

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 July 2011.

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

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

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

Item 1. 11/80 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune, Prof. V. McEwan, C. Jukes and S. Tones, and from County Councillor J. Cordon and PCSO L. Hunter. The Clerk advised that an e-mail had been received from Cllr. Prof. McEwan stating her intention to tender her resignation from the Council. Councillors were unanimous in their disappointment at this news. The Clerk is to contact Cllr. Prof. McEwan to advise that the Council does not require a final decision immediately and hopes a way might be found to enable her to remain a Councillor.

Item 2. 11/81 Report of the Police

In the absence of the Police, PCSO L. Hunter had provided a written report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read by the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter, in her absence, for providing the report.

Item 3. 11/82 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 the possibility of a speed visor for the area, the County Council and the Police had now identified suitable sites. A cost analysis was now awaited.
- 2) The County Council was proposing to re-site certain speed limit signs on North Road. An initial consultation was being undertaken before a decision was taken to proceed or not. If the project was to progress further, a formal consultation would be carried out. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt considered that it would be important for road users, as well as local residents, to be included in the formal consultation, should the project develop to one.
- 3) Flowers had now been planted in the beds at Northlands roundabout, and Councillors agreed that these looked very attractive. County Cllr. May was now investigating the possibility of having an electricity supply installed on the roundabout.
- 4) County Cllr. May advised that a boundary review was to be undertaken for MP's constituencies. Nationally there were to be fifty fewer MP's, and reviews were to be carried out every five years. The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 4. 11/83 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st June 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. 11/84 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 11/65 section 6). Re two properties with derelict cars in the gardens, County Cllr. P. May advised that the County Council had set up a team to engage with owners whose properties gave cause for concern.

b) Re Minute 11/65 section 7). Re Park View Lower School trees overhanging into a resident's garden, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had advised the Clerk that it had been ascertained that the trees were not, in fact, overhanging although they were restricting light into the property. Although, therefore, there was no obligation on the School, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had asked the School to still consider cutting back the trees as a gesture of good faith.

c) Re Minute 11/65 section 9). Re consultation on the County Durham Plan, the Chairman advised that the Parish Council's sub-group, set up to consider this matter, had met and had agreed a submission which had been sent to the County Council (Appendix 2, attached).

d) Re Minute 11/67 section e). Re the poor appearance of utility boxes, the Clerk advised that the County Council had been in contact with BT who were inspecting 2 boxes under their case reference no. 4153535.

e) Re Minute 11/79 section 2). Re the poor appearance of electricity sub-stations, the Clerk advised that the County Council had been in contact with CE Electric who had agreed to inspect the Leander Avenue sub-station under their case reference no. 779049.

f) Re Minute 11/68 section 7j). The Chairman advised she had attended the public art work event at Northlands play area. It had been an enjoyable event, also attended by many children.

g) Re Minute 11/69 section d). Councillors had observed that the road surface at the Vigo Lane/Barley Mow roundabout junction was in poor condition. The Clerk will advise this to the Highways Action Line.

h) Re Minute 11/69 section e). Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that the Youth Centre was now closed and a decision on the future of the building would be taken in September by the County Council.

i) Re Minute 11/71. Re a submission to the Boundary Commission's further draft recommendations, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had prepared a draft which was considered and agreed by Councillors (Appendix 3, attached). Residents were urged to send their own short submission in support of the Parish Council.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt is to make the agreed submission on behalf of the Parish Council).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his further work on this matter.

j) Re Minute 11/79 section 1). Re the tidying of the pond area between Low Flatts and the Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had advised the Clerk that she had made contact with the owners of the Estate. A community project had been suggested and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, with the help of County Cllr. P. May, would be pursuing this. The County Councillor suggested that, in view of the litter and debris at the pond, this was a matter in which the Neighbourhood Wardens could become involved and the Clerk will therefore contact the Wardens.

Item 6. 11/85 Correspondence

- 1) From Cancer Research UK
Letter of thanks for donation.
- 2) From Bishop Auckland Community Events
Invitation to fund-raising event to be held on Sunday 7th August in support of the New Endeavour Unit, James Cook University Hospital.
- 3) From County Durham and Darlington NHS
Consultation papers re improving stroke care.
- 4) From Durham Police Authority
 - a) email re Community Awards 2011.
 - b) email re speeding traffic.
- 5) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) email re "3C's" training event.The Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. Forrester expressed interest in attending this event. The Clerk will advise the Association accordingly.

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

- b) email re New Burdens Doctrine.
- c) email re Open Public Services White Paper.

The Clerk outlined the Paper which sets out the Government's proposal for the modernisation of local government.

- d) email re County Durham Partnership Environment Awards.
- e) email re grants for sports venues.
- f) email re Jubilee Beacons.

