

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View Community School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 19th April 2011.

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

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

One Resident

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone and reminding Councillors that some thought needed to be given, in advance of the May meeting, to nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Item 1. 11/37 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. L. LeDune and Prof. V. McEwan.

Item 2. 11/38 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO L. Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give the Police report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1).

Councillors discussed speed limits and speeding traffic, particularly at Blind Lane and North Road. The Chairman advised of an incidence of youth nuisance at Merlin Drive play area which had been reported to the Police but was not recorded in the Police report and the PCSO advised that this would probably be because the incident had not been categorized by the Police as youth nuisance. The PCSO advised that the assault committed in the Parish in December 2010 on a female remained unresolved. The PCSO also outlined the law regarding the carrying of guns in public places.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for presenting the report.

Item 3. 11/39 Reports of the County Councillors

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

- 1) Re two unadopted pavements on North Lodge Estate, one was expected to be adopted in its present condition whilst the County Cllr. would be providing funds from his allowance to bring the other one to adoptable standards. An estimate for the works was awaited.
- 2) County Cllr. May was investigating the possibility of the purchase of a speed watch visor from his allowance. This would cost approximately £8000 plus on-going costs and he might request financial assistance from the Parish Council for this. The installation of a visor would require the agreement of the Police and the County Council Highways Department.
- 3) Re the planting of Northlands roundabout, the Highways Department had raised concerns and a compromise was being discussed.

4) Re the latest County Council Transit 15 proposal, County Cllr. May considered that although some aspects of Northlands roundabout and its feeder roads were dangerous now, the proposal would worsen the situation. The County Cllr. would be making this point to the Highways Department.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 4. 11/40 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th March 2011, 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 5. 11/41 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 11/29 section a). Re an improvement scheme for the Barley Mow area, due to holiday commitments by both parties the Chairman had not yet met with the project officer for the County Council. Councillors discussed the apparent shortcomings in the County Council's records of land ownership and County Cllr. May kindly agreed to investigate why Merlin Drive play area was not recorded by the County Council as in their ownership.

b) Re Minute 11/30 section 4b). Re the registration of the Council with HMRC as an employer for PAYE and NIC purposes, the Clerk advised that paperwork from HMRC was now to hand.

c) Re Minute 11/30 section 5a). Re the County Council's proposal to close Roseberry Grange Golf Complex, County Cllr. May advised that he continued to receive requests for funding from interested parties but is not minded to support these.

d) Re Minute 11/30 section 5j). Cllr. Mrs. M. May reported that she had attended the Area Action Partnership Environment Task & Finish Group meeting held on Tuesday 22nd March (Appendix 2, attached) at which it had been agreed to devise a survey of community groups to establish what environmental work is being carried out and, therefore, what else needs to be done. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill suggested that the Group could consider a project to tidy the area around the Low Flatts ponds and Cllr. Mrs. May agreed to take this forward for consideration.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. Brown left the meeting.

Councillors discussed the roles of Parish Councils and the Chester-le-Street sub-committee of the County Durham Association of Local Councils in influencing the AAP, including the method of appointment of the Parish Council representative to the Board of the AAP. Cllr. Mrs. May reported that no advice of the March meeting of the CDALC sub-committee had been delivered to the Parish Council, which therefore had not been attended by any representative of the Council, and she understood from conversations with CDALC officials that the omission was due to an oversight on their part. Councillors agreed that Cllr. Mrs. May is to draft and forward to the Clerk for onward transmission, a letter to CDALC covering these points discussed.

Item 6. 11/42 The Modified Transit 15 Proposal

The Chairman had provided for prior circulation to each Councillor, a copy of the County Council's letter dated 17th March 2011 and draft plan describing the County Council's latest proposals for the Transit 15 project. The County Council was seeking the opinion of the Parish Council before putting the proposals to a further public consultation. Councillors discussed these and expressed continuing severe doubts regarding the safety of pedestrians from the flow of east/west traffic, in particular at the crossing points at Blind Lane, to the north of the roundabout and to the west of the roundabout. In addition, the proposal to increase the flow of traffic around the roundabout was opposed in principle. However, the North Road section of the proposal was accepted.

(Resolved - that the Chairman, Cllr. Tones and the Clerk are to formulate a response to the County Council incorporating the points set out above).

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his work in producing copies of the County Council proposal.

Item 7. 11/43 Correspondence

1) From Lloyds TSB

Letter re unpaid cheque.

The Clerk advised that the Bank had returned unpaid the cheque payable to Wicksteed Leisure Ltd, marked "Not signed in accordance with account mandate". The Clerk had discussed this with the bank and it appeared that the Bank was working from an old mandate. The Bank was to make further investigations.

2) From Chester-le-Street & District Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau

a) Letter re renewal of membership.

b) CVS News - edition 56, March 2011.

3) From Durham Miners' Association

Letter re Durham Miners' Gala.

4) From the Chief of the Defence Staff

Letter re Armed Forces Day.

5) From Sustrans

email re dangerous steps at Low Flatts.

