

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 July 2010.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune,
Mrs. M. May, Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. C. Walton, S. Tones.

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

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

Item 1. 10/77 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E. Forrester and Prof. V. McEwan.

Item 2. 10/78 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).

At this point, Councillors agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow the residents to raise a matter with the Police regarding parking restrictions in Lombard Drive.

Councillor Mrs. S. Brown and Mr. John McGargill of Durham County Council arrived at the meeting.

The subsequent discussion with the residents included a helpful contribution from Mr. McGargill.

Following the departure of the residents, the Chairman reconvened the meeting and thanked the PCSO for her report.

At this point, County Councillor J. Cordon arrived at the meeting.

Item 3. 10/79 Presentation on Civil Parking Enforcement

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John McGargill of Durham County Council to the meeting and invited him to give his presentation. Mr. McGargill outlined the proposed Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) scheme for County Durham which is expected to come into force in March 2011. The presentation included the reasons for the introduction of the scheme, the enforcement of the scheme, traffic contraventions which would not come within the scope of CPE but would remain with the Police, and the financing of the scheme. In conclusion, Mr. McGargill asked that the Parish Council send an email to him in support of the scheme. The Chairman thanked Mr. McGargill for his clear and informative presentation. Following the departure of Mr. McGargill, Councillors discussed his request for support and agreed that a message of general support for the scheme, plus a number of specific comments made by Councillors, should be sent.

Item 4. 10/80 Reports of the County Councillors

The Chairman invited County Councillor P. May to give his report which included the following matters.

- 1) Many residents had complained about the profusion of graffiti throughout the town. The County Council was cleaning the graffiti and the Police were hoping to arrest the offenders.
- 2) The artwork project for Northlands was progressing well.
- 3) The recent "Firebirds" performance in the town had been very well received. Several Councillors had attended the event and were in full agreement with County Cllr. May. It was agreed that an email should be sent to the Area Action Partnership expressing congratulations on a very enjoyable event which had been well organized and had provided a success for Chester-le-Street.
- 4) Work on installing the new roundabout at the A693 / Drum Road junction was expected to commence by October at the latest.
- 5) County Cllr. May, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and a resident had held a site visit to assess the need for dropped kerbs along North Road. Fourteen sites were observed, following which the County Cllr. made representations to the County Council who agreed that the work should go ahead. Funding is to come from County Cllr. May's highways allocation. Councillors expressed their thanks to County Cllr. May for his actions on this matter.
- 6) The Police were willing to receive bids for the allocation of two electronic speed indicator signs and Councillors suggested several sites in the Parish. Several Councillors volunteered to assist the Police in the monitoring of speeding vehicles.
- 7) A trainee reflexologist was seeking volunteers to be case studies.

The Chairman thanked County Cllr. May for his report and invited County Cllr. J. Cordon to give his report.

County Cllr. Cordon gave his reasons for supporting the Transit 15 proposals for the area. In reply, the Chairman outlined the Parish Council's position. County Cllr. Cordon advised that he would not attend the Highways Committee meeting at which the proposal would be considered.

The Chairman thanked County Cllr. Cordon for his report, and the County Cllr. then left the meeting.

Item 5. 10/81 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th June 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 6. 10/82 Matters Arising

- a) Re Minute 10/63 section b). Re the re-painting of the wall of the North Road bus shelter near to Lombard Drive, Councillors agreed that a letter should be sent requesting the County Council to carry out the work, with the Parish Council funding this. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the uneven safety surfacing at Low Flatts play area had now been repaired.
- b) Re Minute 10/63 section c). Cllr. Mrs. Brown advised that the Police had utilised their speed gun in Picktree Village.
- c) Re Minute 10/63 section f). Re the proposed CHYPS Foyer at South Burns, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the Planning Department expected to be provided with a formal planning application.
- d) Re Minute 10/64 section 2i). Re inspection of the draft County Durham Compact, in the absence of Cllr. Prof. McEwan no report was made.

Item 7. 10/83 Correspondence

- 1) From a Resident
Copy letter from Durham County Council re Transit 15.
- 2) From the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Newsletter - CPRE Overview, Summer 2010.
- 3) From the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Booklet - Being a Good Employer, a guide for parish and town councillors.
- 4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Newsletter - Durham Association News, Issue 30, June 2010.
 - b) email re appointment of Regional Development Officer.
 - c) email re casual vacancies.
 - d) email re County Association / Standards Committee Compact.
 - e) email re Community Infrastructure Levy.
 - f) email re Durham County Council Housing Strategy consultations.
 - g) email re County Durham Plan consultations.
 - h) email re training courses.
- 5) From Durham County Council
 - a) email re Transit 15.
 - b) Letter re Community Website - www.chester-le-live.co.uk.
 - c) Letter re Altogether Greener, Environment Partnership "14 for 14" Initiative.
 - d) Agenda for the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting held on Monday 28th June 2010.
 - e) email re road markings in Lombard Drive and Leander Avenue.
 - f) Invitation to North East Salsa Event.
 - g) Invitation to the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting to be held on Monday 26th July 2010.
 - h) Agenda for the Parish and Town Councils Conference held on Monday 19th July 2010.
 - i) Invitation to a Civic Reception and Dinner to be held on Friday 8th October 2010.
 - j) The County Durham Plan Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper.
- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Approval for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of part single-storey / part two-storey extension at rear of dwelling, at 44 Lombard Drive.
 - b) Approval for erection of first floor extension at side of dwelling above existing garage, single-storey extension to rear of dwelling and construction of porch and pitched roof over existing flat roof at front, at 4 Mitford Close.

