

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester  
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Dr. D. Hartley, Mrs. L. LeDune,  
Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. C. Walton, N. Alderson,  
C. Noble-Nesbitt.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone and thanking everyone for the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy she received during her recent post-op recovery.

### **Item 1. 13/87 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. May and D. Snaith, and from County Councillor P. May and PCSO L. Hunter.

### **Item 2. 13/88 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

### **Item 3. 13/89 Report of the Police**

In the absence of the Police, the Clerk read out the written report attached (Appendix 1).

### **Item 4. 13/90 Report of the County Councillor**

County Councillor P. May had advised the Clerk that the only matter to report was that the proposed County Plan development of 200 houses at Picktree Village would not now go ahead.

### **Item 5. 13/91 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 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. 13/92 Chairman's Report**

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 13/80 section c). Re the proposed by-pass road improvements between the Park Road North and motorway roundabouts, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had attended a public meeting (Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had also attended) at which she had asked, as a School Governor, that consideration be given for an improved access to the playing field near there, to a pedestrian barrier south along the by-pass from Park Road North roundabout and to quieter road surfacing.
- b) Re Minute 13/80 section e). Re the steps leading from North Road to Lyndhurst Avenue, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that permanent hand rails were now in place. However, there were gaps at the top of the steps which were not closed off by the rails and this was to be discussed with the County Councillor.

- c) Re Minute 13/80 section f). Re the footpath from Picktree Village to the motorway roundabout, Cllr. Dr. Hartley confirmed the vegetation had been cut back. However, the surface of the path needed to be improved. The Clerk will advise the County Councillor.
- d) Re Minute 13/82 section c). Re fly-tipping at Low Flatts, Cllrs. Mrs. Caygill and Mrs. Walton advised that this had been removed but further tipping had then taken place. In addition, there was now fly-tipping near to the pond at Drum Industrial Estate.
- e) Re Minute 13/82 sections a & e). The Clerk advised that there had been no further communication from the County Council regarding the proposed new seats and the grinding out of tree stumps. The Chairman and Clerk are to consider contact with the County Council regarding the poor communication on these and other matters.

The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2).  
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

### **Item 7. 13/93 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 County Council had removed the damaged seesaw. The Clerk will contact the County Council to ask when a replacement will be installed. At Low Flatts, the goal posts were in need of a re-paint. The Clerk is to obtain two quotes for the work. The Clerk had obtained and fixed in place a permanent notice regarding dog-fouling.

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).

In addition, Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that there was a problem to the cutting back of the hedge at Low Flatts play area due to the fence wire inside the hedge. However, a way forward had been agreed with the County Council although further consideration would need to be given to removal or otherwise of the wire once the cutting back had been completed. The Gardener was to be asked to tidy the entrance to the play area at the Sustrans bridge. Trees in Low Flatts Road were to be inspected for work needing to be carried out on them. Regarding the re-installation of the tree guard, the County Council had advised that labour would be available following the end of the grass cutting season. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that Dobbies was offering free bulbs to community groups and Councillors agreed that this should be followed up. Cllr. Alderson advised that the Clerk had recently written to Dobbies seeking sponsorship. Councillors suggested other businesses which might be willing to provide sponsorship and this also will be followed up. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton 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 overgrown footpath at Picktree Lodge had now been cleared to a high standard. The Clerk is to thank the County Council.
- 2) The speed visors were clearly making many drivers reduce their speed. Cllr. Dr. Hartley advised that there was still, however, much speeding through Picktree Village. The Clerk is to ask the Police for the use of the speed gun there, perhaps with the participation of residents.
- 3) County Cllr. May had written to the County Council asking that consideration again be given to reducing the speed limit to 30mph along the section of North Road where it is currently 40mph. Councillors asked that this matter be put on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.
- 4) There were indications that residents were now cutting back overhanging hedges.
- 5) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised Councillors of the small amount of land owned by the County Council in the Parish.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

- d) **Publicity** In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. May, no report was made.
- e) **Planning** In the absence of Cllr. Snaith, no report was made.
- f) **Finance** In the absence of a Portfolio Holder, no report was made.

