

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 21st January 2014.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May, Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. C. Walton, N. Alderson, C. Noble-Nesbitt, D. Snaith.
County Councillor: P. May
Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.
Three Residents

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone and wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Item 1. 14/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Dr. D. Hartley.

Item 2. 14/02 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs. Caygill declared an interest in a planning application relating to 132 Picktree Lodge.

Councillor Mrs. M. May and County Councillor P. May declared an interest in a planning application relating to the garden of Hollydene, North Lodge.

Item 3. 14/03 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO L. Hunter to the meeting and invited the PCSO to give the Police report (Appendix 1, attached). The PCSO advised that, due to the rise in burglaries recently, there were currently extra Police patrols throughout the Parish.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for presenting the Police report.

Item 4. 14/04 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor P. May to the meeting and invited him to give his report (Appendix 2, attached).

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 14/05 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th November 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. 14/06 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 13/113 section a). Re the gaps at the top of the steps leading from North Road to Lyndhurst Avenue, County Cllr. May is to pursue this matter again with the County Council.
- b) Re Minute 13/113 section b). The County Council had now installed the new seats. However, the new seat at Merlin Drive had been installed at a different site to the one agreed, and the seat on the Baffle Bank had some minor damage on it. The Clerk is to arrange a site meeting with the County Council and Cllr. Alderson to discuss these matters.

c) Re Minute 13/113 section c). Re ownership of the pond area at Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that there had been no further contact from the land agent. The Clerk will chase this up.

d) Re Minute 13/114 section a). Re the damage to a junior swing at Low Flatts play area, there had been no further contact from the County Council. The Clerk is to request the County Council to replace the swing at the expense of the Parish Council.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Alderson to give a report of matters raised with the Parish Council at the recent North Lodge Residents' Association meeting.

e) A resident had requested the replacement of the fence at the south side of Merlin Drive play area. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill outlined the history of the fence and communications with the resident. Councillors decided that there was no requirement on the part of the Parish Council to replace the fence.

f) The Business Development Officer for Park View Academy would be attending the Association's meeting in March.

g) The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable would be attending future meetings in the area.

The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). In addition, the Business Development Officer for Park View Academy had contacted the Chairman to ask if she could introduce herself and the aims of her job to Councillors at the February Council meeting. Councillors agreed to this request.
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 14/07 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

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

For Merlin Drive, County Council P. May kindly offered to fund from his allowances the cost of a replacement see-saw. Councillors thanked the County Councillor.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report which included the following matters.

b) Highways and Website

1) A streetlight at Picktree Lodge was lit continuously. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council. 2) Councillors discussed the County Council's latest draft plan showing details of new alignments of roads and pavements at Northlands roundabout. Councillors agreed that it was now too late in the development of the project to have any further substantial influence on it.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his 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 4).

The Clerk will contact the County Council to ask if the leaves being cleared at North Road could be collected from there.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report and invited Cllr. Snaith to give his report.

d) Planning

Cllr. Snaith advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith and invited Cllr. Mrs. May to give her report.

e) Publicity

Cllr. Mrs. May advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. May.

