem in the copse of trees alongside the A693 road. The Clerk is to contact the Chief Constable to seek a regular Police presence at the site. In response to a question from Cllr. Alderson, the PCSO advised that the Police do not make regular liaison visits to local schools. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt asked if there had been any recent reports of speeding traffic on Bonemill Lane and the PCSO advised that there had not. In response to a question from Cllr. Mrs. LeDune, the PCSO will advise Councillors of any rules for bells on bicycles.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for the report.

Item 7. 12/54 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). A resident of Rickleton was seeking traffic restrictions for Picktree Lane. County Cllr. May had asked the County Council to consider this request.
- 2). A proposal was expected for opencast coal mining at Marley Hill. Although well away from the Parish, the mining would create additional large vehicle movements along the A693 to and from Northlands roundabout. County Cllr. May had asked a retired mining engineer to compile a list of questions to be put at a preliminary planning meeting.
- 3). The Blind Lane interchange was to be re-surfaced over four nights beginning on 11th June.
- 4). There had been no further developments re Northlands roundabout.
- 5). Councillors had observed the County Council cutting back trees along the east side of North Road.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 8. 12/55 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th April 2012, 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 but subject to amendment of the first sentence of Minute 12/42 section c) to read "Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the first and last matters contained in his written report attached".

(Resolved - to amend Minute 12/42 section c, as above).

Item 9. 12/56 Chairman's Report

The outgoing Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Re item 1 of the report, Councillors agreed that a site in Cone Terrace would be preferred for the planting of the Oak tree. Councillors also agreed with a suggestion that the Baffle Bank would benefit from having trees planted on the motorway side. Re item 2 of the report, Councillors who had attended the Neighbourhood Planning presentation agreed that it had been very informative. Consideration will be given to holding an additional meeting to discuss this matter further.

In addition, 1) Re Minute 12/42 section d, Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that the County Council officer had been unavailable and therefore the re-use of the tree guard had not yet been discussed. 2) Re Minute 12/47, Councillors considered that the yellow arrow signs at the crossing point on North Road near to Low Flatts Road were adequate for their purpose.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Mrs. May for her report.

Item 10. 12/57 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Highways and Website Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

1) Nothing further had been heard re Northlands roundabout. 2) Re the campaign by the resident of Rickleton for traffic restrictions on Picktree Lane, Councillors expressed general support and suggested that, to succeed, the campaign would need the backing of the County Council, Police and Highways Agency. The Clerk will advise the resident accordingly. 3) The website was working well.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Walton to give her report.

b) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). 1) Re the circular bed at Picktree Lodge, the Clerk will write to the Gardener to confirm the change of responsibility to the County Council and to confirm the Parish Council's commitment to the well-being of anyone employed on its behalf. 2) Re the millennium bed, Councillors selected an edging for installation by the Gardener. 3) Re the possibility of an Oak tree from the Residents' Association, the Chairman will discuss this matter with the Chairman of the Association.

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

c) Play Areas In her absence, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had compiled a written report which included the following matters. 1) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill confirmed that she wished to be involved in the discussions with the County Council re the re-use of the tree guard. 2) Re the possible requirement for a change of premises for Parish Council meetings, Councillors were in general agreement that consideration could be given to an increase in the Precept to provide a subsidy to the Community Association.

d) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that there were no matters to report.

e) Planning In the absence of Cllr. Tones, no report was made.

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

Item 11. 12/58 Correspondence

1) From Park View Community Association

a) Letter re possible withdrawal of the use of the North Lodge facilities.

b) Notification of Special General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 15th May 2012.

The Association was proposing to wind up the current charity and pass the assets and liabilities to a new charity with the intention of removing the personal liability from each of the Trustees.

2) From a Resident of Graylands, Rickleton

emails re vibration caused to houses in Picktree Lane by road traffic.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Invitation to Stakeholder Workshop - "A New Police & Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington" to be held on Wednesday 20th June 2012.

b) email re first neighbourhood plan going to examination

A Professor of Planning, at Plymouth University, was to examine the plan for Dawlish in south Devon.

c) Invitation to Small & Medium Councils Forum to be held on Friday 18th May 2012.

d) email re Environment Awards 2012.

4) From Durham County Council

- a) email re proposed surface coal mining at Marley Hill and Byermoor Collieries.
- b) email re flooding at Camperdown Avenue and Picktree Lodge.
- c) emails re communicating between Councils.
- d) Letter re changes to the Standards regime following the Localism Act.

The County Council had decided to establish a Committee to deal with Standards complaints and to prepare a new Code of Conduct which would be appropriate for both Parish and Principal Councils.

- e) email re Parish Council publications.
- f) emails re invoice for survey of bus shelters.
- g) Letter promoting the Registered Trader Scheme.
- h) email re services provided by the Highways Department.
- i) Invitation to Neighbourhood Planning Seminar held on Thursday 3rd May 2012.
- j) Notification of AAP Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 24th May 2012.
- k) Board papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 23rd April 2012.
- l) Notification of the AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 28th May 2012.

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

- a) Application for proposed single storey garden room extension to the rear, at 121 Picktree Lodge.
- b) Application for erection of rear extension to create new bedroom and garden room, at 11 Picktree Lodge.

Item 12. 12/59 Northlands Roundabout

This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item 13. 12/60 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. May 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 2012	
Pot-It-On	£228.50	Horticulture	
Community Consultation Ltd	£688.97	Annual Insurance Premium	
Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	
Elton's	£160.50	Jubilee Plaques	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 14. 12/61 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

- 1) Councillors discussed the contents of this year's Newsletter.
- 2) Cllr. Mrs. LeDune enquired as to whether there were funds available to purchase a seat for the bus stop on North Road opposite Lombard Drive. Councillors agreed to discuss this matter at the next budget setting meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th June 2012.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. June 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension June 2012	
HM Revenue & Customs		PAYE	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
Durham County Council	£210.00	Bus Shelters Survey	£35.00
I. Herberson	£40.00	Internal Audit Fee	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	

Balance to 31st May 2012

Balance b/f	£37905.45	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - May 2012	<u>£ 1655.10</u>	Current	£10595.56
	£36250.35	30 Day	<u>£35129.86</u>
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 2.18</u>	Total	£45725.42
	£36252.53		
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 9472.89</u>
Balance c/f	£36252.53		£36252.53