

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 18th October 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. Jukes, Mr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Councillors Mrs. S. Brown and C. Jukes were not present at the start of the meeting.

Item 1. 11/101 Apologies for Absence

Apology for Absence was received from Councillor S. Tones.

Item 2. 11/102 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give the Police Report (Appendix 1, attached). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill reported on a further incident of youth nuisance. The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for presenting the report.

Item 3. 11/103 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 matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 2).

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

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 4. 11/104 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th September 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. 11/105 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 11/91. Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was currently seeking a co-ordinator for North Lodge Estate.

At this point, Cllr. C. Jukes arrived at the meeting.

b) Re Minute 11/94 section b). County Cllr. May confirmed that he would request the County Council enforcement team to consider a property in Merlin Drive.

c) Re Minute 11/94 sections e & f). Re the poor appearances of utility boxes and electricity substations, the Clerk advised that nothing further had been heard from the County Council.

- d) Re Minute 11/94 section h). Re the pond area between Low Flatts and Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that a very useful meeting had been held with the letting agents for the Estate who had agreed to tidy the area. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had also spoken to the County Council ecologist who had advised that, with wildlife in mind, nothing other than tidying the area should be undertaken until the winter was over. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the County Council Neighbourhood Warden had agreed to consider the provision of a waste bin at the pond.
- e) Re Minute 11/100 section 1). Re car parking at the Civic Centre, the Clerk advised that the County Council had agreed that Parish Councillors could use the large car park at the rear of the building provided that car registration numbers were provided to the Civic Centre.
- f) Re Minute 11/100 section 2). Re the request for a road sign for Picktree Lodge, County Cllr. May advised that this was being considered by the County Council.

Item 6. 11/106 Correspondence

- 1) From Diamond Jubilee Beacons Ltd
Brochure re the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.
- 2) From the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Booklet - How to Respond to Planning Applications.
- 3) From County Durham LINK
Newsletter - September 2011, Issue 10.
- 4) From the Boundary Commission for England
Letter re 2013 review of Parliamentary constituencies in England.
- 5) From Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council
Letter re One Core Strategy and Area Action Plan for the Urban Core.
- 6) From Durham Police Authority
Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, October 2011.
- 7) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
email re Audit Commission.
The Commission had reported that 29 Councils (none in County Durham) had failed to file annual accounts.
- 8) From Durham County Council
 - a) email from County Cllr. J. Cordon with congratulations on the establishment of the website.
 - b) email from County Cllr. P. May re CCTV consultation.
 - c) email re parking at the Civic Centre.
 - d) email re review of indoor leisure facilities.
 - e) Letter re community buildings review.
 - f) Letter re 2011 bulb planting challenge.
 - g) email re National Tree Week 2011 grants.
 - h) Invitation for the Chairman to attend a Civic Reception and Dinner at County Hall.
The Chairman had agreed to represent the Parish Council at this event.
 - i) email re community engagement visits by the Area Action Partnership.
 - j) Meeting Notes for the meeting of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group held on 31st August 2011.
 - k) Board papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 26th September 2011.

- l) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Forum meeting to be held on Monday 26th September 2011.
 - m) Letter re County Durham Play Strategy.
- 9) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for erection of first-floor extension and balcony above existing garage at side of dwelling, at 45 Longdean Park.
 - b) Application for erection of single-storey extension at side of dwelling, at 44 Ambleside Court.
 - c) Application for felling of one Sycamore tree in rear garden area protected by a tree preservation order, at 21B North Lodge.
 - d) Application to reduce height and width of crown by approximately 20% and remove deadwood of 2 horse chestnut trees (labelled T1 and T2) protected by a tree preservation order, at 21A North Lodge.
 - e) Application for erection of single-storey extension at rear of dwelling to replace existing conservatory, at 7 Lintfort.
 - f) Approval for construction of bungalow and garage. Extension of time application of 08/00366/OUT, at 7 Eastlands.
 - g) Approval 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.
 - h) Approval for erection of first-floor extension at side of dwelling and canopy to front, at 84 Kingsmere.
 - i) Approval 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.

