

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 19th May 2015.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. D. Snaith
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. E. Forrester, Mrs. L. LeDune,
Mrs. C. Walton, D. Hall, C. Noble-Nesbitt,
J. Waugh.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.35pm with the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Mrs. E. Forrester, in the Chair.

Item 1. 15/54 Election of Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Chairman for the year 2015 /2016. Cllr. D. Snaith was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations. Cllr. Snaith was, therefore, duly elected as Chairman.

(Resolved - that Cllr. D. Snaith is duly elected as Chairman for 2015 / 2016).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for all her hard work as the previous Chairman and this was supported by all Councillors present.

Item 2. 15/55 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Dr. D. Hartley and Mrs. M. May, and County Councillor P. May. Councillor Mrs. Forrester read out a letter of resignation from Councillor Norman Alderson and this was received with regret by Councillors. It was agreed to write to Mr. Alderson to thank him for his service to the Parish, enclosing a voucher for £20 as a token of thanks.

Item 3. 15/56 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School.

Item 4. 15/57 Election of Vice-Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Vice-Chairman for the year 2015 /2016. Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations. Cllr. Mrs. Forrester was, therefore, duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester is duly elected as Vice-Chairman for 2015 / 2016).

Item 5. 15/58 Election of Portfolio Holders

The following Councillors were elected as Portfolio Holders - a) Finance - Cllr. J. Waugh, b) Highways - Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt, c) Horticulture - Cllr. Mrs. C. Walton assisted by Cllr. Mrs. L. LeDune, d) Planning - Cllr. D. Snaith, e) Play Areas - Cllr. Mrs. M. Caygill, f) Publicity - Cllr. Mrs. M. May, g) Website - Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.

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

Item 6. 15/59 Report of the Police

The Police were not present at the meeting but had provided a written report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk.

Item 7. 15/60 Report of the County Councillor

As the County Councillor was not present, no report was made. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had asked the County Councillor to take up the problem of the number of times emergency vehicle sirens sounded at Northlands roundabout, particularly through the night.

Item 8. 15/61 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2015, 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 9. 15/62 Chairman's Report

a) Re Minute 15/48 section 7a). Re land between fences at Barley Mow, the Clerk advised that searches at the Land Registry had not produced any relevant information. A reply was awaited from Highways England. Cllr. Waugh recalled the circumstances of the erecting of the outer fence which suggested that the land was part of the former BOC site. The Clerk is to contact the County Council Planning Department to ascertain if all necessary permissions have been obtained for the recent works to Park View house.

b) Re Minute 15/50. Re welcome signs for Barley Mow and Northlands, this matter is to be put on the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

The Chairman invited the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Forrester, to give the Chairman's Report which contained the matters in her written report attached (Appendix 2).

Councillors thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her report.

The Chairman asked Councillors if they wished to continue to receive a report from Cllr. Mrs. Forrester at each meeting. Councillors agreed that the report gave valuable feedback from external meetings and, therefore, was welcome.

Item 10. 15/63 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had reported to the County Council the poor condition of the road surface at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt 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 4). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill reported that there was still rubble and weeds following the Northlands roundabout works. The Clerk will report this to the County Council. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reminded Councillors that the weeping willow tree near to the entrance to Lombard Drive was to be replanted at Merlin Drive play area. The Clerk will diarise this for the autumn. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that there was a dead tree in Merlin Drive play area. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council and ask that a replacement be provided.

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

c) Play Areas

At Low Flatts, there were still weeds needing to be cut back at the small gap in the hedge. A resident had offered a shrub that could fill the gap. The dog waste bin was overflowing and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had contacted the County Council to ask that the bin be emptied. The seat presently at the bus shelter just to the north of Northlands roundabout was to be replaced by the County Council which had agreed to install the replaced seat at Low Flatts instead of the damaged one there. At Merlin Drive, the faulty piece of equipment had been attended to by the County Council. Molehills had been flattened, possibly by the grass-cutting machine. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and invited Cllr. Waugh to give his report.

d) Finance

Cllr. Waugh's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 5). The Chairman thanked Cllr. Waugh.

e) Planning

The Chairman advised that the County Council had now lodged a claim for a judicial review re the County Durham Plan.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

f) Publicity

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. May, no report was made.

