

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 16th May 2017.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Jackie Martin, Maureen May, Patrick Driscoll,
Colin Noble-Nesbitt, David Snaith, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

Two Residents.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed everyone.

Item 1. 17/41 Election of Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Chairman for the year 2017 / 2018. 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 2017 / 2018).

Item 2. 17/42 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Margaret Caygill, Dennis Hall and John Murray.

Item 3. 17/43 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Jackie Martin declared an interest as Chairman of North Lodge Residents Association.

Item 4. 17/44 Election of Vice-Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Vice-Chairman for the year 2017 / 2018. 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 2017 / 2018).

Item 5. 17/45 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 - Cllr. Maureen May assisted by Cllr. Patrick Driscoll, 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. 17/46 Report of the County Councillor

As this was his first visit to a Parish Council meeting following his recent election, County Councillor Craig Martin had no matters to report. Instead, Councillors asked the County Councillor several questions regarding his election campaign and his intended approach to his role as County Councillor. In reply, County Cllr. Martin stressed that he was determined to work closely with community groups such as the Parish Council and that he would prove himself to be an asset to the community.

Item 7. 17/47 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th April 2017, 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. 17/48 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 17/35 section d). Re the sink hole at Merlin Drive, County Cllr. Martin kindly agreed to enquire at the County Council on any progress.
- b) Re Minute 17/35 section b). County Cllr. Martin advised that he would attend the next meeting of the Drum business group at which he would raise the matter of litter escaping from some of the units there.
- c) Re Minute 17/36 section b1). Re the two damaged flower beds, it was agreed to review the situation for next year's planting.
- d) Re Minute 17/40 section a). Cllr. Martin advised that the County Council had now commenced groundwork for the wildflower planting on North Road.

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in the written report below -

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.
16.5.2017.

No meetings of the AAP due to Purdah.
Following information from Task Group Meetings,

Youth Task Group – Excellent Have Your Say Events had been held in The Hemitage Academy and Park View Schools.

The views of the young people had covered many items.

The Youth Group felt that this type of event could be put out to many youth organisations in the town.

Riverside.- Splash Pad now open. New dog walking area ,work has started, hope to be ready by the end of May.

Chester le Street Cinema at Park View Community Centre, Very few people are attending.
Long term future in doubt.

Police.Insp Paul Gray moving to Peterlee 25/5/2017 Insp Dave Coston will be his replacement from Durham City.

Purdah will continue until 9..6.2017.
AAP will meet 26.6.2017.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 9. 17/49 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Horticulture

The Chairman invited Cllr. Maureen May to give her report which included the matters contained in the written report below -

HORTICULTURE REPORT MAY 2017

County Councils Responsibilities (16 Flower Beds)

- No problems. Flower Beds still look good. These beds will be re-planted shortly with new summer bedding.

Parish Gardener Responsibilities

- Heather bed at PicktreeVillage is ongoing.
- Councillor Caygill and her husband continue to tend Northlands shrub bed as well as the northlands bus shelter beds. (Now all looking smart) until October 2017.
- The Millennium Bed will be replanted shortly for summer, with colourful bedding plants.
- Flower Beds at entrance of North Lodge. - It is proposed to revamp this bed by reducing the flower bed and grassing over the ends of both beds on either side of the entrance.

In Bloom

- We have now received feedback from the judges re the spring judging.

Below is an extract of the Judges first visit

As a new entrant your group can feel very proud of the achievements you have already made.

You might like to check that the school is fully aware of the RHS Growing Together for Schools scheme. Details are available on the Northumbria in Bloom website. We are also trying to find out if this scheme covers Nurseries, if so I will let you know so you can pass on the details - it would be great to recognise the hard work being done

Using the judging criteria as a guideline we would like to suggest areas where progress is still possible.

Please do not think of any of these suggestions as anything other than ways to help maximise the hard work already being done.

A. Horticultural Achievement

RHS are keen to see horticultural sustainability within entries, something which you are certainly addressing with the recycling of plants from the local authority, but they also encourage more perennial planting to reduce the need for the expensive use of limited resources such as peat based composts and the need for constant watering. This might be addressed by adding perennials and small evergreen shrubs to beds and containers to reduce the reliance on annuals and to maintain structure during the winter.

B. Environmental Responsibility

Any attempt to highlight and celebrate local heritage would be a good addition to the work already being done. This could be done horticulturally, with the use of information boards, some entries have even produced their own Town Trails leaflets.

