

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 17th January 2012.

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. N. Alderson, 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 and wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the start of the meeting. In particular, the Chairman welcomed Councillor Norman Alderson to his first Council meeting and looked forward to working with him for the benefit of the community.

Item 1. 12/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor C. Jukes and PCSO Lesley Hunter.

Item 2. 12/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Councillors agreed to take Item 4 next.

Item 4. 12/03 Presentation by the Area Action Partnership

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Allyson Rose, County Council Community Development/Project Officer, and invited Allyson to give her presentation which outlined the structure and funding of the AAP and its Task Groups.

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

Allyson agreed to examine the delivery of County Council leaflets/newsletters to Picktree Village where several residents had reported that they were not received. County Cllr. P. May considered that the Parish would benefit from a community meeting place and he asked that the AAP take note of this. The Chairman considered that, with only one representative from the area's Parish Councils on the AAP Board, there was an imbalance. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill considered that it was important to increase communications between the community groups working in the Parish. The Clerk will ask the Residents' Association to provide their Minutes to the Council.

The Chairman thanked Allyson Rose for her helpful and informative presentation and looked forward to an increasingly close and successful relationship between the AAP and the Council.

Item 3. 12/04 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 5. 12/05 Approval of the Sub-Meeting Notes

The notes of the sub-meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 29th November 2011, draft copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved and it was agreed to incorporate the notes into these Minutes (Appendix 2, attached).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and the Clerk for their work in submitting the letter re the proposed closure of Hett Hills Recycling Centre. Re the stump of the tree recently cut down in Low Flatts Road, it was agreed that no further action was required at present.

(Resolved - to co-opt Norman Alderson to the Council).

Item 6. 12/06 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) Replacement waste bins from the County Council were charged at £20 for the first one with a further replacement bin being free of charge. 2) The County Council would shortly be distributing to households new bins for recycled material. The new collection system was due to commence in April. 3) Cllr. Alderson commented on the poor state of repair of the footpath along North Road between the entrance to Lombard Drive and the Sustrans bridge. County Cllr. May advised that this had been reported previously to the County Council although he would again request early attention to the path. The Clerk is also to contact the County Council in support of the request.

(Resolved - to request that the County Council gives early attention to the repair of the North Road footpath).

3) There were missing fence panels at the Longdean Park/Lambton Estates boundary. Cllr. Mrs. Walton kindly agreed to inspect the area to ascertain evidence of ownership of the fence.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 7. 12/07 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th November 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 8. 12/08 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Re car parking at the Civic Centre (Minutes item 11/119 section 7c), it appeared that reception staff there were unaware of the arrangement permitting North Lodge Parish Councillors to park in the staff and members' car park whilst attending the Civic Centre on Council business. The Clerk will ask the County Council to correct this.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 9. 12/09 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) At Low Flatts, a permanent fixing for the "No Dogs" sign was still awaited. 2) At Merlin Drive, the new artwork was being fabricated and it was hoped that its installation would be completed by the end of May.

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

b) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester's report included the following matters

1) Funding, including a grant from County Cllr. May, was in place for a new skate park at the Riverside. 2) The Hub was open and functioning well. 3) A Junior Neighbourhood Watch scheme was to be set up. 4) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill remarked on a newspaper item regarding a proposal by Lambton Estates to open the Estate to the public. Councillors agreed that this was to be welcomed and hoped that there might perhaps be a room available for the use of the community. 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) Re the Transit 15 scheme, the roadworks at the Drum Lane/North Road junction had recommenced. The County Council had written to the Parish Council regarding the Parish Council's bus shelter there and the routing of the proposed cycle path around the shelter. Councillors discussed the two options available and agreed, on a unanimous show of hands, to retain the stone-built bus shelter with the consequent removal of a tree. The Clerk will advise the County Council accordingly.

(Resolved on a unanimous show of hands - to retain the stone-built bus shelter near to the junction of Drum Lane and North Road).

2) On North Road, north of the bridge, there was a shrub overhanging the footpath. Cllr. Mrs. Walton kindly agreed to see if it would be feasible for the gardener to cut back the shrub. 3) A 30mph sign at Picktree Village had been facing the wrong way, and this had been reported to the County Council. 4) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, County Cllr. P. May and the County Council's Traffic & Community Engagement Officer had held a site meeting at which it was agreed that six fixed speed visors should be installed, and appropriate sites for these had been identified at Blind Lane, North Road and Picktree Village. The fixed visors would have the benefit of not requiring further funding for moving visors around the sites. The Clerk is to contact the Traffic & Community Engagement Officer to discuss the ownership and insurance of the visors. 5) The Transit 15 scheme for Northlands was still under consideration by the County Council. 6) The website still had a glitch which would be investigated.

