

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 21st February 2012.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. M. May.
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune,
Mrs. C. Walton, Mr. N. Alderson,
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. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown and County Councillor P. May were not in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1. 12/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs E. Forrester, Mrs. D. Prest, C. Jukes, S. Tones and County Councillor J. Cordon.

The Clerk is to send the best wishes of Councillors to County Councillor Cordon.

Item 2. 12/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Item 3. 12/15 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give the Police report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). Councillors discussed 1) the recent attack on a cyclist on the Sustrans cycleway, and 2) the AAP "Grot Spot" visit to the copse of trees alongside the A693 road. PCSO Hunter advised that youth activity in the trees was not a Police matter unless a crime was being committed. The Chairman advised that the AAP would soon be reviewing the various "Grot Spot" walkabouts in the district. Councillors agreed to await the outcome of the review, keeping in mind the advice of PCSO Hunter that the cutting back of the lower branches of trees in the copse would reduce its attractiveness to the youths. The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for the report.

At this point, County Councillor P. May arrived at the meeting.

Item 4. 12/16 Approval of the Sub-Meeting Notes

The notes of the sub-meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 31st January 2012, draft copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved and it was agreed to incorporate the notes into these Minutes (Appendix 2, attached).

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

Item 5. 12/17 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 3).

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 6. 12/18 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2012, 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 7. 12/19 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4). Re item 2.1, the planning application for a new warehouse at Drum Industrial Estate, the Chairman advised that Cllr. Tones had provided a draft email to be submitted to the County Council Planning Department. This would be considered by the Chairman and the Clerk and, when approved by both, would be forwarded to the Planning Department. Councillors thanked Cllr. Tones for all his work on this matter to date. Re item 3.4, Councillors expressed concern at the present closure of the Lambton Worm Hotel. The Clerk is to contact the owners to ascertain their plans for the Hotel. Re item 3.9, the Clerk had obtained insurance and servicing costs for the proposed speed visors to support the County Council's request that the visors be taken into the ownership of the Parish Council. These costs were considered to be affordable and Councillors agreed that the Parish Council was to have ownership. County Cllr. P. May asked that the amount of funding from the Parish Council towards the purchase and installation of the visors be increased from the previously agreed £8000 to £9300, taking into account that the visors were now to be of the fixed site type and therefore there would be no ongoing annual cost for rotating the sites. The Clerk advised that this new amount was affordable and therefore, after discussion, Councillors agreed to the request. (**Resolved** - to take ownership of the proposed 6 fixed-site speed visors and to provide £9300 towards the cost of purchase and installation). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 8. 12/20 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Highways and Website Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that all highways matters had been covered previously in the meeting. The website still contained a glitch and it was possible that its correction would require the involvement of the County Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his 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. Mrs. Caygill to give her report.

c) 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) The Neighbourhood Warden had removed several boxes. 3) The wheelie bin would benefit from a secure fixing. The Clerk will contact the County Council to request this. 4) There was an accumulation of litter on surrounding areas including along the A693 road. County Cllr. P. May kindly agreed to ask the County Council to carry out a litter pick. 5) At Merlin Drive, there were no new matters to report.

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

- d) **Publicity** In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Forrester, no report was made.
- e) **Planning** In the absence of Cllr. Tones, no report was made.
- f) **Finance** In the absence of Cllr. Jukes, no report was made.

Item 9. 12/21 Correspondence

- 1) From the Campaign to Protect Rural England
North East Newsletter - Spring 2012, Issue 17.
- 2) From Durham Miners' Association
Letter re the 128th Durham Miners' Gala to be held on Saturday July 14th 2012.
- 3) From Durham Rural Community Council
Invitation to "Lets Talk About Food" event to be held on Saturday March 12th 2012.
- 4) From County Durham Youth Offending Service
email introducing the Service.
- 5) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) email re Neighbourhood Planning event to be held on Wednesday 28th March 2012.
 - b) email re the Royal Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 22nd May 2012.
 The Council had not been successful in its nomination of Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt.
 - c) email re the County Council Library Strategy Consultation.
 - d) email re County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Management Plan.
 - e) email re Traffic Regulation Order consultation.
 - f) email re improper procedures and unlawful expenditure.
- 6) From Durham County Council
 - a) email re speed visors.
 - b) email re delivery of Chester-le-Live and AAP Newsletter.
 - c) Letter re traffic regulation order for North Burns, South Burns and Front Street.
 - d) Letter re "Let's Join In" Community Events Fund.
 - e) Board papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2012.
 - f) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Forum meeting to be held on Monday 27th February 2012.
- 7) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for creation of additional internal office space and insertion of new windows to western elevation, at Unit 6, Angel Park, Drum Industrial Estate.
 - b) Application for erection of first-floor extension at side of dwelling above the existing garage. erection of single-storey extension at rear and construction of pitched roof at front, at 34 Wear Lodge.
 - c) Approval for demolition of existing farm buildings and erection of 2 no. detached two storey dwellings, at Pelaw Farm Cottage, North Road.

Item 10. 12/22 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

	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)	£27.50	Postage Stamps	
	Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	
	The Information Commissioner	£35.00	Data Protection Act Renewal Fee	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 12/23 Other Matters for Consideration

No matters had been submitted for consideration.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.56pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council on Tuesday 20th March 2012.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. March 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension March 2012	
County Durham Association of Local Councils	£264.78	Annual Subscription	
Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	

Balance to 29th February 2012

Balance b/f	£32088.92	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - Feb 2012	<u>£ 709.23</u>		Current	£ 485.63
	£31379.69		30 Day	<u>£31028.95</u>
			Total	£31514.58
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 134.89</u>
Balance c/f	£31379.69			£31379.69