

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

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

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

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

### **Item 1. 11/90 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Prof. V. McEwan and C. Jukes, and from PCSO L. Hunter.

### **Item 2. 11/91 Report of the Police**

The Chairman welcomed PC Adrian Richards and PCSO Susie Blake to the meeting and invited them to give the Police Report (Appendix 1, attached). County Cllr. May advised of complaints from residents regarding congested traffic at the entrance to a town centre car park. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised of concerns expressed by residents regarding the future occupancy of a new residential development in the town centre. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised of fly tipping at the pond between Low Flatts play area and Drum Industrial Estate. Councillors agreed that a higher level of policing there would be beneficial and PC Richards will advise this to PCSO Lesley Hunter. PCSO Blake outlined the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and advised that new members would always be welcome. The Chairman thanked PC Richards and PCSO Blake for presenting the report.

### **Item 3. 11/92 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) County Cllr. May had advised the County Council of the poor condition of footpaths along North Road, following which the County Council had inspected the paths and had put their repair on the maintenance programme for 2011/ 2012. The County Council would also contact Park View School regarding school-owned trees overhanging the footpath.
- 2) County Cllr. May with officers of the County Council had visited a site at Picktree Lodge where trees were causing problems to residents. The County Council was attempting to resolve land ownership issues there.
- 3) County Cllr. May advised that the County Council budget did not accommodate the cutting of the Baffle Bank grass. Councillors considered that it was important to ascertain if residents would prefer the Bank to be cut or not. County Cllr. May outlined the likely cost of cutting the Bank and Councillors agreed that they would consider a proposal, when presented, for a funding contribution from the Parish Council.
- 4) Re the proposed installation of speed visors, County Cllr. May advised that sites had now been agreed. He will obtain the specifications for the proposed visors and present to Councillors a request for a funding contribution from the Parish Council.

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

- 5) Regarding the installation of an electricity supply on Northlands roundabout, funding for this might be available in the next financial year.
- 6) County Cllr. May advised of forthcoming temporary road closures at Barley Mow and Drum Lane in connection with the Transit 15 project.
- 7) The recent Boundary Commission recommendations for parliamentary constituencies had not proposed any changes directly affecting North Lodge Parish.
- 8) County Cllr. May advised that the Localism Bill was currently going through Parliament. A meeting, to which Councillors were welcome to attend, was to be held at Newfield to learn about the Bill.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

#### **Item 4. 11/93 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 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. 11/94 Matters Arising**

- a) Re Minute 11/80. The Chairman advised that a formal letter of resignation from the Council was expected from Cllr. Prof. McEwan.
- b) Re Minute 11/84 section a). Cllr. Mrs. LeDune asked if County Cllr. May could request the County Council enforcement team to consider a property in Merlin Drive.
- c) Re Minute 11/84 section b). Re Park View Lower School trees overhanging into a resident's garden, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that most of the trees belonged to Sustrans not the school. She would discuss the matter further with the school Deputy Headmaster with a view to a possible site meeting of all parties.
- d) Re Minute 11/84 section c). Re the County Durham Plan, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt outlined consultation responses on the County Council website.
- e) Re Minute 11/84 section d). Re the poor appearance of utility boxes, the Clerk advised that there had been no further news from the County Council.
- f) Re Minute 11/84 section e). Re the poor appearance of electricity sub-stations, the Clerk advised that this was a matter under consideration by the Area Action Partnership. The Chairman will pursue this at the next meeting of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group.
- g) Re Minute 11/84 section i). Re the Boundary Commission's County Durham Electoral Review further draft recommendations, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt outlined the submissions on the Commission's website.
- h) Re Minute 11/84 section j). Re the tidying of the pond area between Low Flatts play area and Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had spoken to a representative of the land owners and it was hoped to have a meeting in the near future.
- i) Re Minute 11/86 section g). Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt considered that the website was now ready to go live. Councillors agreed that the County Council should be requested to make the site live at 11am on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt kindly agreed to advise the County Council.
- j) Re Minute 11/89 section 1). Re the request for reinstatement of a litter bin at the bus shelter on North Road, across the road from the Lambton Worm pub, the Clerk advised that there had not yet been a reply from the County Council.
- k) Re Minute 11/89 section 2). Re the request for the provision of a dog waste bin for the centre of Picktree Lodge, the Clerk advised that there had not yet been a reply from the County Council.

## **Item 6. 11/95 Correspondence**

1) From Victim Support

Letter of thanks for donation.

2) From the Great North Air Ambulance

Letter of thanks for donation.

3) From Butterwick House Children's Hospice

Letter of thanks for donation.

4) From Action for Children

Letter of thanks for donation.

5) From the Royal Horticultural Society

Letter promoting the Britain in Bloom campaign.

The Clerk is to ascertain the present categories for entries into the competition.

6) From Cestria Community Housing

Annual Report 2010/2011

7) From LitterFree Durham

Letter re Big Spring Clean.

8) From BDO LLP

Audit report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

The Clerk advised that no matters had been raised by the auditors.

**(Resolved** - that the annual report be approved).

Councillors thanked the Clerk for his work in achieving this clear Auditor's Report.

9) From Durham Police Authority

a) Letter re policing governance stakeholder workshop held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

b) Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011-2014.

10) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re Green Flag successes

b) email re County Council provision of legal services.

The County Council had made available, at hourly rates, the services of their Legal Team.

c) email re attendance and voting at Parish Meetings.

d) email re proposed introduction of a Smaller and Medium Local Councils Forum.

