

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 15th November 2011.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. M. May.
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, 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.

A resident

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

Item 1. 11/112 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Caygill and S. Tones.

Item 2. 11/113 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman explained the requirement for this agenda item, and the need for individual Councillors to make their declarations as soon as an interest became apparent, at each meeting of the Council. There were no declarations made.

Item 3. 11/114 Report of the Police

The Police were not in attendance. PCSO Lesley Hunter had, therefore, submitted a written report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk.

Item 4. 11/115 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). Re the proposed closure of Hett Hills recycling site, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt gave an analysis of the proposal and Councillors agreed that this matter should be further discussed at an additional sub-meeting of the Parish Council within the next few weeks, with a view to agreeing the Parish Council's response to the County Council. Re speed visors, Councillors agreed that Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt was to represent the Parish Council at the meeting with the County Council.

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

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 11/116 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th October 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 6. 11/117 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 11/118 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4). Re a meeting point for the grot spot walkabout, Councillors agreed that the entrance to Lombard Drive would be most suitable. The Clerk will advise this to the Area Action Partnership.

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

b) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 5).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton 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 Transit 15 project for the Barley Mow area had now commenced and consequently Drum Lane, at its junction with North Road, was now temporarily closed. 2) The County Council would shortly publish a revised Prohibition of Waiting Order, with its associated consultation period, for Lombard Drive to change the times of prohibition to 8am-9am and 3pm-4pm. Councillors agreed that Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt should pursue with the County Council the possibility of placing the new sign on the existing lamppost. 3) The Parish Council website had suffered a glitch which had now been repaired by the County Council. 4) The Boundary Commission had now decided that its final recommendations to Parliament would include the recommendation for a single member Ward for North Lodge. The Chairman and Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for the great amount of work he had put in towards achieving this very welcome outcome.

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

d) Play Areas Due to her absence from the meeting, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had previously advised the Clerk of the following.

At Merlin Drive, 1) the jagged edged metalwork had now been repaired. At Low Flatts, 2) A dog fouling sign and post had been installed by the County Council but the sign had not been securely attached to the post. The County Council Neighbourhood Warden is now attending to this. 3) There was a small amount of graffiti on the climbing frame. The Clerk will advise this to the Neighbourhood Warden. 4) Re the pond between Low Flatts and Drum Industrial Estate, the Neighbourhood Warden had advised that it would not be possible to install a waste bin due to the difficulty in emptying a bin at such a remote site. The Industrial Estate Land Agent had advised that the upper pond had been cleaned in error and therefore the lower pond would be cleaned within the next few days.

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

e) Planning Due to his absence from the meeting, Cllr. Tones had previously advised the Clerk that there were no matters to report on.

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Jukes.

Item 8. 11/119 Correspondence

1) From North Lodge Residents' Association

- a) email re grot spot walkabout.

The walkabout is to take place on Wednesday 8th February 2012 at 10am, meeting place yet to be decided.

- b) email re Localism Bill

Durham Rural Community Council are to attend the Association's meeting on 6th March 2012 to discuss the Bill.

2) From Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends Residents' Association

- email re proposed closure of Hett Hills Household Waste Recycling Centre.

3) From the Local Government Boundary Commission

- Letter re electoral review of County Durham final recommendations.

4) From Chester-le-Street & District CVS and Volunteer Bureau

- Invitation to Durham Police Authority Stakeholder Consultation Event to be held on Friday 25th November 2011.

5) From Durham Police Authority

- Invitation to Police Authority Forum to be held on Monday 28th November 2011.

6) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) email re Policing Priorities Consultation.

- b) email re Localism Bill Code of Conduct.

- c) Invitation to Village SOS Roadshow Live event to be held on Wednesday 30th Nov. 2011.

- d) email re Localism Bill event to be held on Friday 2nd December 2011.

- e) Invitation to Community Planning Workshop to be held on Friday 9th December 2011.

- f) email re Spanish town hall and village budgets.

- g) email re Durham County Council review of household waste recycling centres.

7) From Durham County Council

- a) email re copse of trees on north side of the A693.