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

Item 8. 14/08 Correspondence

- 1) From the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Thank you for donation.
- 2) From North Lodge Residents Association
Agenda for the meeting held on Monday 13th January 2014.
- 3) From LitterFreeDurham
Notice of Big Spring Clean to be held on April 7th 2014.
- 4) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Invitation to Data Protection & Freedom of Information event to be held on Thursday 27th March 2014.
 - b) email re World War 1 commemorations.
 - c) Agenda for the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 28th Nov. 2013.
 - d) Notice of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting to be held on 30th Jan. 2014.
 - e) Invitation to nominate two Councillors for attendance at a Royal Garden Party.
Councillors agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Forrester and Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt should be nominated. The Clerk will forward these nominations to the Association.
 - f) email re the proposed North East Leadership Board (Combined Authority).
 - g) Agenda for the Chester-le-Street CDALC Sub Committee meeting held on Sat 14th Dec 2013.
 - h) email re proposal to change the Area Committee structure.
Councillors discussed this proposal and agreed that the proposed four area groups were too big and contained parishes spread over too wide an area to provide much commonality and this would therefore reduce the effectiveness of the proposed groups. The Clerk will advise this to the Association.
- 5) From Durham County Council
 - a) Press release re Northlands roundabout.
 - b) Notification of the AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 27th January 2014.
 - c) AAP e-bulletin, Issue 15 - January 2014.
- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for display of non illuminated fascia sign (5.060m x 0.945m) with individual lettering advertising PH Partnership, at 10 Lumley Court, Drum Industrial Estate.
 - b) Application for installation of solar panels to roofspace to rear of dwelling and to west facing roof of garage to front, at 3 Lintfort.
 - c) Application for erection of first-floor extension to northern elevation of dwelling to provide enlarged bedroom/en-suite and sun room to rear to replace existing conservatory, at Wood View, North Road.
 - d) Application for erection of first-floor extension to rear of dwelling, at 132 Picktree Lodge.
 - e) Approval for construction of bay window to lounge at rear of dwelling, at 4 Lintfort.
 - f) Approval for installation of solar panels to roofspace to rear of dwelling and to west facing roof of garage to front, at 3 Lintfort.
 - g) Approval for erection of first-floor extension to northern elevation of dwelling to provide enlarged bedroom/en-suite and sun room to rear to replace existing conservatory, at Wood View, North Road.
 - h) Withdrawal of application for proposed extension of time to implement permission for the erection of one dwelling 2/11/00017/OUT, at Hollydene, North Lodge.

Item 9. 14/09 The Precept for 2014 / 2015

Councillors discussed the financial requirements of the Parish Council, having due regard to the forecasts which had been prepared by the Clerk, copies of which had been previously circulated. On a show of hands, it was agreed unanimously to set a Precept of £17,414.90 which is a 2% increase on 2013 / 2014 and represents a Band D equivalent charge of £19.35 per household per annum.

(Resolved unanimously on a show of hands - to set a Precept of £17,414.90 for the financial year 2014 / 2015).

Item 10. 14/10 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Dec 2013 / Jan 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Dec 13 / Jan 14	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 12.00	Postage Stamps	
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 219.80	PAYE	
E. Forrester	£ 150.00	Chair's Qtly Allowance	
DSJ Property Services	£ 120.00	Painting of Goal Posts	
Durham County Council	£537.60	Annual Bedding	£89.60
Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 116.00	Annual Subscription	
Pot-It-On	£ 288.00	Horticulture (December)	
Pot-It-On	£236.90	Horticulture (January)	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 14/11 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

- a) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that in response to a complaint from a resident, the manager of the Lambton Worm had had the security lights there adjusted so that they were no longer intrusive.
- b) The Clerk advised that the noticeboards at Picktree Village and Picktree Lodge required refurbishment. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should implement this work.

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 21st January 2014.

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D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Dec 2013 / Jan 2014	
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Pot-It-On		Horticulture (January)	

Balance to 30th November 2013

Balance b/f	£35186.56	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Nov 2013	<u>£ 1067.24</u>		
	£34119.32		
		Current	£ 979.32
		30 Day	<u>£33329.36</u>
		Total	£34308.68
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 189.36</u>
Balance c/f	£34119.32		£34119.32



CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM

NORTH LODGE
PARISH

BEAT OFFICER – PC 2128 Lynda RICHARDSON

PCSO 6533 Lesley HUNTER

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REPORTING PERIOD 01/11/2013 to 31/12/2013

CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1
THEFT	3
YOUTH NUISANCE	2
BURGLARY	6
VEHICLE NUISANCE	0

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

1 incident reported of damage to a fence on the Drum.

THEFT

A spare tyre was taken from a van on Lombard Drive, diesel was taken from a van on the Drum and lead from the roof of the nursery on Blind Lane.

YOUTH NUISANCE

2 reports of youths playing football at Ambleside court causing a nuisance. Youths traced and were from Birtley so officers from Northumbria dealt with them.

BURGLARY

2 attempted burglaries, 1 on Northlodge and 1 on Picktree Lodge. No entry gained to property.