Item 11. 15/64 Correspondence

1) From Park View School

Letter re use of Community Room

The Headteacher thanked the Council for its financial contribution and confirmed that the Council would have the use of the room free of charge for up to 12 meetings per year.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Hall for his input re the Council's entitlement to usage of the room. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the room would probably become available in time for the June meeting of the Council.

2) From the Pensions Regulator

Letter re contact person.

3) From Gateshead Council

Email re Community Infrastructure Levy.

4) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re Smaller Local Councils Forum meeting to be held on 29th May 2015.

b) Email re Local Council Awards Scheme - Accreditation Panel Members.

c) Email re "Delivering Differently" scheme.

d) Email re Councillor and Chairman Training to be held on 10th June 2015.

5) From Durham County Council

a) Email re "Welcome" signs for Northlands and Barley Mow.

b) Notification of closure of mailbox.

Enquiries previously sent to hal@durham.gov.uk must now go to help@durham.gov.uk.

c) Form of Contract for signature re annual bedding.

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

a) Application for single storey extension, at 1 Drum Park.

b) Approval for erection of rear extension and front ramp, and alterations to roof and internal layout (some works retrospective), at 15 Lombard Drive.

Item 12. 15/65 The Newsletter

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt provided an up-date on the progress of this year's Newsletter and provided draft copies for discussion. The finalised draft should soon be ready to go to the printers. Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and his wife for their work to date.

Item 13. 15/66 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary May 2015	
D. Murrell		Expenses May 2015	
D. Murrell (via land-registry-online)	£39.95	Land Registry Search	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 2015	
Comm. Lincs. Insurance Services	£747.15	Annual Insurance Premium	
Cty. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£300.61	Annual Subscription	
Pot-It-On	£222.00	Horticulture	
Park View Academy	£4785.34	Donation re Community Room	£797.56

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 14. 15/67 Other Matters for Information

Cllr. Mrs. Forrester provided an up-date re progress with the Drum Pond project.

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 16th June 2015.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		Salaries June 2015	
Expenses		Expenses June 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 2015	
HM Revenue & Customs		PAYE	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
I. Herberson	£40.00	Internal Audit Fee	
D. Snaith		Chair's Allowance	
E. Forrester	£20.00	Gift Voucher for N. Alderson	

Balance to 31st May 2015

Balance b/f	£46409.23	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - May 2015	<u>£ 6796.11</u>		Current £ 7044.59
	£39613.12		30 Day <u>£39406.88</u>
			Total <u>£46451.47</u>
Add VAT Refund Received	<u>£ 865.14</u>		
	£40478.26	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 5973.21</u>
Balance c/f	£40478.26		£40478.26

Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 19 May 2015

On-site observations of the final working configuration of the Northlands roundabout indicate a consistency with the dynamic computer model that the Parish Council was shown by DCC at the planning stage. There is vastly improved movement of traffic, including buses [without the need for additional bus lanes] and very effective crossing facilities for pedestrians. Feedback from users of the roundabout indicates a remarkably consistent high level of satisfaction with the completed arrangement. As with any changed road system, some users may experience problems, of course.

Now completed, the County Council's major work on replacing the North Road west footpath, south of Low Flatts Road, and laying new drives from the main road, has greatly refreshed that whole area.

On Lombard Drive, the DCC repainting of all the yellow lines, including the zig-zags, is awaited, as expected.

The north verge side of the Sustrans path, under Picktree Lodge entrance bridge, [see also March report], remains as a particularly awful eyesore with little prospect of clearing, it seems.

C N-N 19/05/2015