Item 8. 10/84 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. At Merlin Drive play area,
- 1) A letter had been received from a resident pursuing his previous requests for the installation of a fence on the southern boundary of the play area. Councillors agreed that the matter should be referred to the County Council, and the gardener is to clear weeds and tidy the area in question.
 - 2) Large clumps of grass cuttings were causing some children to trip. Councillors agreed that the County Council be requested to clear the cuttings.

3) The catch on the entrance gate was not working properly and this was allowing dogs to enter. The Clerk will advise the County Council.

4) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill proposed the purchase of an additional set of swings from Parish Council funds which included £500 previously donated by the Residents' Association. Councillors agreed that the County Council should be approached for their agreement and to provide quotes for consideration by the Parish Council.

At Low Flatts play area,

5) Tents had been observed on the play field. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had asked the Police to deal with the matter.

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 moles near to the Millennium Yew tree, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will contact the pest control officer. Re the refurbishment of seats at Lombard Drive, the Clerk will request the County Council to carry out the work. County Cllr. P. May advised that he hoped to provide funds for planting of Northlands roundabout but this would not be until the conclusion of the Transit 15 project. The County Cllr. also considered that thought should be given to the tidying of the area around the North Road bridge.

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

c) Highways Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters. 1) Pruning of hedges overgrowing pavements and / or roads might be encouraged by the article in the Newsletter now being delivered to residents. 2) Rolls Royce was also to build a factory on the former Dunlop site. There would therefore be the possibility of additional traffic through Picktree Village and this development should be monitored.

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

d) Planning Cllr. Tones advised that the new government were seeking to move planning decisions to a more local level and major changes to the planning process could be expected.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Tones for his report.

e) Publicity In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Forrester, no report was made.

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

Item 9. 10/85 The Current Transit 15 Proposals

Councillors agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Caygill that the submission by the Parish Council to the County Council in the consultation process had been excellent and this was due to the work of the Chairman. Councillors agreed with the Chairman that the County Council's reply had been unsatisfactory. The Chairman proposed a number of specific points for a reply back to the County Council. Councillors agreed these points and agreed that the Chairman, with reference to Cllr. Tones and the Clerk where appropriate, is to reply on behalf of the Parish Council.

Item 10. 10/86 The County Durham Development Plan

Councillors discussed the draft plan and agreed that there were no significant Parish matters requiring comment.

Item 11. 10/87 The Production and Distribution of the Newsletter

For future years, the Chairman encouraged Councillors to submit their articles electronically, wherever possible. This would assist the printers in the efficient production of the Newsletter.

Item 12. 10/88 The Website

Councillors agreed with the Chairman's proposal that Councillors' names should be listed on the website in the format of first name and surname. The Chairman and Cllr. Prof. McEwan would work to make progress on the development of the website.

Item 13. 10/89 The Boundary Commission Review

The Chairman advised that the decision of the Boundary Commission was now deferred in order that the Commission could up-date its information.

Item 14. 10/90 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported briefly on his attendance at the following five external meetings during the previous month:

AAP Board; AAP Forum; North Lodge Residents Association;
CDALC Chester-le-Street District Sub-Committee;
Parish and Town Councils Conference hosted by DCC Standards Committee, from which the Chairman distributed copies of the comprehensive briefing notes, to Councillors for later perusal.

Item 15. 10/91 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. July 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension July 2010	
D. Murrell (via Staples)	£166.87	Photocopier Cartridge and Stationery	£24.85
Butterwick House Children's Hospice	£50.00	Donation	
Sunderland and North Durham Royal Society for the Blind	£50.00	Donation	
RSVP North East	£50.00	Donation	
Great North Air Ambulance	£50.00	Donation	
Chester-le-Street & District Voluntary Welfare Committee	£50.00	Donation	
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. July 2010	
D. Carins	£2.95	Black Bin Liners	
JAK Publications Ltd	£227.95	Printing of Newsletters	£33.95
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£30.24	Postage Stamps	
Country Care Pest Control	£95.00	Pest Control	

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

Item 16. 10/92 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that trees in Leander Avenue, near the noticeboard, were fouling overhead telephone wires. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the trees were not the Parish Council's and it was known that BT cut them back periodically.

The Chairman wished everyone an enjoyable summer recess and closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st July 2010.

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Great North Air Ambulance	£50.00	Donation	
Chester-le-Street & District Voluntary Welfare Committee	£50.00	Donation	
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. July 2010	
 <u>Balance to 30th June 2010</u>			
Balance b/f	£36171.08	Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - June 2010	<u>£ 1165.07</u>		
	£35006.01		
			Current £ 1074.36
			30 Day <u>£33931.65</u>
			Total £35006.01
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ nil</u>
Balance c/f	£35006.01		£35006.01