1 property on Longdean Park, 1 on Northlodge, 1 on North Road and 1 on Blind Lane were broken into. There was access gained to the properties on Northlodge and North Road but nothing was taken. The other properties had jewellery taken. These occurred around early evening time. 2 males suspects were identified, 1 has been arrested and is under investigation but unfortunately the other committed suicide prior to arrest.

Simpson Brothers reported 3 incidents. However all involved employees who are now ex-employees.

VEHICLE RELATED NUISANCE

Nothing reported.

INFORMATION

During the long dark nights please try to leave a light on when going out to deter potential burglars as there have been several incidents locally recently.

Please remember to lock all valuables away if leaving in your vehicles and remove all traces of Sat Navs if stuck on windows etc. Also check that your vehicle is locked and the keys are not visible through a window or door.

Regular patrols have been made around Picktree Lodge by Officers, PCSO's and wardens. Also Northumbria officers have been involved. No one has been seen in the area.

Over the last 12 months, crime in Chester le Street has fallen by 4% and ASB by 3%

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any Police matters.

Thank You,

PCSO 6533 Lesley Hunter

Telephone 101

Lesley.hunter@durham.pnn.police.uk

Lynda.richardson@durham.pnn.police.uk

**County Councillor Peter May
North Lodge Parish Council Report January 2014**

BOC Demolition works. Had a request from a resident in Mitford Close regarding the noise and vibrations from the site and how long was this to last.

I contacted Stuart Timmis –Head of Planning whose reply was - I have been informed by the Principal Building Control Officer (North) that a Demolition Notice is in place for the demolition works at the BOC. He has spoken to the contractor, MGL Demolition Ltd, who has confirmed that the demolition work should be completed by the end of January 2014. He indicated that the vibration was probably associated with the removal of concrete hard standings, but feels they should now be working in a direction away from the dwellings so hopefully the vibration will diminish.

Bench for Camperdown/ Rickleton Avenue.

Some issues currently as Martin Briscoe (Horticulture) has indicated that the residents might have concerns regarding its placement. Will probably have a small local consultation with the residents.

Barley Mow Roundabout Flooding.

Despite major drainage works along North Road and some in the vicinity of The Barley Mow Roundabout there was still flooding at the roundabout early December. I requested that further investigations were made.

It appears that after camera explorations were made the drainage system on the Birtley side was damaged and Northumbria Water along with DCC shared the costs to repair. I believe that there will need to be some more engineering works north of the roundabout before we see the full benefit.

Civic Centre memorabilia

Some of the artefacts from the Civic Centre have gone to the Heritage Society and others have gone to Beamish Museum or the Durham County Council Archives.

The Dainty Dinah bust is now housed in the shopping mall near Morrisons.

I am trying to retrieve some photographs of the past District Council Chairpersons that used to hang in the Members Room. My fear is that they will languish in some dusty box and be forgotten and I would like to present them to the respective families as mementos. I have been told that they are in the Council archives and that I can only have copies at a cost of £6.20 each (about 12 photos)

Time Capsule -- I have sent the following email to Richard Hill DCC Facilities Manager

Please can you tell me what will happen to the time capsule buried at the entrance to the Civic Centre?

The exact location together with a request to the Civic Leaders of 2083 to unearth it is noted in the Council report books.

The Capsule was buried in December 1983 and is an indestructible plastic drum. It contains souvenirs of the year's events and should be opened as part of the Towns 1200 year anniversary celebrations.

To allow the site to be developed without protecting this historical artefact is unacceptable and I look forward to your reply.

Reply

Morning Councillor May

Thank you for your e mail which is most useful.

We have been made aware of the presence of the time capsule you refer to, and one of the Facilities team has marked up plan to show its location. This will be passed over to the responsible officers for the site, including the Assets Manager for information so a decision can be made on its future, bearing in mind the concerns you have raised in your e mail below.

