

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 March 2013.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. M. May,
Mrs. C. Walton, Mr. N. Alderson, Mr. C. Noble-
Nesbitt.
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 with a particular welcome to Councillor Noble-Nesbitt after his enforced absence. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the start of the meeting.

Item 1. 13/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. D. Prest, C. Jukes, S. Tones and PCSO L. Hunter.

Item 2. 13/24 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

Item 3. 13/25 Report of the Police

PCSO L. Hunter had provided a written Police report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read by the Clerk. Councillors considered that over the last few months there had been an increase in thefts and burglaries.

Item 4. 13/26 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) The War Memorial committee had consulted with the public regarding a site for the Memorial and was now considering a site near to the former Market Place arch although planning permission was already held for a site near to the taxi rank.
 - b) Regarding the damaged and worn steps at the beginning of the path leading from North Road to Lyndhurst Avenue, paperwork had been completed for Neighbourhood Budget funding for the repair work which was expected to be carried out soon. The re-surfacing of roads at Low Flatts and Queensmere would be done as soon as the weather improved sufficiently.
 - c) Re flooded land between Picktree Lodge and North Lodge estates, funds were now available to allow some work to be carried out although there was not yet funding to install field drains in the middle of the field.
 - d) Garden waste collections would re-start from today.
 - e) Flooding at the entrance to Lambton Park was currently being attended to by the County Council by connecting the existing soakaways to the main drains. The County Council would also be removing roots from drains along North Road.
 - f) An opening event had been held for the new park at Camperdown Avenue.
- The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 13/27 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th February 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. 13/28 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 13/15 section f). Re the utility box at Barley Mow, County Cllr. May was still to investigate its ownership.
 - b) Re Minute 13/15 section g). Re the sale price of Windlestone Hall by the County Council, County Cllr. May advised that this had been a Cabinet decision and the disposal of the asset had conformed to County Council policy.
 - c) Re Minute 13/17 section a). Re removal of the pipe at the entrance to Lombard Drive, the Clerk advised that this was expected soon.
 - d) Re Minute 13/17 section d). Re the Big Spring Clean, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the School would arrange its own clean of the two play areas, surrounding areas and the School grounds. The Residents' Association wished to be involved in the Parish Council's event which Councillors agreed would be held on Saturday 4th May at 2pm. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill would make the arrangements with the County Council. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt suggested this year's Newsletter should contain an article on the involvement of residents in keeping their local areas tidy.
 - e) Re Minute 13/18 section a). Re the permanent fixing for the dog fouling sign at Low Flatts play area, the Clerk had again written to the County Council and a reply was awaited. County Cllr. May suggested a different department of the County Council to approach for possible help. Councillors agreed that an article on dog fouling should be included in the Newsletter.
 - f) Re Minute 13/18 section b). The Chairman advised that the damaged seat at the Lambton Worm bus stop had been removed very promptly by the Parish Council contractor. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had received an offer from a local group to purchase two seats for the Parish. The Clerk will contact the County Council to ascertain specifications for seats both on the roadside and away from the roads, together with installation costs.
 - g) Re Minute 13/20. Re the ownership of land at Barley Mow for the "Gateway" project, the County Council had advised that the land was not owned by them but they were presently investigating the possibility of the transfer of ownership to them.
- The Chairman then presented her report (Appendix 2, attached).
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 13/29 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.

Both play areas appeared to be satisfactory except that there was litter at Low Flatts and the dog fouling sign had still not been attended to by the County Council.

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 flower tubs, Councillors suggested possible sites and Cllr. Mrs. Walton will discuss these with the County Council. The Chairman reminded Councillors that the tree guard had not yet been re-installed. The Clerk will contact the County Council to pursue this although Councillors agreed that consideration may now need to be given to employing a contractor to carry out the work. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt asked if any problems regarding moles had been observed but Councillors felt that the situation was not giving undue concern at present.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton 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 website, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt intended to contact the County Council's website co-ordinator to resolve certain procedural matters.
- 2) Councillors discussed the recently issued County Council report regarding the Northlands roundabout proposals. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt suggested that the name of North Lodge could be marked or inscribed on the bus shelter end walls at the entrances to the Parish as a welcome to passers-by. County Cllr. May expressed disappointment that the County Council had looked at the concerns of the public but had decided that no changes to the proposals were necessary. Councillors considered that in general the County Council's report was a good one but some details gave concern.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his 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. 13/30 Correspondence

1) From County Councillor P. May

Advice of his resignation from the Conservative Party as of 28th February 2013.

