

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.  
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Maureen May, Carole Walton, Dennis Hall, Colin Noble-Nesbitt, David Snaith, John Waugh.  
County Councillor: Peter May.  
Clerk: David Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.33pm with the outgoing Chairman, Cllr. David Snaith, welcoming everyone.

### **Item 1. 16/47 Election of Chairman**

Nominations were requested for the office of Chairman for the year 2016 / 2017. Cllr. Elsie Forrester was nominated. There were no other nominations. Cllr. Elsie Forrester was, therefore, duly elected as Chairman.

(**Resolved** - that Cllr. Elsie Forrester is duly elected as Chairman for 2016 / 2017).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. David Snaith for his work as the previous Chairman.

### **Item 2. 16/48 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Jackie Martin.

### **Item 3. 16/49 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **Item 4. 16/50 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Nominations were requested for the office of Vice-Chairman for the year 2016 / 2017.

Cllr. Maureen May was nominated. There were no other nominations. Cllr. Maureen May was, therefore, duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

(**Resolved** - that Cllr. Maureen May is duly elected as Vice-Chairman for 2016 / 2017).

### **Item 5. 16/51 Election of Portfolio Holders**

The following Councillors were elected as Portfolio Holders - a) Crime & Community Safety - Cllr. Jackie Martin, b) Finance - Cllr. John Waugh, c) Highways - Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt, d) Horticulture - Cllrs. Carole Walton and Maureen May, e) Planning - Cllr. David Snaith, f) Play Areas - Cllr. Margaret Caygill, g) Publicity - Cllr. Elsie Forrester, h) Website - Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt.

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

### **Item 6. 16/52 Report of the County Councillor**

The Chairman invited County Councillor Peter May to give his report which included matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 1).

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

### **Item 7. 16/53 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 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. 16/54 Chairman's Report**

- a) Re Minute 16/37. Re the accident on North Road, Cllr. Margaret Caygill outlined various Park View School policies relating to the community responsibility of pupils. The Chairman advised that, since the accident, there appeared to be an increased attention to road safety by pupils on North Road at school leaving time.
- b) Re Minute 16/39 section a). Re overhanging vegetation on the footpath between North Road and Lyndhurst Avenue, County Cllr. May agreed to pursue a response from the County Council.
- c) Re Minute 16/39 section b). Re noise from the Coveris factory, the noise level tests had been completed and the outcome was now awaited from the County Council.
- d) Re Minute 16/39 section c). Re the bus shelters survey report, the Clerk advised that one quotation had now been received for the various works to be carried out or considered. A second quote was awaited. This matter is to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Council.
- e) Re Minute 16/39 section d). Re "Welcome" signs, the Clerk advised that the County Council had now agreed the design. One sign is now to be bought as a trial before committing to further purchases.
- f) Re Minute 16/40 section c1). Re the new dog waste bin installed by the County Council at Picktree Lodge, Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt advised that, having had further discussions with the County Council, the bin was now back at its original, and previously agreed, site.

### **Item 9. 16/55 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

#### **a) Crime and Community Safety**

Cllr. Jackie Martin had provided a written report (Appendix 2, attached) and, in her absence, this was read out by the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for providing the report and invited Cllr. John Waugh to give his report.

#### **b) Finance**

Cllr. John Waugh advised Councillors of the present bank balances.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Waugh for his report and invited Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

#### **c) Highways and Website**

Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

- 1) The development by the County Council of a new template for the website was still awaited.
- 2) County Cllr. May advised that he was researching the possibility of having a crossing point installed at Picktree Lane near to the petrol station.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllrs. Maureen May and Carole Walton to give their report.

#### **d) Horticulture**

Cllr. Carole Walton gave an update on the work currently being carried out by the Gardener.

Cllr. Maureen May gave an update re the financing of the re-planting of the two diamond beds at Picktree Lodge.

Re Northumbria in Bloom, Cllr. Maureen May is arranging a meeting to establish the structure of the proposed working group.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. May and Walton for their report and invited Cllr. David Snaith to give his report.

### **e) Planning**

Cllr. David Snaith advised that officers of the County Council were available to give presentations on the planning process and Neighbourhood Plans immediately before the start of the next Parish Council meeting. Councillors agreed that, due to the pressure of time, the planning process presentation should be delivered before the next meeting but the Neighbourhood Plans presentation should be held over to be arranged when a suitable date became available. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report and invited Cllr. Margaret Caygill to give her report.

### **f) Play Areas**

Cllr. Margaret Caygill's report included the following matters.

