

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 15th May 2018.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory, Maureen May,
Patrick Driscoll, Colin Noble-Nesbitt, David Snaith.

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone and announcing the resignation from the Council of John Murray.

Item 1. 18/46 Election of Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Chairman for the year 2018 / 2019. Cllr Elsie Forrester was proposed by Cllr Colin Noble-Nesbitt and seconded by Cllr Margaret Caygill. 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 2018 / 2019).

Item 2. 18/47 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Dennis Hall and John Waugh.

Item 3. 18/48 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School. Cllr Jackie Gregory declared an interest as Chairman of North Lodge Residents Association. Cllr Maureen May declared an interest as a member of North Lodge Property Owners' Association.

Item 4. 18/49 Election of Vice-Chairman

Nominations were requested for the office of Vice-Chairman for the year 2018 / 2019. Cllr Jackie Gregory was proposed by Cllr Patrick Driscoll and seconded by Cllr Colin Noble-Nesbitt. There were no other nominations. Cllr Jackie Gregory was, therefore, duly elected as Vice-Chairman. (**Resolved** - that Cllr Jackie Gregory is duly elected as Vice-Chairman for 2018 / 2019).

Item 5. 18/50 Election of Portfolio Holders

The following Councillors were elected as Portfolio Holders - a) Crime & Community Safety - Cllr Jackie Gregory, 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.

Item 6. 18/51 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor Craig Martin to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

Planning Start Times

Council Officers had made the decision to change the standard start time to 7.30 am from 8.00 am for construction in planning conditions. This has been done with no consultation with the public or Councillors.

I'm disgusted that this has occurred. Planning decisions should always involve the public, since they are the ones that have to live with the consequences. We will fight against this decision considering it will have a huge negative effect on those living next to developments.

BP Garage Crossing

The Council will be putting in place a pedestrian crossing, outside the BP Garage, across Picktree Lane. This project will be fully funded by surplus funds in the Highways budget. It will make accessing the shop a lot safer for the entire community. In order to put this in place the bus stop will have to be moved. Cars leaving Hadrian Avenue to join Picktree Lane will be prohibited from turning right.

I have been campaigning for road safety measures to be put in place and this project to happen since being elected. I welcome the pressure put on by everyone over the years to make this happen.

Grit Bin Hadrian Avenue

Contacted by residents to put in place a grit bin on Hadrian Avenue, between Appledore Gardens and Picktree Lane. They're concerned that due to the incline, lots of parked cars and the way motorists use it as a short cut, it's an accident waiting to happen. I pushed the Council to put this in place but had it rejected. I wrote to residents explaining the reasons behind the decision and my disappointment. To find that they'd put one in place anyway. Following a phone call, the Council Officer stated the area fulfils the criteria to get a grit bin. They didn't understand why I'd been given incorrect information.

If you find it difficult to get a straight answer out of the Council, I can't even get one out of them.

Kind regards,

Cllr Craig Martin

North Lodge and Chester-le-Street

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In addition, 1) The County Cllr had forwarded to the Parish Council an email from the County Council confirming that the County Council had accepted responsibility for the future ongoing maintenance of the proposed new bus stop shelter in Picktree Village. 2) Re the FixMyStreet website, Councillors agreed that Cllr Noble-Nesbitt should represent the Parish Council when asking a question at a meeting of the County Council. 3) Re the damaged metal cover in Blind Lane, Cllr Noble-Nesbitt will also report this via the Do It On Line facility. 4) The County Cllr was monitoring proposals for a new crossing point in Vigo Lane to serve the housing development of the former Arizona Chemical land. 5) The County Cllr was making progress towards the provision of a live tree for Christmas at Northlands roundabout.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 7. 18/52 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th April 2018, 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. 18/53 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

Re Minute 18/42 section b). The Clerk will arrange for the removal and disposal of the damaged noticeboard in Leander Avenue.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 15.5.2018.

AAP INFORMATION.

1.CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY.(Inspector Dave Coxon.Duham Const).

Issues across our AAP. And the County of Durham. Even though Durham County Constabulary are the highest rated police force in the country they have seen the largest rise in crime over the last nine months.40% .Increases we are seeing are in some part due to the fact that there is a change in the way incidents are recorded.And also more people are coming forward to report crimes. There is an increase of cases of hate crime, domestic abuse,sexual abuse, and sexual violence. But the public can be assured that Durham County Police Force are committed to supporting victims,investigating crime and tackling criminals to ensure that the communities in which people live and work are as safe as can be.

2. Cricket World Cup.2019.There are to be major discussions soon with Durham County Cricket Club about a local offer for visitors to the 3 matches that will be staged the Emirates Riverside.Watch this space.