Councillors agreed that the Council was not in a position to fund Sustrans' proposed installation of a ramp at Low Flatts. The Clerk will advise Sustrans accordingly.

6) From Community Consultation Limited

Insurance renewal papers.

Councillors agreed to accept the renewal premium of £857.61.

7) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re meeting of the Chester-le-Street AAP Sub-Committee.

b) email re sport and leisure facility review consultation.

c) email re consultation draft of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for County Durham.

d) email re consultation process for the County Durham Plan.

8) From Durham County Council

a) email from Councillor P. May re speed visors.

b) email re County Durham playing pitch and outdoor sports consultation.

c) Consultation document re proposed changes to the home to school/college transport policy.

d) email re consultation on Community Alarms and Telecare Services.

e) Invitation to Digital Durham Event held on 7th April 2011.

f) Letter re Overview and Scrutiny Review of Area Action Partnerships.

g) Questionnaire from the Improved Environment Task Group.

The Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and Cllr. Mrs. May are to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Council.

h) Letter re Field Boundary Awards 2011.

i) Board Papers for the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meetings held on Monday 28th March 2011 and Monday 18th April 2011.

- 9) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for increase in height of existing ridge line and installation of dormer windows to provide additional bedrooms, erection of kitchen and lobby extension, new access gates/ driveway and construction of swimming pool (revised application of previously approved application 2/10/00181/FUL), at Woodcroft, Picktree Village.
 - b) Application for installation of solar panels on outbuilding to rear of property, at Garden House, Picktree Village.
 - c) Approval for single storey extension to side and rear of factory and provision of 3 no. above ground gas tanks, at Unit 29, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
 - d) Approval for application to extend time limit for implementation of previously approved scheme 08/00207/OUT for the erection of 1 no. detached dwelling (outline), at Hollydene, North Lodge.
 - e) Withdrawal of application for erection of conservatory at rear of dwelling, at 58 Leander Avenue.

Item 8. 11/44 Development of the Parish Council's Website

Cllr. Prof. McEwan had provided a written report (Appendix 3, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk. Re a launch date for the website, Councillors agreed that a September date would be appropriate and the Chairman is to discuss this with the County Council lead officer. The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllr. Prof. McEwan for her report and for all her work to date on the project.

Item 9. 11/45 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) The new swings had now been installed. Soil piled into a corner during the installation had subsequently been levelled. 2) The Clerk is to remind the County Council that safety surfacing repairs are outstanding. 3) The artist is preparing for consideration a model of the proposed artwork installation. At Low Flatts play area, 4) There were many instances of dog fouling. The County Council, through the Neighbourhood Warden system, had agreed to erect warning notices. Councillors were urged to report any incidents of dog-fouling to the Head Warden. 5) There were many rabbit holes. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to request that these be filled. 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 4).

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

c) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that her report would be contained in the following Agenda Item 11.

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

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Tones.

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

f) Highways Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 5, part 2).

Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

Item 10. 11/46 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 5, part 1). Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

Item 11. 11/47 The Newsletter

Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that she had to hand several suggestions for items for this year's Newsletter. Councillors suggested further items and Cllr. Mrs. Forrester will make an initial draft in due course.

Item 12. 11/48 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

| TO | AMOUNT | REASON | VAT |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------|
| D. Murrell | | Salary/Exps. April 2011 | |
| Durham County Pension Fund | | Clerk's Pension April 2011 | |
| Park View Community Association | £20.00 | Room Hire | |
| D. Murrell (via Costco) | £22.99 | Postage Stamps | |
| Npower Northern Limited | £73.77 | Christmas Tree Lighting | £11.31 |

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

Item 13. 11/49 Other Matters for Consideration

There were no matters submitted for consideration.

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 on Tuesday 17th May 2011.

| TO | AMOUNT | REASON | VAT |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| D. Murrell | | Salary/Exps. May 2011 | |
| Durham County Pension Fund | | Clerk's Pension May 2011 | |
| Park View Community Association | £20.00 | Room Hire | |
| Community Consultation Ltd | £857.61 | Annual Insurance Premium | |
| M. Caygill | £1.96 | Card and Stamp | |

Balance to 30th April 2011

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Balance b/f | £18588.94 | Balances at Bank:- | |
| | | | Current £ 2593.29 |
| Deduct Payments - April 2011 | <u>£ 736.49</u> | | 30 Day <u>£40028.95</u> |
| | £17852.45 | | Total £42622.24 |
| Add Interest Received | <u>£ .59</u> | | |
| | £17853.04 | Deduct cheques not yet presented | <u>£ 206.66</u> |
| Add Precept Received | <u>£18000.00</u> | | |
| | £35853.04 | | |
| Add Double Taxation Grant Rec'd | <u>£ 83.00</u> | | |
| | £35936.04 | | |
| Add Grant from Cllr. P. May | <u>£ 5000.00</u> | | |
| | £40936.04 | | |
| Add VAT Refund Received | <u>£ 1479.54</u> | | |
| Balance c/f | £42415.58 | | £42415.58 |