- 1) At Merlin Drive play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. A replacement section of safety surfacing appeared to have been installed under the seesaw. A resident had observed youths spitting. Following discussion with Cllr. Caygill, the resident had cleaned the area with disinfectant. Councillors expressed their thanks to the resident for the public-spirited action.
- 2) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. The County Council had now installed the refurbished seat which looked very good. Weeds needed cutting down around the new hawthorn cuttings. There was encroachment of long grass and weeds around edges of the playfield. The goal posts would need re-painting in the near future. A new dog waste warning sign was desirable for the play equipment enclosure. The passing of the Flying Scotsman train on the adjacent railway line had attracted many new visitors to the play area and several good comments had been received about the play area.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report.

### **g) Publicity**

Cllr. Elsie Forrester's report included the following matters.

An Accident Book had been purchased. The Chairman and a resident had cut back many branches of trees between Queensmere and North Road. Land Registry searches had established ownership of the aforementioned land.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Forrester for her report.

### **Item 10. 16/56 Correspondence**

- 1) From St. Astier Ltd  
Quotation for works to bus shelters.
- 2) From Durham County Council
  - a) Email re Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project.
  - b) Email re "Welcome" Signs.
- 3) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
  - a) Application for construction of 105m safety post rail fence, at Lambton Castle.
  - b) Approval for erection of chamber to ground floor and flue within roofline, at 5 Lintfort.

### **Item 11. 16/57 Tree Lights Event**

Councillors agreed to carry over this item to a future meeting.

### **Item 12. 16/58 The Newsletter**

Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt gave an update on progress with the production of the draft Newsletter. It was hoped that the completed Newsletters would be available at the June meeting of the Council for distribution by Councillors.

### Item 13. 16/59 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£483.15	Salaries May 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses May 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions May 2016	
Pot-It-On	£329.98	Horticulture/Bus Shelters May 2016	
D. Murrell (via HM Land Registry)	£ 18.00	Title Searches	
Community Lincs Insce Services	£790.06	Annual Insurance Premium	
E. Forrester (via First Aid UK)	£ 3.95	Accident Book	£0.66
I. Herberson	£ 50.00	Internal Audit Fee	

(**Resolved** - the payments be approved as submitted).

### Item 14. 16/60 Other Matters for Information

The following matters were submitted for information.

- 1) Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised Councillors of the suspected encroachment of a private garden into the Camperdown park. However, County Cllr. May had investigated this and the land in question did, in fact, belong to the private property owner.
- 2) Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised of the investigation by the County Council into the possible illegal use of land at a property in Lyndhurst Avenue. The County Council had established that no action needed to be taken.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

**Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016.**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Salaries	£	Salaries June 2016	
Expenses	£	Expenses June 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£	Pensions June 2016	
Pot-It-On	£	Hort./Bus Shelters June 2016	
HM Revenue & Customs	£	P.A.Y.E.	
E. Forrester	£	Chair's Allowance	
Co. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£312.91	Annual Subscription	

**Balance to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

Balance b/f	£42767.11	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - May16	<u>£ 1895.25</u>		Current	£ 1271.66
	£40871.86		30 Day	<u>£40421.21</u>
			Total	£41692.87
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 821.01</u>
Balance c/f	£40871.86			£40871.86

# North Lodge Parish Council May 2016 Report

## County Councillor Peter May

### Durham County Council Ofsted Report (Children's Services)

Following the Ofsted inspection earlier this year we are now in a position to share the outcome.

Whilst there are a number of positives, overall the inspection judgement is 'requires improvement' and we accept there are some areas where further improvement is needed.

Areas for improvement include case file recording, social work assessment and analysis and care planning.

Inspectors found drift and delay in some children's cases.

Performance information was found to be extensive and had resulted in some improved outcomes however some issues concerning the quality of social work practice and recording remain.

Social workers were carrying too many cases in some teams as a result of recent staff shortages and some children and families were experiencing too many changes of social worker.

We welcome Ofsted's feedback and are absolutely committed to making the improvements recommended so that we can deliver the best possible outcomes for every child in County Durham.

Based on the feedback during the inspection - a great deal of work is already underway to bring these areas up to a consistently 'good' standard.

There have been significant changes to the framework and emphasis for these inspections which have impacted on judgements across the country but we are pleased to say that Ofsted judged a number of key areas of our services including those for adoption, care leavers and the LSCB, as 'good'. Our adoption services were described as a 'strength within the authority' with work being 'child focused to ensure that a lifelong placement for children and young people is at the heart of all practice.' The report also notes that 'Political and senior leaders as corporate parents demonstrate passion and commitment to children and young people'.