**Item 8. 13/94 Correspondence**

- 1) From a Resident  
email and copy letter to Arizona Chemical re substance release.
- 2) From North Lodge Residents' Association  
Agenda for meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- 3) From Great North Air Ambulance  
Thank you for donation.
- 4) From ABF The Soldiers' Charity  
Thank you for donation.
- 5) From JAK Print  
Thank you for business provided.
- 6) From Community Lincs  
Letter introducing new Insurance Officer.
- 7) From BDO LLP  
Completed audit for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.  
There were no matters arising from the audit.
- 8) From LitterFreeDurham  
email re the success of the 2013 Big Spring Clean.
- 9) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
  - a) Revised salary scales with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.
  - b) email re review of Quality Council scheme.
  - c) email re street lighting policy consultation.
  - d) email re Designated Public Place Orders.
  - e) Agenda for the Smaller Councils Forum meeting held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013.
  - f) email re attending the County Council's Cabinet meetings.
  - g) Invitation to the CDALC AGM to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
  - h) email re recharge of election costs.
    - i) Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter, Edition 6, August 2013.
    - j) email re establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.
    - k) email re Sport & Physical Activity Awards 2013.
    - l) email re financial contributions to highway repairs.
  - m) email re Government announcement on the creation of new Parish Councils.
  - n) email re resolution of complaints under the Code of Conduct.
  - o) email re possible training event - Data Protection & Freedom of Information.

- 10) From Durham County Council
  - a) email re Sustrans bridge at Picktree Lodge.
  - b) email re trial hole works at Northlands roundabout.
  - c) email re stone sign.
  - d) Letter re Your Money, Your Area, Your Views Community Grant Fund.
  - e) Letter re medium term financial planning and 2014/2015 budget setting.
  - f) email re land ownership at North Road.
  - g) email re Christmas Lights.
  - h) Notification of the AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013.
  - i) Notification of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
  - j) Letter re Durham County Council Children's Network.
  - k) email from County Councillor P. May re the Durham County Plan
  
- 11) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
  - a) Application for erection of various wall mounted and pole mounted external lighting, at Drum 3, 1, Drum Park.
  - b) Application for proposed extension of time to implement permission for the erection of one dwelling 2/11/00017/OUT, at Hollydene, North Lodge.
  - c) Application for felling of one sycamore tree to side of dwelling and removal of lowest limb growing over the property back to the main stem and prune back overhanging branches back from the property by 2-3m of one sycamore tree in front garden area (protected by a Tree Preservation Order), at 18 North Lodge.
  - d) Application for erection of canopy to provide covered area for unloading and scanning of freight, at Unit 30, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
  - e) Approval for felling of one sycamore tree to side of dwelling and removal of lowest limb growing over the property back to the main stem and prune back overhanging branches back from the property by 2-3m of one sycamore tree in front garden area (protected by a Tree Preservation Order), at 18 North Lodge.
  - f) Approval for erection of various wall mounted and pole mounted external lighting, at Drum 3, 1, Drum Park.
  - g) Approval for proposed change of use of land to residential caravan site for travellers and extension to existing day room, at Drum Lane Caravan Site.
  - h) Approval 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.
  - i) Approval for change of use from industrial (B2) to Canine Hydrotherapy grooming centre (Sui Generis), at Unit 1E, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.

### Item 9. 13/95 Payment of Accounts

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	
Pot-It-On	£408.51	Horticulture	
Pot-It-On (via B & Q)	£129.98	Purchase of Strimmer	£21.66
HM Revenue & Customs	£223.00	PAYE	
BDO LLP	£120.00	Audit Fee	£20.00

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

### Item 10. 13/96 Other Matters for Consideration

Regarding the pond at the Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she and Cllr. Alderson had visited the site to assess the possibility of improvement work. This is to be given further consideration if a meeting with the land agent can be arranged but in the meantime the Clerk is to send an email to the agent asking for the pond area to be cleared of litter, and fly-tipping to be removed. In addition, the Clerk will suggest that a barrier be put across the access path to deter future fly-tipping.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell			Salary/Exps. Oct 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund			Clerk's Pension Oct 2013	
 <b><u>Balance to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013</u></b>				
Balance b/f		£39211.41	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Sept 2013		<u>£ 2952.82</u>		Current £ 1459.23
		£36258.59		30 Day <u>£34829.36</u>
				Total <u>£36288.59</u>
			Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 30.00</u>
Balance c/f		£36258.59		£36258.59