

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 16th June 2010.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. E. Forrester,
Mrs. L. LeDune, Prof. V. McEwan, Mrs. D. Prest,
Mrs. C. Walton, S. Tones.
Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1. 10/59 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Mrs. M. May and County Councillor P. May. Councillor C. Jukes had also given Apologies for his expected late arrival at the meeting.

Item 2. 10/60 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited the PCSO to give her report. The PCSO reported on the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). Councillors advised of instances of graffiti. The Chairman reported that youths had been seen making a camp between Merlin Drive play area and the motorway, and this had been dealt with by the Police. The Chairman advised of a vehicle which had caused an obstruction in Lombard Drive and the PCSO had advised that she was monitoring the situation. Re the recently installed "No Stopping" signs in Lombard Drive, the road had been re-surfaced and now awaited the re-painting of the yellow lines. Councillors considered, therefore, that the signs might not be lawful at present and should be covered over until the lines were painted. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

The Chairman thanked the PCSO for her report.

Item 3. 10/61 Reports of the County Councillors

In the absence of the County Councillors, no reports were made.

Item 4. 10/62 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th May 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.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. S. Brown arrived at the meeting.

Item 5. 10/63 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 10/54 section b). Re road markings, Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that the broken white lines at the junction of Leander Avenue and Caxton Way needed re-painting. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council.

b) Re Minute 10/54 section c). Re the re-painting of the wall of the North Road bus shelter near to Lombard Drive, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the County Council had carried out some work but the wall needed a complete re-paint. She was pursuing this with the County Council. Cllr. Tones advised that some safety surfacing at Low Flatts play area was uneven, and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will

inspect this.

- c) Re Minute 10/54 section e). Re a speed survey at Picktree Village, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and the Clerk advised that nothing further had been heard from County Cllr. J. Cordon.
- d) Re Minute 10/54 section f). The Chairman advised that he had attended a public consultation meeting for the design of the sculpture to be installed at Northlands. Consultations for the Merlin Drive play area and Drum Industrial Estate sculptures are awaited.
- e) Re Minute 10/54 section h). Re building work at 7 Blind Lane, Cllr. Mrs. Walton and Cllr. Mrs. Prest had been advised that the property had been inspected by the Bat Preservation Society and no bats had been found.
- f) Re Minute 10/54 section i). Re the proposed CHYPS Foyer at South Burns, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill understood that further discussions were being held.

Item 6. 10/64 Correspondence

1) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) email re the County Council's Places To Go, Things To Do Management Strategy Group.
- b) email re the County Durham Development Plan.
- c) Agenda for the meeting of the Chester-le-Street and District CDALC Sub Committee to be held on Saturday 26th June 2010.

If available, the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and Cllr. Mrs. May will attend the meeting on behalf of the Council.

2) From Durham County Council

- a) email re the Definitive Map.

The County Council had made available a detailed map of the County. The Chairman had kindly extracted a section showing the Parish and its boundaries, and copies were distributed to each Councillor.

- b) Letter re Link2 new dial-a-ride minibus service.
- c) Letter re Transit 15 extension of consultation period.
- d) email re civil parking enforcement.
- e) Letter re ownership of bus shelters.
- f) Letter re Northlands Play Area public art scheme consultation.
- g) Invitation to the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership meeting to be held on Monday 12th July 2010.
- h) Invitation to Parish and Town Councils Conference to be held on Monday 19th July 2010.

The Chairman, if available, will attend this meeting on behalf of the Council.

- i) The County Durham Compact draft consultation document.

Cllr. Prof. McEwan kindly agreed to inspect the draft Compact on behalf of the Council.

- j) The County Durham Plan Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper.

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

Application for demolition of dwelling house and erection of two storey detached dwelling, detached garage and combination of a brick boundary wall and metal railings to the front of the property, at 7 Blind Lane.

Item 7. 10/65 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report.

a) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters. 1) At Merlin Drive play area, the County Council had been experiencing temporary difficulties with their grass cutting machinery. 2) The pest controller was working successfully at Merlin Drive. 3) The Chairman advised of a broken fence plank at Merlin Drive play area and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will inspect this.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and 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 bulb planting at Blind Lane, should the discussions with the County Council be successful Cllr. Mrs. Walton will approach the owners of the Children's Nursery there to ascertain if they would join in the project. Re attendance at a meeting by Martin Briscoe, Cllr. Mrs. Walton is to invite him to the September meeting of the Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report.

c) Highways Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters. 1) Councillors should now be observing if any hedges are overgrowing pavements and / or roads. 2) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, County Cllr. P. May and a resident had together observed a number of kerbs which required lowering to facilitate the passage of wheelchairs, pushchairs etc. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will pursue this with the County Councillor.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report. The Chairman invited Cllr. Tones to give his report.

d) Planning Cllr. Tones advised that all matters had been raised previously in the meeting.