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

d) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4). Re Jubilee matters, it was agreed to discuss these at a sub meeting to be held on Tuesday 31st January 2012.

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

e) Planning Cllr. Tones reported on a planning application for a major new warehouse at Drum Lane Industrial Estate. Councillors agreed to discuss this matter at the sub meeting to be held on Tuesday 31st January 2012.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Tones for his report.

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

Item 10. 12/10 Correspondence

1) From North Lodge Residents' Association

- a) email re road sign.
- b) email re advertising board.

2) From The Royal British Legion
Thank you for donation.

3) From Durham Police Authority
email re Police and Crime Commissioners.

4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) email re the Localism Act.
- b) email re the Royal Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 22nd May 2012.

Nominations were requested by CDALC for entry into a draw for two invitations to the event.

(Resolved - that Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, accompanied by his wife, is to be nominated).

- c) Invitation to Small and Medium Local Councils Forum to be held on Fri. 17th Feb. 2012.
- (Resolved** - that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are to represent the Council at the Forum).
- d) email re prayers at council meetings.
 - e) email re OBE for the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils.
 - f) Agenda for the CDALC Chester-le-Street Sub-Committee meeting held on Saturday 10th December 2011.

5) From Durham County Council

- a) email re Parish Paths Partnership.
- b) email re proposed closure of Hett Hills Recycling Centre.
- c) email re Personal Winter Plan leaflet.
- d) Letter re restructure and relocation of the Electoral Services Department.
- e) Letter re the precept for 2012 / 2013.
- f) email and letter re the Chairman's Medal.
- g) Letter re traffic regulation order including change to prohibition of waiting at Lombard Drive.
- h) email re stone-built bus shelter at Drum Lane/North Road.
- i) Board papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 28th November 2011.
- j) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Forum meeting to be held on Monday 23rd January 2012.

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

- a) Application for erection of a modular office building, at Unit 34, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
- b) Application for raising of roof to incorporate dormer windows in roofspace on south, west and north elevations, replacement of existing kitchen and garage with new single storey extension to west elevation. Alteration to window/door designs (amended 17/11/11), at 1 Blind Lane.
- c) Application for B8 storage and distribution unit with ancillary office accommodation and associated servicing, parking, infrastructure and landscaping, at Phase 2 land, off Drum Road.
- d) Application for demolition of existing farm buildings and erection of 2 no. detached two storey dwellings, at Pelaw Farm Cottage, North Road.
- e) Application for change of use to film set and the erection of temporary set works and permanent internal repairs, at Lambton Castle.
- f) Approval 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.
- g) Approval for application to extend time limit for the implementation of previously approved planning application 07/00191/FUL for the erection of 11 no. commercial units (B1) and 5 no. self contained units (B2/B8) together with associated landscaping, roads and infrastructure, at development land west of Drum Road.
- h) Approval for raising of roof to incorporate dormer windows in roofspace on south, west and north elevations, replacement of existing kitchen and garage with new single storey extension to west elevation. Alteration to window/door designs (amended 17/11/11), at 1 Blind Lane.

Item 11. 12/11 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Dec 2011 / Jan 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Dec2011/Jan 2012	
D. Murrell (via B & Q)	£10.96	Graffiti Remover	£1.83
D. Murrell (via Printerinks.com)	£30.45	Photocopier Cartridge	£6.41
M. May	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Country Care Pest Control	£250.00	Pest Control	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£97.00	Annual Subscription	
Park View Community Association	£21.00	Room Hire	
Pot-It-On	£219.00	Horticulture	
Durham County Council	£537.60	Annual Bedding 2011/2012	£89.60
Pot-It-On	£176.00	Horticulture	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 12/12 Other Matters for Consideration

Due to the pressure of time, this item was not considered

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council on Tuesday 21st February 2012.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Feb 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Feb 2012	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)		Postage Stamps	
Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	

Balance to 31st January 2012

Balance b/f	£34830.39	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Jan 2012	<u>£ 2741.47</u>		Current £ 1731.46
	£32088.92		30 Day <u>£31028.95</u>
			Total £32760.41
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 671.49</u>
Balance c/f	£32088.92		<u>£32088.92</u>