Our work on combatting Child Sexual Exploitation was also described as good, as were services for substance misuse and our partnership working.

Staff training and development are also described positively.

Other areas described as being good include our early help services for 0-19 years and services for disabled children. Ofsted recognise that our placements for looked after children are of good or better quality and meet children's needs.

There were similar positive comments regarding care leavers with the report noting: 'The majority of care leavers develop trusting and long-standing relationships with their personal advisers or their social worker. Commissioning of accommodation for care leavers is also good. The local authority provides a good range of emergency accommodation for young people who present as homeless.'

The report also notes that 'consultation with children and young people to inform service development is well embedded and effective.'

As an ambitious and high achieving council, whilst we are pleased that so many areas of our work with children and young people were singled out for praise during the inspection feedback, we are also fully accepting of the areas where further improvements can and will be made.

Politicians, senior leaders, managers and staff place the utmost importance on improvement planning and delivery.

In Durham we welcome all opportunities to highlight areas for further improvement and will waste no time in drawing on any best practice or recommendations which will improve the lives of our children and young people.

### Proposed New Corporate Management Team for DCC

#### Current Structure

CEO

Assistant CEO

Corporate Director of Resources

Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services

Corporate Director Children and Adult Services

Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development

The new corporate management team (CMT) structure reflects the various challenges that we face going forward and enables us to build on the many strengths we have as an organisation while allowing us to continue to provide the best possible levels of services to the people we serve across the county.

**The proposed structure is summarised below:**

- Chief Executive Officer
- Corporate Director Regeneration and Local Services
- Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services
- Corporate Director of Adult, Wellbeing and Health Services
- Corporate Director of Resources
- Director of Transformation and Partnerships.

#### **Teaching Assistants Review of Terms and Conditions**

On 16<sup>th</sup> May Council took the decision to undertake a dismissal and re engagement process in order to formalise a new paid structure for Teaching Assistants.

This basically means that all DCC TAs will not be paid during the school holidays as happens now. This is due to the Council believing that if it does not do it there will be claims from other employees on the same salary band who will demand equal pay. Obviously the TAs are not happy as many will lose out financially.

#### **Coveris Noise situation**

At the time of writing this report I have not had any further news regarding the outcome of the noise survey

**New seats for Caxton Way footpaths to Picktree Lodge and replacement seats for Lombard Drive** (school side) I have an upcoming meeting with Martin Briscove to discuss the placing of 4 new seats to cover these areas.

#### **Parish Environment Caretaker finance**

I have arranged for the finance to be discussed and agreed ASAP in order that he can start in June

## **North Lodge Parish Council**

### **Crime and Community Safety Report- Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

#### Current

Several residents contacted the Police with reports of ' off road ' bikes causing problems around the Picktree Lodge area. Police aware and will monitor area.

#### Update

No public disorder reported in or around the Wheatsheaf area of North Lodge on the 15/16/17<sup>th</sup> April as intelligence had suggested. (documented in April's report).

Burglary - (documented in March report) Blind Lane (South) DNA was found at scene, suspect identified and arrested. Update at next Council meeting.

No further incidents reported for North Lodge.

### **Crime and Community Forum**

Discussion regarding telephone and e-mail scams in relation to fraud. It was agreed that communities may benefit from a short presentation by the Police to make residents aware of the issue and the distress it can cause. Action- approach to be made to community groups to facilitate the event in their area.

A police representative stated that there had been a reduction in certain crime types in Chester-le-Street.

Shoplifting (-42%), this had been achieved through holding discussions with shop owners. Many had agreed to redress security and redesign the entrances/exits of the shops.

Theft from motor vehicles (-14%) making residents more aware of their responsibilities may have helped reduce the incidents.

Police and Communities together (PACT) meetings were discussed. It was agreed that diverse areas will require different methods of promoting such meetings. Information will be collected and assessed from community groups/County Councillors in order to facilitate a new way to promote better community involvement.

Dates of community events to link Crime and Community road shows are being researched, update at next meeting.

### **Neighbourhood Watch update**

To date, 150 out of 180 coordinators have been approached. Grand launch, 24<sup>th</sup> May at 6.15pm at the Parish Centre, in order for coordinators to meet and recognise their input and involvement. Newsletter to be designed and delivered to coordinators.

Discussion on the use of media publications and e-mails to help to inform residents of this valuable community asset.

Meeting closed

Date and Time of next meeting to be arranged and forwarded to members.