

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 19th February 2013.

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

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

Representative of North Lodge Residents'
Association

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the start of the meeting.

Item 1. 13/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors C. Jukes, C. Noble-Nesbitt and S. Tones.

Item 2. 13/13 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

Item 3. 13/14 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO L. Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give the Police report (Appendix 1, attached). The PCSO advised that, in general, crime figures in the town were well down. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that youths were congregating under the Sustrans bridge near Low Flatts play area and were causing much anti-social behaviour and litter. Also at Low Flatts play area, one man in particular was refusing to clear up after his dog. PCSO Hunter kindly agreed to liaise with the Neighbourhood Wardens regarding these matters. The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for her report.

Item 4. 13/15 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.

- a) County Cllr. May had met with Cllr. Mrs. Walton, the Gardener and a resident to discuss planting at the entrance to Picktree Lodge. Estimates were now being obtained for various horticultural works. Cllr. May hoped that the plinth could be shot-blast cleaned and the rose bed increased in size. Cllr. May had also discussed with a County Council officer possible solutions to a problem of anti-social behaviour on land behind the entrance area.
- b) There were damaged and worn steps at the beginning of the path leading from North Road to Lyndhurst Avenue. County Cllr. May had asked the County Council to provide an estimate for the repair/replacement of the steps which he hoped could be funded from his neighbourhood allowance.
- c) Re Northlands roundabout, a report following the recent public consultation was awaited from the County Council.
- d) Re the proposal for 200 houses at Picktree Village, there might be an interim report from the County Council in July in advance of the pre-consultation report expected in September.

- e) County Cllr. May advised that he might still have funds available from his neighbourhood allowance.
 - f) Re the untidy (possibly dangerous) utility box at Barley Mow roundabout, Cllr. Alderson considered that it might be for the traffic signs there. County Cllr. May will investigate this.
 - g) Re the recent sale by the County Council of Windlestone Hall, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill expressed concerns that the sale price was low and therefore depriving council taxpayers of much-needed funds. County Cllr. May agreed to make enquiries with the County Council.
 - h) Re artwork for Drum Industrial Estate, County Cllr. May advised that the project had been delayed by a change in the ownership of the site for the artwork.
- The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 13/16 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2013, 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. 13/17 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 13/05 section a). Removal of the pipe at the entrance to Lombard Drive was still awaited. The Clerk is liaising with a local firm on this matter.
- b) Re Minute 13/05 section b). Re the leaf-covered footpath at Caxton Way, Cllr. Alderson advised that the path now looked much tidier.
- c) Re Minute 13/07 section 5). The Lambton Worm pub would re-open in the next few days. The Clerk is to write a welcome letter to the owners.
- d) Re Minute 13/07 section 13). Re the Big Spring Clean, this will be discussed at next month's Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will liaise with the School. The Residents' Association is also to be involved.

The Chairman then presented her report (Appendix 2, attached). Councillors expressed concerns regarding the proposed relocation of the Crown Post Office which was in a building forming part of the heritage of the town. The Clerk will express these concerns to the Post Office. County Cllr. May expressed concerns regarding the County Council's plans for the town. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill considered that support should be offered to the town Heritage group. Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 13/18 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.

Re dog fouling signs at Low Flatts, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill was finding great difficulty in making contact with the Neighbourhood Warden. Should there be no satisfactory outcome in response to the Clerk's email to the Wardens office, the Clerk is to contact the County Council's Head of Direct Services. The Clerk will also contact the Head of Direct Services regarding litter under the Sustrans bridge.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill 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 3).

Re graffiti, this was also present under the North Road bridge. Cllr. Mrs. Walton had advised this to PCSO Hunter. County Cllr. May advised that 250 trees had been planted alongside the Baffle Bank by residents and a further 250 trees were on order. Councillors expressed thanks to the Residents' Association for arranging this project. County Cllr. May had funds available from his neighbourhood allowance and Councillors discussed the possibility of installing tubs of flowers throughout the

Parish. This would require the involvement of residents in the regular watering of the plants. It had been reported to the Council that the seat at the bus shelter alongside the Lambton Worm pub was life-expired and should be taken away. The Chairman and Clerk will investigate this and arrange to have the seat removed, as necessary.

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

c) **Highways and Website** Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had previously advised the Clerk that there were no matters to report.

d) **Publicity** In the absence of Cllr. Brown, no report was made.

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

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

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

Item 8. 13/19 Correspondence

1) From the Campaign to Protect Rural England
North East Newsletter - Spring 2013.

2) From the Department for Communities and Local Government
Letter re disclosable pecuniary interests and Council Tax setting.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re the County Durham and Darlington Fire Service Integrated Risk Management Plan.

b) email re the Community Infrastructure Levy.

c) email re the Big Spring Clean 2013.

d) email re Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign.

e) email re attendance at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

The successful nomination this year was from Edmondsley Parish Council.

f) email re Meet the Funders event to be held on Tuesday 26th February 2013.

g) email re Parish Council Tax base.

Amongst other information, the document identified that there were 1009 dwellings in the Parish on the valuation list on 16th November 2012.

h) email re "Be a Councillor" campaign.

4) From Durham County Council

a) email re Ouston Infant and Junior School.

b) Neighbourhood Warden performance report for January 2013.

c) email re stone sign for Barley Mow.

d) Notice of meeting of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group to be held on Thursday 21st February 2013.

e) Board Papers for the Chester-le-Street & District AAP Partnership board meeting held on Monday 28th January 2013.

f) Notice of the Chester-le-Street & District AAP Partnership board meeting to be held on Monday 25th February 2013.

- 5) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for external alterations to existing building, construction of fuel tank, jet wash facility, external ramp, waste enclosure, retaining wall to service yard and erection of new section of weld mesh fencing to site perimeter, at Drum 3, 1 Drum Park.
 - b) Application for erection of single storey extension at side / front of dwelling including canopy, at 5 Vigo Lane.
 - c) Approval for discharge of conditions 3 (materials), 4 (drainage) and 6 (bat licence) of planning permission 2/12/00214/FUL, at Pelaw Farm Cottage.

Item 9. 13/20 The Barley Mow "Gateway" Project

The Clerk advised Councillors that the County Council no longer permitted the erection of stonework alongside the carriageway and therefore it would not be possible to have a monumental stone at Barley Mow. In addition, the County Council advised that the issue of land ownership had not yet been resolved although this was being attended to by the County Council. A site meeting is to be held with the County Council once the land ownership is resolved. Councillors considered that metal signs should be cheaper than a monumental stone and, therefore, it might be possible to erect signs at more than the one site.

Item 10. 13/21 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Feb. 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Feb. 2013	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 27.00	Postage Stamps	
Pot-It-On	£253.70	Horticulture / Repairs to Shelters	
Durham County Council	£814.03	Horticulture for Queen's Jubilee	£135.67
Durham County Council	£537.60	Annual Bedding 2012/13	£ 89.60
Durham County Council	£294.00	Christmas Tree	£ 49.00
The Information Commissioner	£ 35.00	Data Protection Act Renewal Fee	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 13/22 Other Matters for Consideration

A matter submitted for consideration had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 2013.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. March 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension March 13	
C. Walton (via B & Q)	£ 11.98	Masonry Paint	£ 2.00
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Cty. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£285.37	Annual Subscription	

Balance to 28th February 2013

Balance b/f	£26035.74	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - Feb 2013	<u>£ 2618.31</u>		Current	£ 960.55
	£23417.43		30 Day	<u>£22629.86</u>
			Total	£23590.41
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 172.98</u>
Balance c/f	£23417.43			£23417.43