Councillors expressed interest in the proposed formation of the Forum. The Clerk will advise the Association accordingly.

e) email re proposed change of meeting day for the Chester-le-Street sub-committee.

f) Minutes of the Chester-le-Street sub-committee meeting held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

g) Agenda for the Chester-le-Street sub-committee meeting to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

h) Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

11) From Durham County Council

- a) Invitation to a Community Buildings Review consultation launch event.
- b) email re Merlin Drive play area consultation results.
- c) Quotation for attending to Christmas Lights.

Councillors agreed to accept the County Council's quote of £240 plus VAT. The Clerk will advise the County Council accordingly.

- d) Invitation to Civic Evening and Opening of Art Exhibition on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- e) Invitation to Civic Church Service held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- f) Meeting Notes for the meeting of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011.
- g) Letter of consultation to help identify "grot spots".
- h) email re "Green Dog Walker" and "Grot Spots" projects of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group.
- i) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Forum meeting to be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Before consideration of items 12c) and 12m), Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, having declared an interest, left the room.

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

- a) Application for erection of decking to rear, erection of 1.8m high boundary fence plus 2.1m high brick piers to front and erection of detached garage to rear (retrospective), at 1 Park View.
- b) Application for construction of bungalow and garage. Extension of time application of 08/00366/OUT, at 7 Eastlands.
- c) Application for installation of solar panels to south and west roof of dwelling, at 27A Lyndhurst Avenue.
- d) Application for construction of bay window at front of dwelling, at 44 Lombard Drive.
- e) Application for erection of two-storey extension at rear of dwelling, at 52 Longdean Park.
- f) Application for erection of single-storey extension to north elevation to replace existing kitchen. Installation of dormer windows to front and rear, relocation of existing front door with canopy above and new bay window to front. Alterations to existing garage, at 1 Blind Lane.
- g) Application for erection of first-floor extension at side of dwelling and canopy to front, at 84 Kingsmere.
- h) Application for erection of two storey front extension, two storey side extension with single storey canopy roof and extension to existing rear conservatory, at 39 Longdean Park.
- i) Application for crown lifting of two Sycamore trees and one Oak tree, removal of two lower limbs of one Oak tree, felling of one Conifer tree and reduction by 40% of various conifers, at 20 North Lodge.
- j) Approval for erection of two-storey extension at side (north elevation) of dwelling and single-storey extension to rear, at 64 Longdean Park.
- k) Approval 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.
- l) Approval for erection of decking to rear, erection of 1.8m high boundary fence plus 2.1m high brick piers to front, 2m high fencing to side, enlarged driveway crossing onto classified road and erection of detached garage to rear (partly retrospective), at 1 Park View.
- m) Approval for installation of solar panels to south and west roof of dwelling, at 27A Lyndhurst Avenue.
- n) Approval for construction of bay window at front of dwelling, at 44 Lombard Drive.

### **Item 7. 11/96 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) The pest controller had inspected many areas. At Merlin Drive, 2) the County Council was holding a further meeting to discuss the impending art work installation. Several Parish Councillors would be in attendance, 3) the safety surfacing had now been repaired to a high standard, 4) the County Council had been advised of some jagged edged metalwork, 5) weeds needed cutting down. At Low Flatts, 6) there were continuing instances of dog fouling. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill was seeking contact with the relevant County Council officer to discuss this.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill 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). Councillors thanked Cllrs. Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Prest for all their work during the absence of a gardener and for their work in appointing the new gardener. Cllr. Mrs. Prest advised that it was the opinion of the gardener that the Millennium Yew tree would survive if given the correct treatment.

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 outlined the various meetings attended by her during the summer recess. The County Council was again providing crocus bulbs for free, and this was noted by Cllr. Mrs. Walton.

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

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

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

**f) Highways** Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that the single yellow lines in Lombard Drive were now operative in full accord with the Traffic Regulation Order.

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

### **Item 8. 11/97 The Development of the Website**

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that as the date and time for the website to go live had been previously agreed during this meeting, there were no other matters to discuss.

### **Item 9. 11/98 The Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

### **Item 10. 11/99 Payment of Accounts**

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

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	£40.00	Room Hire (Sept/Oct)	
M. May	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
BDO LLP	£162.00	Annual Audit Fee	£27.00

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

### **Item 11. 11/100 Other Matters for Consideration**

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

- 1) Cllr. Mrs. Walton proposed that the County Council should make available to Parish Councillors attending meetings at the Civic Centre, parking passes for the members' car park there. The Clerk will contact the County Council to request this.
- 2) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had received a request for a road sign for Picktree Lodge at its junction with Vigo Lane. County Cllr. May kindly agreed to forward this request to the County Council.
- 3) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill requested that the Clerk ascertains from the County Council whether or not the flooding problem at the open space between Picktree Lodge and North Lodge estates had been attended to. The Clerk will contact the County Council accordingly.
- 4) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had received a complaint from a resident that cyclists using Northlands roundabout were causing danger to themselves and other road users. Councillors discussed this and agreed that the layout of the road did not disadvantage cyclists in any way, nor cause undue danger to other road users. There was, therefore, no further action to take on this matter.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59pm.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

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

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
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	£40.00	Room Hire (Sept/Oct)	
M. May	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
BDO LLP	£162.00	Annual Audit Fee	£27.00

**Balance to 31<sup>st</sup> 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			£38363.44