

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 July 2013.

PRESENT: Vice-Chairman: Cllr. N Alderson
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Dr. D. Hartley, Mrs. L. LeDune,
Mrs. M. May, Mrs. C. Walton, C. Noble-Nesbitt,
D. Snaith.
County Councillor: Mr. P. May.
Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.
Two residents

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Vice-Chairman in the Chair welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 13/76 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E. Forrester and Mrs. D. Prest. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, on behalf of the Parish Council, had delivered flowers and a card to Cllr. Mrs. Forrester.

Item 2. 13/77 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

Item 3. 13/78 Co-option of Councillor

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Dr. Dawn Hartley to the meeting and asked Councillors to consider the co-option of Dr. Hartley to fill one of the two vacant seats on the Council. (**Resolved** - to co-opt Dr. Dawn Hartley to the Parish Council).

Item 4. 13/79 Report of the Police

The Vice-Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited the PCSO to give the Police report (Appendix 1, attached). The PCSO advised that extra patrols had been made at the entrance to Picktree Lodge but nothing untoward had been observed. Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that the Gardener would shortly be arranging with residents to have a flower tub moved from the Picktree Lodge entrance area to further into the estate where it would be better looked after by residents who had kindly volunteered their services. In reply to a question by the Clerk, the PCSO advised that it was not illegal to mount on a garden wall a sign requesting considerate parking although it would be advisable for residents to check house deeds for any covenants which might be contravened.

The Vice-Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for her report.

Item 5. 13/80 Report of the County Councillor

The Vice-Chairman welcomed County Councillor P. May to the meeting and invited him to give his report which included the following matters.

- a) There had been a substance leak from Arizona Chemical into the atmosphere and this had covered much property in Picktree Lodge. The company was subsequently cleaning residents' property and a full report would be made by the County Council Environment Department.
- b) County Cllr. May had attended the recent Highways Committee meeting which had approved the plans for Northlands roundabout. Also in attendance had been several residents, children from Park View School, and Parish Councillors Mrs. M. Caygill, N. Alderson and C. Noble-Nesbitt. The conduct of the meeting had been disappointing in several aspects as had also been the approval of the plan without giving consideration to a safer design for local residents as well as for motorists and pedestrians.
- c) County Cllr. May had attended a County Council meeting to discuss plans to widen the road between the motorway roundabout and the bus garage roundabout. There did not appear to be anything detrimental to local houses in the plans.
- d) The drains on North Road were currently being cleaned and having tree roots removed.
- e) The steps leading from North Road to Lyndhurst Avenue had now been renewed although only temporary handrails were in place at present.
- f) The County Councillor had requested that verges on Picktree Lane be cut back.
- g) Residents at Kingsmere had expressed concerns regarding recurring water and drain problems there. The County Council was to meet with Northumbrian Water to discuss the way forward.
- h) There had been a County Council meeting regarding the County Plan. However, no new information had been available.

The Vice-Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 6. 13/81 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th June 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 Vice-Chairman.

Item 7. 13/82 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 13/64 section a). Re replacement and new seating, the Clerk advised that a reply was still awaited from the County Council regarding an outstanding request for a quote for the supply and installation of the seats. County Cllr. May kindly offered to pursue this.
- b) Re Minute 13/64 section b). Re a stonemason for stone plaques at the bus shelters at Barley Mow and Northlands roundabout, the Chairman had contacted Beamish Museum to see if they were able to assist in any way. However, the Museum did not have a stonemason and were not aware of any in the area.
- c) Re Minute 13/64 section c). Cllrs. Mrs. Caygill and Mrs. Walton are to see if the fly-tipping at Low Flatts has now been removed.
- d) Re Minute 13/65 section e). County Cllr. May advised that, due to cost, the County Council would not use quieter road surfacing except in very special circumstances.
- e) Re Minute 13/66 section c5). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the stumps of recently removed trees at Low Flatts Road and Kingsmere had not been ground out. The Clerk will contact the County Council to request that the work is carried out.
- f) Re Minute 13/75. Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that the sub-station forecourt had been cleared. However, the sub-station next to 1 Leander Avenue also required attention. The Clerk will ask the owners to attend to this.

The Vice-Chairman reported that he had recently attended meetings including the Residents' Association, the County Council Highways Committee (with Cllrs. Mrs. M. Caygill and C. Noble-Nesbitt) and an excellent Councillor training course (with Cllr. D. Snaith).
Councillors thanked the Vice-Chairman for his report.

Item 8. 13/83 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Vice-Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report.

a) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters.

At Merlin Drive, damaged safety surfacing was awaiting the attention of the County Council. At Low Flatts, there was a damaged swing seat and chains wrapped around framework. The Clerk will report these to the County Council. There was still no permanent notice in place regarding dog-fouling.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and invited Cllr. Mrs. May to give her report.

b) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. May thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and his wife for doing such an excellent job in the production of the Newsletter.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. May for her report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Walton to give her report.

c) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2).