3.Environmental Task Group.Greater protection and use of local parks and open spaces, are they being used. Promote events held in the park.Help to promote the "In Bloom" achievements i.e.Best Large Town".and "Chester Best". Visit to be arranged to Billingham Waste Disposal Energy from Waste.

4.New Task Group Structures.

Thriving Chester le Street,- Which will look at Town Centre Development- Employment.

Supporting Chester le Street – Which will focus on Health. Children Young People and Families and Welfare Reform.

Pride in Chester le Street – Focus on Environment and Crime And Community Safety.

5.New Notice Board Leander Avenue Ongoing. (Old one to be removed asap ent.)

6.Wheatsheaf now open Mon to Sat 12noon until 10pm Sun. 12noon until 6pm.

7.Avant Homes.Hope to remove fencing late autumn, when trees and shrubs have grown and pond is ready. 24 Houses sold to date. Streets named Highbury Close and Wanstead Crescent.

Re the Avant Homes fence, the County Cllr advised that the Planning Department was still considering its removal and might decide that the fence should be retained. Cllr Snaith will ask the Planning Department what arrangements would be put in place for the maintenance of the fence should it be retained.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 9. 18/54 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Crime and Community Safety

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

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety report 15th May 2018

Crime- current

Criminal Damage:

Low Flats play park – damage to safety ground cover.

Anti-Social behaviour:

Low Flatts, youths in play park with hammers.

Caxton Way, youths standing on a bench.

Burglary:

Caxton Way, an article (pole or similar) was put through a letter box to retrieve a car fob, a BMW motor vehicle was then stolen.

Community Safety.

Leander Avenue :A report was received from a resident stating that a male had attempted to remove the damaged Parish Council notice board. Official arrangements have now been made to have this board removed.

Cllr Caygill advised Councillors of the recent site meeting with the Police at Low Flatts Play Area. The Chairman thanked Cllr Gregory for her report.

b) Finance

Cllr Waugh had provided a statement that he had seen the most recent bank statement and was satisfied that the Council's finances were in order.

The Chairman invited Cllr Noble-Nesbitt to give his report which included the following matters.

c) Highways and Website

1) Replacement sewer laying in Lombard Drive was now complete with the patching done to a good standard. 2) Cllr Noble-Nesbitt had advised the County Council of potholes in the Leander Avenue area. It was understood that the County Council had additional funds available for highways repairs and, therefore, the Clerk will ask the County Council to attend to degraded road surfaces around the Parish.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllrs May and Driscoll to give their reports which included the matters contained in the written reports below -

d) Horticulture

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
HORTICULTURE REPORT
15 May 2018**

County Councils Responsibilities (16 Flower Beds)

All flower beds are being maintained by Durham County Council at present. Summer Bedding will be planted in June.

Parish Council Responsibilities

- **North Lodge Lambton Park**

At the last Parish Council meeting (April) the Parish Councillors rejected the scheme proposed by Durham County Council – re extending Tarmac. We are now awaiting the County Councillor’s report on any alternatives which may be available from Durham County Council.

Environmental Caretaker

No unusual issues have occurred.

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

8/04/18 – 05/05/18

Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/Hrs 14	Accumulation 165
Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Cleared leaves at shrub bed and tidied bed	5.0	21.5
Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.			1.5
Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	General cleaning and tidying.	0.5	5.0
Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Cut grass and edged around bus stand and tidied.	2.0	9.5
Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge.	Dug out border for preparation before planting up Hawthorn whips	3.0	9.0
Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park.			16.5
Shrub Bed within Longdean Park.			

Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm pub (South Bound).	Cleaning and tidying	0.5	4.5
Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Maintenance and tidying	0.5	4.5
Raised Shrub Beds North Road			6.0
Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).			12.5
Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.			
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	General cleaning and tidying	0.5	5.0
Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.			15.5
Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.			
Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/ Hours	Accumulation
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Bus shelter maintenance	0.5	6.0
Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Tidying and maintenance	0.5	5.25
Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers			1.0
Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	General cleaning.	0.25	2.75
Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			15.0
Planting of flowers below wall			

opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			
Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	Cleaning and tidying.	0.25	2.75
Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	Checking shrubs, cleaning shelter.	0.5	5.75
Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).			4.5
Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			8.0
Daffodil planting.			
Handyman.			3.0

Councillor Patrick Driscoll/ Councillor Maureen May
Councillor M May & Councillor P Driscoll
Horticulture Portfolio Holders

In addition, 1) Re the entrance to Lambton Park, the County Cllr had obtained from the County Council further options for hard surfacing. Councillors considered these and also a proposal to engage a commercial company to clear the leaves that gathered there. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to ask if they would take back responsibility for the entrance area. 2) Cllr May is to ask the County Council if the Parish Council can retain the primroses and tulip bulbs when they are dug up from the flower beds. 3) Re the bed at the base of the plinth at the entrance to Picktree Lodge, Cllr Gregory proposed that a raised edge should be designed to prevent the soil from sinking.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs May and Driscoll for their reports and invited Cllr Snaith to give his report which included the following matters.

e) Planning

1) Cllr Snaith gave an update on the progress of the County Durham Plan. The Preferred Options document is expected to be out for consultation in the summer. 2) An amendment to the planning permission for the housing development at the former BOC site, Vigo Lane, had been approved by the County Council and there would now be 230 properties on the site.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Snaith for his report and invited Cllr Caygill to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -

f) Play Areas

PLAY AREAS REPORT

Merlin Drive.