Councillors agreed to consider this matter at the October meeting of the Parish Council.

- g) email re ending of free website provision.
- h) email re review of indoor sport and leisure facilities.
- i) email re review of polling districts and polling places.

Councillors discussed this matter and agreed that provision of a polling place in Picktree Village would be well received by residents there. The Clerk will advise the County Council accordingly.

- j) email re Parish Paths Partnership 20 year's celebration.
- k) email re artwork for Merlin Drive.

The Clerk advised that the email contained a design proposal for the play area artwork, and comments were requested by Friday 22nd July. Councillors considered that this timescale was too short for a full consideration of the design which had now reached a critical stage, and it would be appropriate for a meeting to be held by the project committee to give the proposal the consideration it deserved. The Clerk will advise the project officer accordingly.

6) From Durham County Council

- a) Request for donation from County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.

This request is to be considered at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

- b) email re Merlin Drive play area.

- c) Agenda for the AAP Community Buildings & Community Task Group meeting held on Monday 11th July 2011.

- d) email re AAP Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th July 2011.

- e) Letter re outdoor theatre held on Thursday 14th July 2011.

- f) Board Papers for the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting held on Monday 27th June 2011.

- g) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Forum meeting to be held on Monday 25th July 2011.

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

- a) Application for erection of single storey extension to north and south elevations of dwelling and creation of decked areas and disabled access ramp, at 13 Ash Meadows.

- b) Application for erection of single-storey front extension including bay windows, changes to existing window design/sizes on the existing dwelling and the extension currently under construction, addition of rooflights/windows and Juliet balcony to rear elevation, at 53 Longdean Park.

- c) Approval for provision of additional railing to south and east terraces and steps, at Lambton Castle.

- d) Approval for upgrading of internal doors to achieve fire safety rating, at Lambton Castle.

- e) Approval for internal alterations to include provision of new male and female toilets, hot water heating system and replacement of electrical services, at Lambton Castle.

- f) Refusal for removal of lower limb of one oak tree, lift of one oak tree, fell to ground level of one sycamore and one conifer and works to various conifers all protected by a tree preservation order, at 20 North Lodge.

Item 7. 11/86 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had advised the Clerk that there were no matters to report on. 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 4). Re item 1 of the report, Councillors thanked Cllrs. Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Prest for doing so much work themselves during the absence of a gardener. Re item 2 of the report, Councillors agreed to keep in mind the possible need to source a replacement for the yew tree. Re item 4 of the report, Councillors agreed to keep this in mind for when a new gardener had been appointed.

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

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

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

d) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester expressed thanks to Mrs. Noble-Nesbitt who had given much of her time in the preparation of the Newsletter.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her report and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

e) Highways Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt outlined the County Council's proposal to re-site certain speed limit signs on North Road to gain increased compliance of the limits by motorists. Councillors discussed the proposal and agreed that the proposed re-siting was unnecessary as the desired improved compliance could be achieved by simply cutting back branches which were partially masking one of the signs. In addition, the proposed new site would have the effect of extending the 40mph speed limit area which was undesirable. The Clerk will advise the County Council accordingly. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

f) Planning In the absence of Cllr. Tones, no report was made.

g) Website In the absence of Cllr. Prof. McEwan, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that the website would be in a position to go live in September. Councillors agreed to discuss this matter at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

Item 8. 11/87 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 5). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 9. 11/88 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. July 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension July 2011	
JAK Publications Ltd	£242.40	Printing of Newsletters	£40.40
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire	
Victim Support	£50.00	Donation	
Butterwick House Children's Hospice	£50.00	Donation	
Action for Children	£50.00	Donation	
Great North Air Ambulance	£50.00	Donation	

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

Item 10. 11/89 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

1) Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that a litter bin at the bus shelter on North Road, across the road from the Lambton Worm pub, had been removed two or so years ago but had not been replaced. The Clerk will contact the County Council to request a replacement bin.

2) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had advised the Clerk that she had received a request from a resident of Picktree Lodge for the provision of a dog waste bin, to be centrally situated on the estate. The Clerk will request the County Council to consider this.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm, wishing everyone an enjoyable summer recess.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council on Tuesday 20th September 2011.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug/Sept 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug/Sept 2011	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£15.00	Postage Stamps	
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire	
M. May	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
BDO LLP	£162.00	Annual Audit Fee	£27.00

Balance to 31st July 2011

Balance b/f	£39450.57	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2011	<u>£ 1087.13</u>		Current £ 1567.38
	£38363.44		30 Day <u>£37028.95</u>
			Total £38596.33
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 232.89</u>
Balance c/f	£38363.44		<u>£38363.44</u>