Councillors discussed the watering of the flower tubs and agreed to approach local residents for their assistance. Any tubs still not being watered by residents would then need to be attended to by the Gardener.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

d) Highways and Website Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

1) Two junctions in Lombard Drive required attention. County Cllr. May advised that this had already been reported to the Highways department.

2) Regarding the Northlands roundabout project, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt considered that there was no need for two lanes of traffic heading east on Blind Lane and therefore the plans could be re-designed so that the road there was not widened.

3) Cllr. Dr. Hartley suggested that County Cllr. May could make a special case to the County Council for the application of quieter road surfacing in Picktree Village due to the number and frequency of large lorries using the road which created a noise problem including late at night.

4) The new Newsletter was now available to read on the website.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Snaith to give his report.

e) Planning Cllr. Snaith advised that the County Durham Association of Local Councils was seeking to arrange two Planning training days in September.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report.

f) Finance In the absence of a Portfolio Holder, no report was made.

Item 9. 13/84 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Copy letter to Northumbrian Water re burst water main at Kingsmere.
This matter was being addressed by County Councillor P. May.

2) From a Resident

email re sign on garden wall.

3) From North Lodge Residents' Association

email re theft of plants at Picktree Lodge.

4) From Durham Constabulary

email re patrols at Picktree Lodge.

5) From Chester-le-Street & District Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau

Invitation to AGM to be held on Wednesday 31st July 2013.

6) From Northern Powergrid

email re untidy sub-station at Leander Avenue.

7) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re retirement of the Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils.

b) email re funding of Neighbourhood Plans.

c) email re "Driving Out Litter in County Durham" campaign.

d) Invitation to Welfare Reform Conference to be held on Friday 26th July 2013.

e) email re removal of need for Parish Councillors to register as data controllers.

f) email re revised edition of the Good Councillor Guide.

g) Invitation to the CDALC AGM to be held on 26th October 2013.

h) Agenda for the meeting of the Chester-le-Street CDALC Sub-Committee held on Saturday 29th June 2013.

This meeting had been attended by Cllrs. Mrs. E. Forrester and Mrs. M. May.

8) From Durham County Council

a) email re Sustrans bridge at Picktree Lodge.

b) email re recruitment of volunteers for the Ashes cricket match on 9th to 13th August.

c) Notification of the AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 22nd July 2013.

d) Notification of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 25th July 2013.

e) Letter re Durham County Council Children's Network.

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

a) Application for installation of three none illuminated signs. Two fascia signs to south and west elevations and one site entrance sign to primary entrance, at Drum 3, 1 Drum Park.

b) Application for proposed change of use of land to residential caravan site for travellers and extension to existing day room, at Drum Lane Caravan Site.

County Cllr. May advised that this application arose from the County Council's wish to re-furbish the site. At the County Councillor's instigation, following the re-furbishment a time limit for the length of stay at the site extension will be applied.

- c) Application for change of use from industrial (B2) to Canine Hydrotherapy grooming center (Sui Generis), at Unit 1E, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
- d) Approval for erection of replacement walls and roof to existing conservatory, at 5 Mitford Close.
- e) Section 73 approval to vary condition 2 of planning application 2/13/00008/FUL to allow reduction in size of garage and retention of existing canopy, at 5 Vigo Lane.
- f) Approval for alterations to include conservatory extension to side and first floor extension above existing kitchen, lounge and bar service to provide four en-suite bedrooms for tourism letting, at the Lambton Worm public house, North Road.
- g) Approval for demolition of BOC plant to include buildings, ground slabs, tanks and associated plant, at BOC Ltd, Vigo Lane.

Item 10. 13/85 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. July 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension July 2013	
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 50.00	Donation	
JAK Print & Design	£384.00	Printing of Newsletters	£64.00
Cty Dhm Assn of Local Councils	£ 54.00	Councillor Training Session	
M. Caygill (via Morrisons)	£ 11.50	Card and Flowers	£ 1.92
Pot-It-On	£467.00	Horticulture	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 13/86 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Regarding the pond at the Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had been trying to contact the land agent, without success, about community involvement in the development of the pond. The Clerk is to send an email to the agent requesting a discussion.

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 8.38pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th September 2013.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug/Sep 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug/Sep 2013	
Army Benevolent Fund	£100.00	Donation	
D. Murrell (via Archer Signs)	£ 14.04	Dog Fouling Sign	£ 2.34
D. Murrell (via Ivars2k)	£ 3.10	Metal Cable Ties	
CDALC	£ 30.00	Good Councillors Guides	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Allowance	
Pot-It-On	£394.00	Horticulture	
BDO LLP	£120.00	Audit Fee	£20.00

Balance to 31st July 2013

Balance b/f	£40851.49	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2013	<u>£ 1640.08</u>		
	£39211.41	Current	£ 1436.05
		30 Day	<u>£37829.36</u>
		Total	£39265.41
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 54.00</u>
Balance c/f	£39211.41		£39211.41