The HAL reference number for this matter is CRM 9385079.

- b) Letter re school admission arrangements 2013/2014.

- c) Letter re Civil Parking Enforcement.

- d) email re Registered Traders Scheme.

- e) email re response to Parish and Town Councils survey.

- f) email re visit by the AAP on 17th January 2012.

- g) Board papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 24th October 2011.

- h) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Forum meeting held on Monday 14th November 2011.

- 8) 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 at side of dwelling, conversion of existing garage into habitable room and installation of 2 dormer windows to front and box dormer to rear, to provide living accommodation in roof, at 54 Leander Avenue.
 - b) Approval for erection of single-storey extension at side of dwelling, at 44 Ambleside Court.
 - c) Approval for erection of single-storey extension at rear of dwelling to replace existing conservatory, at 7 Lintfort.
 - d) Approval for erection of two-storey extension at rear of dwelling, at 52 Longdean Park.
 - e) Approval for crown lifting of two sycamore trees and one oak tree (3,6,7 on map), removal of one conifer tree (4 on plan) and reduction by 40% of various conifers (5 on map), at 20 North Lodge.
 - f) Refusal for felling of one Sycamore tree in rear garden area protected by a tree preservation order, at 21B North Lodge.
 - g) Refusal 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.

Item 9. 11/120 Requests for Donations

The Clerk advised Councillors of the outstanding requests for donations. It was agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion with the other outstanding request being left on the table.

Item 10. 11/121 Review of the Gardener's Wages / Expenses

Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that the work of the gardener during his probationary period with the Council had been completed to a very high standard. Councillors discussed his hourly rate and agreed that it should be increased to £10 per hour with effect from 1st December 2011. The rate of expenses is to remain unchanged. The Clerk will advise the gardener in writing.

(Resolved - that the gardener's wage rate is to be £10 per hour with effect from 1st December 2011).

Item 11. 11/122 Setting the Precept

The Clerk had prepared budget forecasts (Appendix 6, attached), copies of which had been previously circulated. Councillors discussed the precept for the financial year 2012 / 2013 and, bearing in mind the current economic climate, agreed to make no increase. Therefore, the precept for 2012 / 2013 is to be £18,000.

(Resolved - to set a precept of eighteen thousand pounds for the financial year 2012 / 2013).

At this point, County Cllr. P. May left the meeting.

The Clerk advised that the budget forecasts had shown that there were unallocated funds of £16,000 in the bank accounts. Councillors discussed this and agreed to support County Cllr. May's project to install speed visors in the Parish by providing funds of £8,000 towards the installation costs and £1360 towards the costs of rotating the visors during the financial year 2012 / 2013. The Clerk will advise County Cllr. May accordingly.

(Resolved - to provide funds of eight thousand pounds towards the cost of installation of speed visors in the Parish, and one thousand three hundred and sixty pounds towards the cost of rotating the visors during the financial year 2012 / 2013).

Councillors also agreed to hold a discussion at a later date to consider various matters including the possibility of allocating some of the remaining unallocated funds towards a celebration of the Queen's diamond jubilee.

Item 12. 11/123 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Nov 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Nov 2011	
Pot-It-On	£205.00	Horticulture	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£24.50	Postage Stamps	
Durham County Council	£91.63	Repairs to Bus Shelter	£15.27
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire	
Cty Dhm Assn of Local Councils	£54.00	Training Event	
Royal British Legion	£50.00	Wreath and Donation	

(**Resolved** - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 13. 11/124 Other Matters for Consideration

No other matters had been submitted for consideration. Councillors discussed the practical use of the inclusion of this agenda item and agreed that it should continue to appear for future meetings.

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 18th October 2011.

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell			Salary/Exps. Oct 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund			Clerk's Pension Oct 2011	
 <u>Balance to 30th September 2011</u>				
Balance b/f		£38363.44	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Aug/Sept 2011		<u>£ 1616.46</u>		Current £ 1370.92
		£36746.98		30 Day <u>£35528.95</u>
				Total £36899.87
			Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 152.89</u>
Balance c/f		£36746.98		<u>£36746.98</u>