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

e) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that she had collated the Newsletter articles, and the draft had been delivered to the Clerk for onward transmission to the printer. Councillors thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her work in producing the draft Newsletter.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her report.

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

Item 8. 10/66 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised that all matters to be reported had either been covered already in the meeting or would be covered in later agenda items.

Item 9. 10/67 Transit 15 Proposals

The Chairman provided an up-date re progress with the Parish Council's consultation submission in the Transit 15 A167 Northlands Roundabout Modifications to Layout proposal, including 1) that Cllr. Tones had provided the Parish Council with a copy of his excellent submission in a private capacity, 2) the Chairman had made various observations of bus timings in the area of the roundabout, 3) the Chairman had submitted to the County Council requests for information and data relating to the proposal, 4) the Chairman and residents had held a site meeting with the County Council Head of Transport to discuss various aspects of the proposal, including social and environmental issues. This site meeting had led to the County Council extending the consultation period by three weeks.

Councillors provided evidence of many residents communicating to the County Council their objections to the proposal. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill kindly agreed to make enquiries to ascertain the Police position on the proposal.

(Resolved - that the Chairman and Clerk together, with reference to Cllr. Tones, are to submit to the County Council the Parish Council's response to the Transit 15 Northlands proposal).

Item 10. 10/68 The County Durham Development Plan

The Chairman outlined the recently received Development Plan Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper, and expressed the importance of the Plan for the future of all parts of the County. Councillors were urged to read the relevant sections of the Paper, and a reply to the Paper is to be discussed at the July meeting of the Parish Council.

Item 11. 10/69 The Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit

The Clerk outlined the requirement for an assessment of the internal audit. Councillors discussed the system in place and were satisfied that it was effective.

At this point, Cllr. Tones left the meeting.

Item 12. 10/70 The Statement of Accounts for 2009 / 2010

The draft Statement of Accounts (Appendix 3, attached), copies of which had been previously circulated, was discussed by Councillors who agreed that the draft was to be approved. (**Resolved** - to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2009 / 2010).

Item 13. 10/71 The Annual Governance Statement

Councillors considered the draft Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 4, attached) completed by the Clerk and agreed that it should be approved. (**Resolved** - to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2009 / 2010).

Item 14. 10/72 An Overall Amount for Donations

The Clerk advised Councillors that the present amount set aside for donations was £250 per year. Councillors discussed this and agreed to increase the total amount for 2010 / 2011 to £500, with a usual donation of £50 per request. (**Resolved** - to set a total amount of £500 for donations in the year 2010 / 2011).

Item 15. 10/73 Requests for Donations

Councillors considered the outstanding requests for donations and agreed to make donations of £50 to each of the following.

Butterwick House Children's Hospice
Sunderland and North Durham Royal Society for the Blind
RSVP North East
Great North Air Ambulance
Chester-le-Street & District Voluntary Welfare Committee

Item 16. 10/74 Review of Salaries, Payments and Expenses

Councillors considered the Gardener's wages and expenses and agreed that they were not to be changed. The Clerk advised that his salary was set by the national agreement which was awaited for 2010 / 2011. Councillors discussed the Clerk's expenses and agreed that the amount should be increased by £10 per month with effect from July 2010. (**Resolved** - to increase the Clerk's expenses by £10 per month with effect from July 2010).

Item 17. 10/75 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. June 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension June 2010	
C. Noble-Nesbitt	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Abbey Tree Surgeons Ltd	£125.00	Tree Work at Picktree Lodge	
Park View Community Association	£14.00	Room Hire	
JAK Publications Ltd	£35.00	Printing of Flyers	
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. June 2010	
I. Herberson	£40.00	Internal Audit Fee	

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

Item 18. 10/76 Other Matters for Consideration

There were no other matters submitted for consideration.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to the Chairman for the great amount of work carried out by him to date on the Transit 15 proposals.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.28pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th June 2010.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. June 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension June 2010	
C. Noble-Nesbitt	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Abbey Tree Surgeons Ltd	£125.00	Tree Work at Picktree Lodge	
Park View Community Association	£14.00	Room Hire	
JAK Publications Ltd	£35.00	Printing of Flyers	
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. June 2010	
I. Herberson	£40.00	Internal Audit Fee	

Balance to 31st May 2010

Balance b/f	£36167.81	Bank:-	
			Current £758.43
Deduct Payments - May 2010	<u>£1988.48</u>		30 Day <u>£35431.65</u>
	£34179.33		Total <u>£36190.08</u>
Add Vat Refund Received	<u>£1991.75</u>		
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£19.00</u>
Balance c/f	£36171.08		<u>£36171.08</u>