Regards

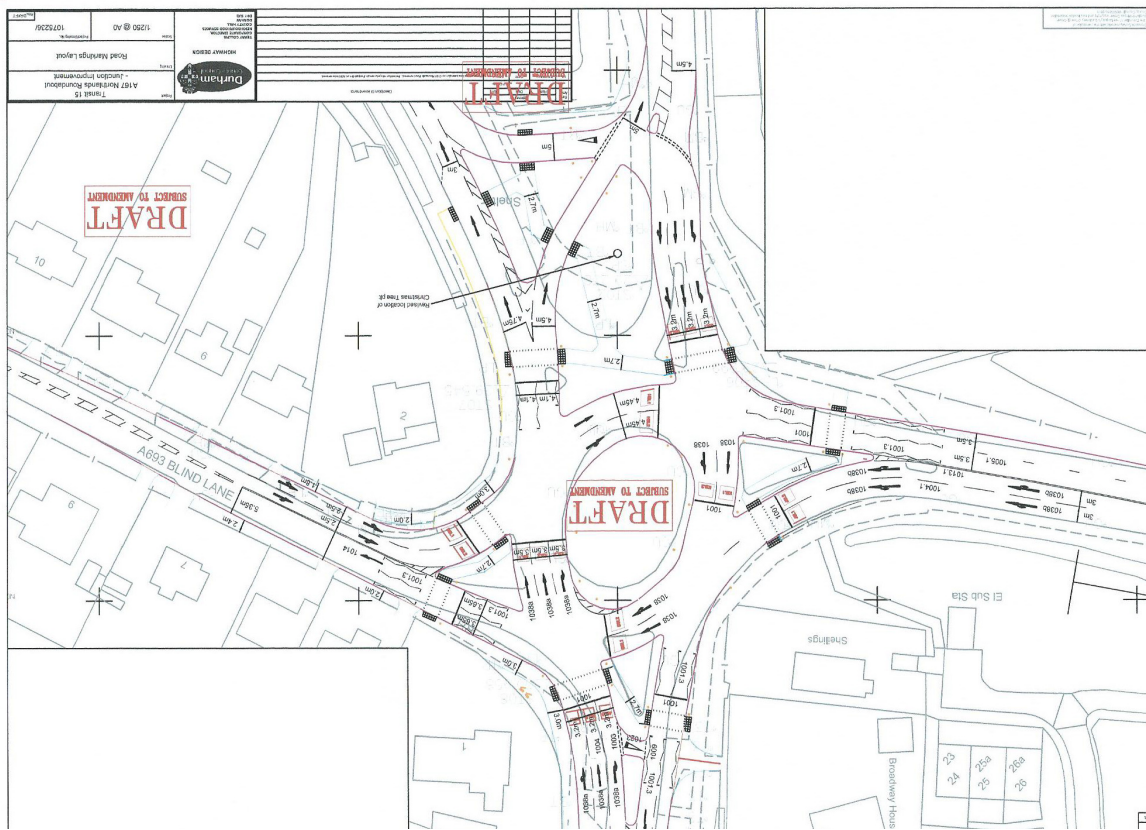
Richard Hill MSc (FM Dis) CBIFM

Facilities Management Officer

Roadwork's update

Northlands Roundabout

Diagram of what is proposed



The actual construction of the new junction will commence in April with work expected to last at least five months as traffic lights are installed. Working across the summer will allow for longer working days and will take advantage of the reduction in traffic across the summer holidays.

Work at the Blind Lane and Picktree Roundabout junctions will commence in the summer months, taking place until March 2015.

Transfer of DCC owned housing to Housing Associations

DURHAM County Council are proposing to transfer all Council owned housing stock over to Associations (Cestria Housing type of operations) and are currently conducting discussions with tenants

From Friday, 17 January 500 randomly selected tenants will be called by an external organisation to gauge opinion of transfer and to better understand hopes and fears should the council's proposal go ahead.

Contacted customers will be advised that their views are completely confidential and will be given the option to opt out if they do not wish to take part.

Also Tenant's information sessions will take place at:

- Durham City Homes - Tuesday, 21 January at 11am; and Friday, 24 January at 12pm
- Dale & Valley Homes - Thursday, 30 January at 10am and 2pm
- East Durham Homes - Tuesday, 11 February - times to be confirmed.

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny – