

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 20th March 2012.

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

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1. 12/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. Prest and C. Jukes.

Item 2. 12/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Item 3. 12/26 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). The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for the report.

Item 4. 12/27 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). The County Councillor had set aside funds from his neighbourhood budget to finance the repair of the footpath on North Road between Lombard Drive and the Sustrans bridge.
- 2). In April, the County Council cabinet would be considering the future of the County's household waste centres, including Hett Hills.
- 3). The AAP, together with business people, had decided to make a bid for Chester-le-Street to become one of the twelve "Portas Pilots" towns. The Parish Council will forward to the AAP a letter of support.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 12/28 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st February 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.

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

Item 6. 12/29 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). 1) Councillors advised that complaints had been received regarding the youth activity in the trees alongside the A693 road (a continuing problem), litter along the A693 and the untidy plot of land which was formerly Pelaw Grange Cottage. The Clerk will ask the County Council to take action on these matters. 2) County Cllr. P. May advised that he had asked the County Council to investigate the legal status of a car parked on a driveway in Merlin Drive. 3) Councillors discussed the benefits of partnership working with the Residents' Association. 4) Regarding the payment for the speed visors, the Chairman advised that the AAP had identified a funding shortfall of £60. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk had agreed to increase the Parish Council's payment from £9300 to £9360. Councillors endorsed this position. Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 12/30 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that there were no matters to report.

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

b) 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 Clerk is to ask the County Council to provide a secure fixing for the wheelie bin. At Merlin Drive, 3) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that a swing required attention to its mechanism. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will report this to the County Council. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill 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 single yellow line sign at Lombard Drive had now been attended to, 2) Part of North Road at Barley Mow would be closed on Sunday 25th March for re-surfacing work.

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 3). Regarding the costings for the Jubilee commemorations, although the total was slightly greater than the previously agreed £750, Councillors were satisfied that the new estimate of £804.36 was affordable and represented good value.

(Resolved - to increase the funding for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration from £750 to £804.36).

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

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 8. 12/31 Correspondence

- 1) From North Lodge Residents' Association
Minutes of Meeting held on November 1st 2011.

- 2) From Mr. M. Holland
emails re the speed of traffic on Bonemill Lane.
Councillors discussed the contents of the emails and agreed that the Clerk should advise Mr. Holland of the forthcoming installation of speed visors in Picktree Village which might have an effect on the speed of traffic in Bonemill Lane.

- 3) From LitterFree Durham CPRE
email re Big Spring Clean.
The Clerk is to obtain further details of this project and to ask the Residents' Association if they would like to be involved.

- 4) From Gateshead Council
Letters re One Core Strategy.

- 5) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) email re Small & Medium Councils Forum.
 - b) email re Consultation on the Draft County Durham Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2012/15.
 - c) email re Paths for Communities Scheme.
 - d) Agenda for the Chester-le-Street CDALC Sub Committee meeting to be held on Saturday 31st March 2012.

- 6) From Durham County Council
 - a) Letter re Community Buildings Review - Post Consultations Events.
 - b) Letter re Grot Spot initiative update.
 - c) email re planning application for warehouse at Drum Industrial Estate.
The County Council had advised that planning application CMA/2/15 had been approved subject to a satisfactory Section 106 agreement for a bus service and upgrades to public rights of way.
The Clerk is to ask if the section 106 agreement could include the nearby pond and its surroundings.
 - d) email re Improved Environment AAP Task Group meeting to be held on Thurs 22nd March.
 - e) Board papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 27th February 2012.
 - f) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Forum meeting to be held on Monday 26th March 2012.

- 7) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Approval for creation of additional internal office space and insertion of new windows to western elevation, at Unit 6, Angel Park, Drum Industrial Estate.
 - b) Approval for change of use to film set and the erection of temporary set works and permanent internal repairs, at Lambton Castle.
 - c) Refusal 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.

Item 9. 12/32 The Newsletter

Councillors held initial discussions regarding the content of this year's Newsletter. Several suggestions were made which will be discussed further at the April Council meeting.

Item 10. 12/33 The Annual Risk Assessment

Councillors discussed the Risk Assessment (Appendix 4, attached) which had been produced by the Clerk and agreed to adopt it as presented.

(Resolved - to adopt the Risk Assessment as presented).

Cllr. Alderson kindly offered to review, with the Clerk, the Risk Assessment format for future years. Councillors agreed that Cllr. Alderson's experience in such matters would be welcome and his offer is to be given consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

Item 11. 12/34 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

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	
M. May	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Pot-It-On	£165.00	Horticulture	
Durham County Council	£288.00	Christmas Lights	£48.00
Durham County Council	£9360.00	Purchase of Speed Visors	
Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 12/35 Other Matters for Consideration

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that ground reinstatement work by Northern Powergrid at the sub-station at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue had been carried out to a very poor standard. The Clerk is to contact the company to request that they return to make good the ground.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

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

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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