

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at the Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street on Wednesday 21st April 2010.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. M. Caygill.

Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. E. Forrester, Mrs. M. May, Prof. V. McEwan,
Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. C. Walton, S. Tones.

County Councillor: P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Condolences were expressed to County Councillor P. May and Councillor Mrs. M. May on their recent loss.

Item 1. 10/34 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor C. Noble-Nesbitt. The Chairman reminded Councillors of the importance of advising the Clerk of any expected absences from Council meetings.

Item 2. 10/35 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give her report. The PCSO reported on the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). Re Police Surgeries, the Clerk will place a copy of the notice in the Council notice board at Leander Avenue. County Cllr. P. May, with the agreement of the Police, will also attend the surgeries to be available to residents.

The Chairman thanked the Police for their report.

Item 3. 10/36 Reports of the County Councillors

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor P. May to the meeting and invited him to give his report. County Cllr. May reported on a recent Police anti-drugs operation which he had attended as an observer.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 4. 10/37 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th March 2010, 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 5. 10/38 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 10/26 section a). The Chairman advised that she had attended, as a school governor, the recent School Travel Plan meeting where a presentation on the proposed North Road bus lanes was made by the County Council. Also amongst the attendees were students of Park View School and the Police Safety Officer. The County Council officer had advised that the consultation period would now be delayed until after the General Election. Councillors agreed to hold an open night / drop-in session for residents to view and discuss the plans for the bus lanes once they were made available by the County Council, and the Chairman and County Cllr. P. May are to progress arrangements for this. Councillors also agreed with County Cllr. May's suggestion for a leaflet drop to publicise the open night.

- b) Re Minute 10/26 section e). Re a website for the Council, the Clerk advised that work had begun on Minutes which would be made available on the site.
- c) Re Minute 10/27 section B). Re proposed “No Waiting” road markings for Lombard Drive, the Chairman reported on a recent site meeting attended by residents, the Chairman, Councillors Mrs. L. LeDune, Prof. V. McEwan, Mrs. D. Prest and C. Noble-Nesbitt and an Officer of the County Council. Regarding the recently installed “No Waiting” signs, the Officer agreed that replacements were required to show the correct periods of operation, and consideration was required to the re-siting of the sign outside 3 Lombard Drive. Regarding the proposed road markings, Parish Councillors and residents agreed that the times of operation should be the same as the recent signs, that there were concerns regarding the number of signs in the street, that a “No Loading” restriction was not necessary, and that consultation by the County Council with residents on such matters needed to be much more thorough. The Chairman thanked those Councillors who had attended the site meeting.
- d) Re Minute 10/27 section G). The Chairman advised that the County Council had agreed to clear litter and rubbish from Low Flatts play area and Footpath no.5, Low Flatts. The County Council had cleaned obscenities from the bus shelter at the entrance to Lombard Drive but the protective paintwork was now in poor condition. Councillors agreed that the Chairman and Clerk are to arrange for the re-painting of the shelter wall.
- e) Re Minute 10/29 section c1). Re the still-awaited installation of the replacement crossing refuge on North Road, County Cllr. P. May kindly agreed to pursue this with the County Council.

Item 6. 10/39 Correspondence

1) From Parish Residents

Copy email re proposed Traffic Regulation Order, Lombard Drive.

2) From Durham Miners' Association

Letter re Gala Book Project.

3) From St John Ambulance

Invitation to charity event to be held on Friday 14th May 2010.

4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re Titles of Dignitary.

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 now permitted local councils to confer the title “honorary freeman” or “honorary freewoman” to persons of distinction who, in the Council’s opinion, have rendered eminent services to the Council’s area.

b) email re Durham Rural Community Council’s Community of the Year competition.

c) email re purdah period.

d) email re free access to Ordnance Survey maps.

e) email re Durham County Council’s Printing Section.

The Clerk will request a quote for a leaflet regarding the bus lanes open night.

5) From Durham County Council

a) email re traffic calming, Picktree Village.

County Cllr. J. Cordon advised that he was requesting from the County Council details of progress with the speed survey. However, the County Cllr. also advised that any works would have to be paid from his highways allowance which was limited to £6K per year in total. County Cllr. P. May kindly agreed to contact County Cllr. Cordon to offer any assistance on this matter. The Chairman advised that a disabled resident, using a wheelchair, had requested the installation of dropped kerbs where they were not already installed in Low Flatts Road and North Road. County Cllr. P. May kindly agreed to meet the resident to view the sites and assess requirements.

- b) email re proposed new bus lanes, North Road.
- c) Board papers for the Area Action Partnership meeting held on Monday 22nd March 2010.
- d) Invitation to meetings of the Area Action Partnership Task and Finish groups.
- e) Invitation to workshop - Planning for Visitors to Chester-le-Street & District.
- f) Newsletter - "Our Life", Issue 2, April 2010.
- g) Newsletter - "P3 News", Issue 26, Spring 2010.
- h) Letter re festive lighting.

Councillors agreed that this year the Christmas Tree lights should be put up on 1st December and taken down during the first week of January. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council and also enquire about the cost and availability of Christmas lighting on street lighting columns.

- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for erection of first floor extension above existing garage at side of dwelling and construction of porch / pitched roof at front, at 78 Kingsmere.
 - b) Approval for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of sun lounge and first floor extension both at rear and erection of single storey extension at side (south elevation), at 41 Picktree Lodge.
 - c) Approval for erection of detached garage to rear of property, erection of 1.5m high brick wall/railing and enlargement of current parking area, at 7 Blind Lane.
 - d) Approval for erection of first-floor extension at side of dwelling above existing garage, single storey extension to rear of dwelling and construction of pitched roof over existing flat roof at front, at 4 Mitford Close.

Item 7. 10/40 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters. 1) Low Flatts play area was being well used. 2) The sign for Merlin Drive play area was still awaited. Councillors agreed that the County Council's Director of Neighbourhood Services should be asked to pursue this matter, and a request should be made for an additional waste bin nearer to the entrance than the present bin.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and the Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Walton to give her report.

b) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Re the Millennium Yew tree guard, it was agreed that the Chairman and Councillors Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Prest should make an inspection and take the matter forwards. Re the estimate for the North Road flower beds, this had now been received, just at the commencement of this meeting. Councillors agreed that the Chairman and Councillors Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Prest are authorised to consider the estimate and, if they consider the cost to be acceptable, to commission the project. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Prest for planting the Millennium bed. Cllr. Mrs. Prest is to be reimbursed for the cost of the plants.

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

c) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester's report included the following matters. 1) Mendip House was not being considered for closure by the County Council under the present review. However, the services provided there would be changed. 2) County Council Neighbourhood Wardens had been introduced from 1st April and Cllr. Mrs. Forrester outlined their role. 3) The mobile community cinema would begin on 1st May and would be at Park View main site on 5th June. 4) The music festival "ChesterFest" on 14th August would now be held at the playing field next to the Youth Centre. 5) The Area Action Partnership was considering providing some funding towards the cost of art installations at Merlin Drive, Northlands and Drum Industrial Estate. Young people would be invited to help develop ideas for the installations. Councillors hoped that there would be a role for the Parish Council in this project.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her report and invited Cllr. Tones to give his report.

d) Planning Cllr. Tones advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Tones.

e) Highways In the absence of Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, no report was made.

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

Item 8. 10/41 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised that she would not be available to attend the next meeting of North Lodge Residents' Association and, therefore, asked for other Councillors to represent the Council at the meeting which would be attended by a representative of Sunderland YMCA to discuss their proposed CHYPS Foyer at South Burns. Councillors Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. May and Mrs. D. Prest indicated their intentions to attend the meeting. Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 9. 10/42 The Annual Newsletter

The Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. Forrester outlined items under preparation or consideration at present. The Chairman requested that all Councillors consider a contribution, and County Cllr. P. May kindly agreed to provide an article. The Police will be invited to submit an article. Mr. G. Nairn had been asked to supply an item, as usual, for "Historic North Lodge".

Item 10. 10/43 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>VAT</u>
D. Murrell	£	Salary/Exps. April 10	
Durham County Pension Fund	£	Clerk's Pension April 10	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 22.32	Stamps	
County DhM Assn of Local Councils	£ 255.23	Annual Subscription	
Durham County Council	£ 258.50	Christmas Tree Lights	£38.50
D. Carins	£	Wages/Exps. April 10	

(**Resolved** - the accounts rendered be approved for payment).

Item 11. 10/44 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the next Council meeting was the Annual Meeting at which, amongst other business, would be the election of Holders of Office. Under the agreed rota arrangement for the Chair, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt was the next member willing to take the Chair, and Cllr. Mrs. M. May would-be the Vice-Chairman. However, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt would not be able to attend the Annual Meeting and Councillors considered it inappropriate, due to her comparatively short time as a Councillor, to invite Cllr. Mrs. May to take the Chair for the Annual Meeting. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, therefore, expressed her willingness to be elected as Chair for the next meeting and this was accepted by Councillors with thanks.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Mrs. Caygill be elected to Chair the Annual Meeting of May 2010).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th May 2010.

<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>VAT</u>
D. Murrell	£	Salary/Exps. May 10	
Durham County Pension Fund	£	Clerk's Pension May 10	
Mrs. E. Prest (via Klondyke G. C.)	£ 9.00	Purchase of Plants	
C.C. Ltd	£ 792.32	Annual Insurance Premium	
Npower Northern Ltd	£ 67.74	Power for Christmas Tree Lights	£9.18
D. Carins	£	Gardener's Wages May 10	

Balance to 31st May 2010

Balance b/f	£19421.13	Bank:-	
		Current	£ 1249.89
Deduct Payments - April 10	<u>£ 1337.12</u>	30 Day	<u>£35431.65</u>
	£18084.01	Total	£36681.54
Add Bank Interest Received	£ 0.80		
Add Double Taxation Grant Rec'd	£ 83.00		
Add Precept Received	<u>£ 18000.00</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 513.73</u>
Balance c/f	£36167.81		£36167.81