C. Community Participation

This is an area in which you are already doing particularly well. Your portfolio is the opportunity to highlight the things being done that can't necessarily be shown on judging day e.g. year round events, ongoing projects, ways of raising community awareness etc.

- The final (Summer) judging will take place on 14 July 2017. Lots more hard work to be done.

Environmental Caretaker

- Frank has now included litter picking down path and across Low Flatts play area. He reported very small amount of litter and no dog foul bags lying on ground as previously.

With these areas now included, the whole of the Parish is litter picked within three and a half weeks approx.

At next meeting Councillors will be required to decide if the twelve month trial period has been successful and if the role should be made permanent.

Maureen May

In addition, re Environment Care, Cllr. Martin advised that litter and advertising posters in Pickree Lane near to the motorway roundabout needed to be removed before the next "In Bloom" judging. The Chairman thanked Cllr. May for her report and invited Cllr. Jackie Martin to give her report.

b) Crime and Community Safety

Cllr. Martin's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Crime and Community Report- May 2017.

Update

Damage to motor vehicle in Lombard Drive and Leander Avenue-Investigations still ongoing.

There are no crime reports to date.

Community Awareness

Police Neighbourhood Spring Newsletter has been circulated.

Reports of groups of males knocking on doors offering gardening services. If any resident is unhappy about this, they should be advised to contact the local police using telephone number 101.

Thanks given to David , Parish Clerk for continuing to circulate Police information notices.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for her report and invited Cllr. Waugh to give his report.

c) Finance

Cllr. Waugh confirmed that he had received the most recent bank statement and he was satisfied that the finances were in order.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Waugh for his report and invited Cllr. David Snaith to give his report.

d) Planning

Cllr. Snaith advised that a reserved matters application, relating to the planting scheme, for the housing development at Vigo Lane had been lodged with the County Council. The Clerk read out the reply received from the County Council re trees, play facilities and Section 106 monies relating to the housing development. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reminded Councillors that the adjoining former Arizona Chemical site was also very likely to be developed for housing in which case it would be highly desirable that a play area facility be included. The Clerk will ask the County Council to note this request. The Clerk is to include an Agenda item for the next meeting re possible uses of the section 106 monies.

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

e) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report below -

Highways and Website

- 1) The greatly damaged keep left bollard on the central reservation of the pedestrian crossing on North Road, close to its Low Flatts Road junction - an important road safety matter - still awaits action from DCC, after two months. **DCC may need reminding.**
 - 2) Having been informed by DCC two months ago that the nearby faded 30 mph and 40 mph road surface markings on North Road, would be repainted when the temperature allows, **DCC needs reminding of its need for action.**
 - 3) The damaged edge of the recently renovated section of path linking Caxton Way with Picktree Lodge awaits action from DCC. The lack of rain recently has resulted in no worsening damage during the last month. **DCC may need reminding.**
 - 4) The double yellow lines extensions at the entrance and exit of Lombard Drive were completed by DCC over 10/11th May. [This was first asked for 18 months ago.] Enormous improvement has been observed for the exit and exodus of Park View Lower School generated traffic, including school buses, from 3.20 to 3.50 pm and for pupil safety. Also much better now for all road users entering and exiting Lombard Drive at any time of day.
 - 5) A second "Public Footpath" DCC Rights of Way sign, this time near to 5 Caxton Way, is now in place.
 - 6) North Road, as is usual at this time of year, is suffering from overhanging trees obscuring various road signs, such as the 30 mph sign. **DCC needs to be asked to survey the position overall and initiate the necessary actions.**
 - 7) Overhanging trees to waist level block the right hand side footpath entrance to Park View Lower School. **DCC needs to be asked to initiate the necessary actions.**
 - 8) **Need for DCC to be asked to survey and report back its view on the need and timetable for highway renovations in North Lodge Parish.** Examples include: the east end of Lombard Drive around to Merlin Drive where the original 1958 light coloured road concrete is again visible through lots of worn out patches of subsequent darker surfaces; Leander Avenue similarly, leading into Caxton Way/Napier Close where footpaths also have many eroded and unsightly worn patches; deep pothole in the centre of the road opposite the Northern Powergrid sub station; the uneven carriageway of the southern branch spur of Lyndhurst Avenue.
 - 9) The flashing times for the recently introduced "School 20 when lights show" signs have been discussed by Councillor Caygill with Park View Lower School's management. [The Parish Council voted in favour of the times agreed with the school management and this can be put forward, perhaps after confirmation at NLPC's June meeting, in time for DCC's reprogramming window for the flashing units during the school summer holidays]
 - 10) Decision needed on whether or not to continue with the trial layout change for the minutes, with all reports in the main body rather than as appendices (whenever possible), included at the draft publication stage on the NLPC website **It was decided to continue the trial but with a modification to clearly delineate between reports.**
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Re the “20mph” lights, Councillors agreed to support the timings proposed by the School i.e. 8.15am to 9am, 3.15pm to 4pm.