2) From County Councillor J. Cordon

email expressing thanks for the cooperation of Parish Councillors.

3) From North Lodge Residents' Association

a) email re the distribution of the Association's Agenda.

b) Agenda for the meeting held on 18th March 2013.

c) Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2013.

4) From the Information Commissioner

Confirmation of renewal of register entry.

5) From HM revenue & Customs

Letter re real time PAYE.

6) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re pay discussions.

b) email re Section 137 expenditure 2013-2014.

The limit for 2013-2014 is £6.98.

c) email re the Upper Eden Neighbourhood Plan.

d) Agenda for the CDALC Chester-le-Street Sub-Committee meeting to be held on Saturday 23rd March 2013.

e) Notification of the attendance of the Police and Crime Commissioner at the forthcoming Smaller Local Councils Forum to be held on 17th May 2013.

7) From Durham County Council

- a) email re request for a saltbin at Low Flatts Road.

The request was declined as the site did not meet the County Council's criteria.

- b) Neighbourhood Warden performance report for February 2013.

- c) email re proposed Traffic Regulation Order for existing bus lanes in County Durham.

The proposal was that existing bus lanes should also be available for taxis, cycles and motorcycles.

- d) Board Papers for the Chester-le-Street & District AAP Partnership board meeting held on Monday 25th February 2013.

- e) Notice of the Chester-le-Street & District AAP Partnership board meeting to be held on Monday 11th March 2013.

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 to side, conversion of existing garage to store room and installation of rooflights to front and side + box dormer to rear (partly retrospective), at 54 Leander Avenue.
- b) Approval 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.
- c) Approval for erection of single storey extension at side / front of dwelling including canopy, at 5 Vigo Lane.
- d) Approval for discharge of condition 3 of planning approval 2/12/00244/FUL regarding renewable energy, at ASD Metal Services, Drum Road.

Item 9. 13/31 The Annual Risk Assessment

With input from Cllr. Alderson, the Clerk had prepared a draft Risk Assessment, copies of which had been previously circulated, and this was discussed and agreed by Councillors (Appendix 4, attached).

(Resolved - to approve the annual Risk Assessment, as presented).

The Chairman and the Clerk thanked Cllr. Alderson for his work on the production of the Assessment.

Item 10. 13/32 Payment of Accounts

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	£262.98	Horticulture	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
DSJ Property Services	£ 80.00	Removal & Disposal of Seat	
Cty. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£285.37	Annual Subscription	
MD Shotblasting	£150.00	Cleaning of Stone Plinth	
HM Revenue & Customs	£266.40	PAYE	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 13/33 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

- a) The Chairman suggested that Councillors should begin to consider nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2013/2014, subject of course to the forthcoming elections.
- b) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the cutting-back of trees alongside the A693 had not yet begun.
- c) Newly installed pebbles on roundabouts near the Cricket Ground were causing problems. The County Council was attending to this.
- d) It had been suggested that the Parish Council should join the Campaign to Protect Rural England. However, there appeared to be no advantage in joining.
- e) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill proposed that consideration should be given at the April Parish Council meeting to arranging a walk of the Parish boundaries.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.03pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th April 2013.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. April 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension April 13	
D. Murrell (via Printerinks.com)	£ 21.56	Photocopier Cartridge	£ 3.59
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
DSJ Property Services	£70.00	Removal of Standpipe	

Balance to 31st March 2013

Balance b/f	£23417.43	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2013	<u>£ 1863.71</u>		Current £ 1009.19
	£21553.72		30 Day <u>£21141.94</u>
Add Bank Interest	<u>£ 12.08</u>		Total £22151.13
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 585.33</u>
Balance c/f	£21565.80		£21565.80