

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 16th April 2013.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune,
Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. M. May, Mrs. C. Walton.
County Councillor: Mr. P. May.
Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone and congratulating those Councillors who would be returning after the forthcoming non-contested election. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the start of the meeting.

Item 1. 13/34 Apologies for Absence

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

Item 2. 13/35 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

Item 3. 13/36 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter and PC Mark Orridge to the meeting. The PCSO presented the Police Report (Appendix 1, attached).
The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter and PC Orridge.

Item 4. 13/37 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 congratulated those Councillors who would be returning to the Parish Council after the forthcoming election.
 - b) County Cllr. May had been contacted by the Parish Council Chairman regarding the poor condition of the road surface in Queensmere where a less able resident could not negotiate the road. The County Councillor had advised the County Council and a few days later the road had been re-surfaced.
 - c) The County Council would soon begin an exploration of the drainage problems at the foot of Blind Lane and would also be attending to the drains along North Road.
- The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 13/38 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 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. 13/39 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 13/28 section a). Re the utility box at Barley Mow, County Cllr. May was still to investigate its ownership.
- b) Re Minute 13/28 section c). Re removal of the pipe at the entrance to Lombard Drive, the Clerk advised that this had now been done without any problems.
- c) Re Minute 13/28 section d). Re the Big Spring Clean, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the School had now carried out the clean of the two play areas, surrounding areas and the School grounds. Twelve bags of rubbish had been collected at Low Flatts. Regarding the Parish Council's event to be held on Saturday 4th May at 2pm, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that volunteers should meet at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue.
- d) Re Minute 13/28 section f). Re replacement seating, the Clerk advised that a reply was still awaited from the County Council re suitable styles for along the roadside and away from the roadside. Re the offer of a seat from Cestria Housing, Councillors considered that the design would provide for a seat which would be welcomed at the pond near to the Drum Industrial Estate. The Clerk will contact Cestria Housing to see if they would be happy to supply a seat for this location.
- e) Re Minutes 13/28 section g) and 13/29 section c). Re the ownership of land at Barley Mow for the "Gateway" project, a reply was still awaited from the County Council. The Chairman and the Clerk are to see if there are any stonemasons able to carry out the work to the bus shelters.

The Chairman reported that a meeting of residents had been held to discuss the widening of Blind Lane as part of the County Council's Northlands roundabout project. The MP had attended the meeting as well as several residents including Councillors Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. M. May, N. Alderson and C. Noble-Nesbitt. Due to a prior commitment, the Chairman had attended part of the meeting only. The MP had agreed to discuss the proposal with the County Council. Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 13/40 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.

At Merlin Drive, the Gardener had advised that a swing seat was damaged. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and the Clerk had reported this to the County Council following which the seat had been attended to. The Clerk is to ascertain from the County Council whether or not they continue to make regular inspections of the play equipment at both play areas. At Low Flatts, there was still no dog fouling sign on the post although some comparatively insignificant looking notices had been put up at various places. The Neighbourhood Wardens had also erected notices on the gates warning that the exercising of horses was not permitted on the field. Cllr. Mrs. Walton had reported that there had been fly-tipping along the path towards the A693 road and this had been reported by the Clerk to the County Council. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that trees alongside the A693 road had not yet been cut back. The County Council had advised that this work would now have to wait until after the bird-nesting season.

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 2).

Re flower tubs, Councillors agreed the possible sites to be discussed with the County Council. It was also agreed to purchase 25 tubs and compost to be supplied by the County Council. Councillors are to approach local residents to seek their help in watering the tubs once they are planted.

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

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

c) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had advised the Clerk that the website was now up-to-date.

d) Publicity The Newsletter was on the Agenda for later in the meeting.

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

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

Item 8. 13/41 Correspondence

1) From Durham Constabulary

email re Green Dog Walkers' Scheme.

2) From Durham County Council

Letter and email re the Royal Horticultural Society's "It's Your Neighbourhood" Campaign.

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

a) Application for enlargement to rear dormer (Permitted Development). Pitched roof to existing front dormer, at 8 North Road.

b) Application for erection of 6.9m high pole mounted windsock adjacent to south west entrance to site, at 2 Drum Park.

Item 9. 13/42 The Newsletter

Councillors made several suggestions for items for the Newsletter. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt is to be asked if he is again willing to collate the items this year.

Item 10. 13/43 Payment of Accounts

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	£263.00	Horticulture	
DSJ Property Services	£70.00	Removal of Standpipe	
Npower Northern Ltd	£53.89	Power for Christmas Lights	£ 8.98

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 13/44 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

a) Re nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2013/2014, Councillors agreed that the role of Chairman would benefit from two successive terms. Cllr. Mrs. Forrester confirmed that she would be willing to stand for a second term. Cllr. Mrs. May advised that, due to changing work commitments, she would not be able to fulfill the role of Vice-Chairman for the coming year. Councillors discussed the nomination for Vice-Chairman and agreed that the Chairman should approach Cllr. N. Alderson to ascertain if he would be willing to put his name forward.

b) Regarding the two seats which would be vacant after the forthcoming election, the Chairman advised that she was aware of an interested resident. The Clerk is to advertise the remaining vacancy in the noticeboards. The Clerk is also to send letters to the three retiring Councillors expressing the gratitude of the Council for all their work for the benefit of the residents of the Parish. Cllr. Mrs. Brown advised that she was sad that she did not have sufficient time available to devote to the Council and would, therefore, be retiring at the election. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.43pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st May 2013.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. May 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 13	
Community Consultation Ltd	£780.01	Annual Insurance Premium	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
 <u>Balance to 30th April 2013</u>			
Balance b/f	£21565.80	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - April 2013	<u>£ 1082.03</u>	Current	£ 2872.60
	£20483.77	30 Day	<u>£37426.94</u>
Add VAT Refund	<u>£ 2030.77</u>	Total	£40299.54
	£22514.54		
Add Precept Received	<u>£17092.00</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>Nil</u>
	£39606.54		
Add LCTSS Grant Received	<u>£ 693.00</u>		
	£40299.54		
Balance c/f	£40299.54		£40299.54