(Resolved on a show of hands - to support the School’s proposal for the timing of the “20mph” flashing lights).

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

f) Play Areas

In her absence from the meeting, Cllr. Caygill had provided the written report below which was read out by the Clerk -

PLAY AREA REPORT

MERLIN DRIVE

Play equipment appears in order.

There was a lot of litter in the area. Can we address this by including this in Franks litter rota and pressing DCC to change the litter bin as requested.

LOW FLATTS

Play equipment appears in order.

The goalposts have been painted and look much better.

As the new notice for the enclosed area is ready can we expedite its installation.

There were few dog litter bags near the bridge, it is hoped regular cleans by Frank will eliminated this but a bin or notice would help. Will monitor.

The grass matting at the fenced area entrance has had additional pins added and I feel confident that it is no longer a trip hazard.

Marg.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report.

g) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester advised that all matters had been contained in her Chairman’s Report earlier in the meeting.

Councillors thanked the Chairman.

Item 10. 17/50 Correspondence

1) From Durham Constabulary

Email re speed of traffic on Park Road Central.

The Clerk is to write to the Police Commissioner to ask for action to be taken re speeding motorists.

2) From Durham Community Action

Email re County Durham Volunteering Celebration Event to be held on Wed. 14th June 2017.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re Election Update.

b) Email re representatives to CDALC Chester-le-Street Area Committee.

c) Email re vacancies after the election process.

d) Email re continuation of purdah.

- 4) From Durham County Council
- a) Notification of Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 18th May 2017.
 - b) Email re PSPO park assessment outcome.
 - c) Letter and campaign material re FollowOurLead campaign.
 - d) Notification of AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 26th June 2017.
 - e) Letter re planning complaint EN/17/00486.
 - f) Email re Vigo Lane housing development.
 - g) Email re installation of LED lighting.
- 5) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for erection of detached bungalow with detached garage, at 27 Blind Lane.
 - b) Application for single storey rear extension to replace the existing conservatory, at 27 Picktree Lodge.
 - c) Reserved Matters application relating to DM/16/04052/FPA (erection of 203 dwellings) for landscaping details, at British Oxygen Co, Vigo Lane.
 - d) Approval for single storey extension to front and side, at 11 Longdean Park.
 - e) Approval for single storey extension on south elevation, detached double garage, fencing and access gates, at 5 North Lodge.

Item 11. 17/51 Preparation of the Newsletter

Cllr. May thanked Parish resident Brenda Noble-Nesbitt for all the help she had given to date and for the offer of further help if required. Cllr. Hall had also kindly offered to help in the production of the Newsletter. Portfolio Holders are to send their draft articles to reach Cllr. May by the 30th May. The Chairman is to contact CDALC for an opinion on the inclusion and, if inclusion is recommended, the wording of an article re parking on pavements.

Item 12. 17/52 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries May 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses May 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions May 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 314.30	Horticulture May 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 105.00	Environment Care May 2017	
Co. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£ 313.35	Annual Subscription	
Community Lincs Insce Services	£ 808.09	Annual Insurance Premium	
E. Forrester (via Aldi Stores)	£ 8.00	Leaving Gift for Councillor	£1.33
I. Herberon	£ 50.00	Internal Audit Fee	
DSJ Property Services	£ 180.00	Painting Goal Posts	
Total Payments	£2482.40		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 13. 17/53 Other Matters for Information

The following matter was submitted for information.

Cllr. Martin advised that, as a result of the recent “In Bloom” judging, the flower bed at the entrance to Longdean Park needed to be revamped. The “In Bloom” team would be happy to take this on for the rest of this year. However, Councillors decided that the responsibility for the bed was to remain with the Parish Council.

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 16th May 2017.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries May 2017	
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Total Payments	£2482.40		

Balance to 30th April 2017

Balance b/f	£22279.09	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - April 2017	<u>£ 4527.55</u>	Current	£ 1831.91
	£17751.54	30 Day	<u>£44591.56</u>
		Total	£46423.47
Add Precept and Grant Received	<u>£27153.07</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 160.00</u>
	<u>£44904.61</u>		
Add Vat Repaid	£ 1358.86		
Balance c/f	£46263.47		£46263.47