Item 7. 11/107 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Jukes to give his report.

a) Finance Cllr. Jukes advised that he had no matters to report on.

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

b) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester outlined the various meetings attended by her since the last Parish Council meeting. Re a meeting also attended by the Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to hear about the Localism Bill, Councillors discussed the possible benefits of producing a Parish Plan. It was agreed to consider having a presentation on Parish Plans next year depending on the progress of the Localism Bill through Parliament. It would be desirable to include the Residents' Association from the earliest stage should a Plan be developed and the Clerk will write to the Association to advise these intentions.

At this point, Cllr. Jukes left the meeting.

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

c) **Highways and Website** Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

1) The County Council's Highways Maintenance programme was awaited with interest. 2) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt gave details of the forthcoming temporary road closure and right turn prohibition at the North Road/Drum Road junction as part of the County Council Transit 15 project. 3) The Parish Council website went live on 24th September. Members of the public could access the site at <http://parishes.durham.gov.uk/northlodge/Pages/default.aspx>

or by searching

www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=7419 and choosing North Lodge from the list.

4) An additional map had been added to the website.

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

d) **Horticulture** Cllr. Mrs. Walton reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Re the planting of crocus bulbs, Councillors agreed to the purchase of 200 bulbs and suggested areas for planting.

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

e) **Play Areas** Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters.

At Merlin Drive, 1) the jagged edged metalwork had still not been repaired. The Clerk will remind the County Council. At Low Flatts, 2) Re continuing instances of dog fouling, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had discussed this with the County Council Neighbourhood Warden who had offered to provide a sign for £50. This had been agreed by the Chairman and Clerk.

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

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

Item 8. 11/108 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4). The Chairman read out the letter of resignation from Cllr. Prof. V. McEwan. The Chairman will send a letter of thanks to Cllr. Prof. McEwan for all her work with the Council. Councillors discussed the process for the election or co-option of a new Councillor.

Re the Boundary Commission matter, the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Forrester and County Cllr. May declared interests and County Cllr. May left the meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. Forrester should remain in the meeting.

Councillors discussed comments made to the Boundary Commission about the Parish Council by certain individuals. These comments were seen to be unpleasant and unsubstantiated but it was agreed that no further action would be taken at the moment.

Re the forthcoming Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Councillors agreed to discuss at the next meeting possible ways to celebrate the occasion.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 9. 11/109 Financial Projects in Partnership with the County Council

All matters relating to this item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item 10. 11/110 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

| | TO | AMOUNT | REASON | VAT |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| D. Murrell | | | Salary/Exps. Oct 2011 | |
| Durham County Pension Fund | | | Clerk's Pension Oct 2011 | |
| Pot-It-On | | £222.00 | Horticulture | |

Resolved - the accounts rendered be approved for payment).

Item 11. 11/111 Other Matters for Consideration

No other matters had been submitted for consideration.

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 15th November 2011.

| TO | AMOUNT | REASON | VAT |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| D. Murrell | | Salary/Exps. Nov 2011 | |
| Durham County Pension Fund | | Clerk's Pension Nov 2011 | |
| D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd) | £24.50 | Postage Stamps | |
| Pot-It-On | | Horticulture | |
| Durham County Council | £91.63 | Attending to Bus Shelter | £15.27 |
| Park View Community Association | £20.00 | Room Hire | |
| Cty Durham Assn of Local Councils | £54.00 | Training Event | |

Balance to 31st October 2011

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Balance b/f | £36746.98 | Balances at Bank:- | |
| Deduct Payments - Oct 2011 | <u>£ 846.73</u> | | Current £ 484.19 |
| | £35900.25 | | 30 Day <u>£35528.95</u> |
| | | | Total £36013.14 |
| | | Deduct cheques not yet presented | <u>£ 112.89</u> |
| Balance c/f | £35900.25 | | £35900.25 |