All equipment appears to be in order. The chain on one swing is very rusty but does not seem to affect the use.

Low Flatts

The equipment appears to be in order. The area is out of use for two days as the safety surfacing is being replaced. It has been necessary to leave the barrier gate open to allow the firm access.

Cllr Caygill also advised that the contractors were now on site at Low Flatts play area to repair the safety surfacing and consequently the play equipment enclosure was temporarily closed.

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.

Item 10. 18/55 Correspondence

1) From Councillor John Murray

Letter of Resignation from the Council.

The Clerk read out the letter. A reply is to be sent to Mr. Murray thanking him for all his work as a Parish Councillor.

2) From a Resident

Email re dim lighting.

3) Lloyds Bank plc

Letter re new General Conditions.

4) From the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Letter re Data Protection Bill.

5) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re Newcastle International Airport Masterplan 2035.

b) Notification of the CDALC AGM to be held on Saturday 20th October 2018.

6) From Durham County Council

a) Notification of AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 21st May 2018.

b) Letter re proposed removal of street lights at junction with un-named road at Chartershaugh Bridge.

c) Maintenance Contract re Annual Bedding.

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

a) Application for variation of conditions 4, 10 and 15 of planning permission DM/16/04052/FPA to update landscaping proposals, at Site of former British Oxygen Company, Vigo Lane.

b) Application for three storey extension to side of dwelling, at 14 North Lodge.

Item 11. 18/56 Items Requested by Councillors

Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillors discussed the incidents of anti-social behaviour that had been experienced at Low Flatts play area during the past months. Cllr Caygill considered that the play area continued to be well used by many children (play equipment) and adults (dog walking). Cllr Gregory advised that the Police were unlikely to heavily patrol the area and would not apply for CCTV cover there. Councillors agreed to monitor any further damage and, if necessary, in a year's time to review the future of the play area. The County Councillor is to approach the County Council to have the copse of trees alongside the A693 to the south-west of the play area thinned out to reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour there.

Item 12. 18/57 Preparation of the Newsletter

Cllr May provided an update on the progress to date and thanked all those who had sent in articles. It was hoped that the draft would be completed next month. Re an article about dog waste, Cllr Gregory asked the County Cllr to pursue with the County Council the problem of dog waste.

Item 13. 18/58 Payment of Accounts

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£ 506.27	Salaries May 2018	
Expenses		£ 80.00	Expenses May 2018	
Pot-It-On		£ 152.00	Environment Care May 2018	
Pot-It-On		£ 192.00	Horticulture May 2018	
npower		£ 7.76	Power for Tree Lighting	£ 0.37
I. Herberon		£ 50.00	Internal Audit Fee	
Cty DhM Assn of Local Councils		£ 319.50	Annual Subscription	
Community Lincs Insce Services		£ 680.10	Annual Insurance Premium	

Total Payments £1987.63

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 14. 18/59 Other Matters for Information

- 1) Cllr Driscoll asked the County Cllr to pursue with the County Council the re-instatement of the ground at Merlin Drive where the temporary compound had been sited.
- 2) Cllr Gregory asked the County Cllr to find out which organization was digging the verge at the motorway roundabout.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th May 2018.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 506.27	Salaries May 2018	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses May 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care May 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 192.00	Horticulture May 2018	
npower	£ 7.76	Power for Tree Lighting	£ 0.37
I. Herberson	£ 50.00	Internal Audit Fee	
Cty DhM Assn of Local Councils	£ 319.50	Annual Subscription	
Community Lincs Insce Services	£ 680.10	Annual Insurance Premium	
Total Payments	£1987.63		

Balance to 30th April 2018

Balance b/f	£19703.86	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - April 2018	<u>£ 1042.20</u>	Current	£ 2769.47
	£18661.66	30 Day	<u>£47143.99</u>
		Total	£49913.46
Add Precept Received	<u>£ 28493.66</u>		
	£ 47155.32	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
Add Grant Received	<u>£ 542.00</u>		
	£ 47697.32		
Add VAT Refunded	<u>£ 2216.14</u>		
Balance c/f	£49913.46		£49913.46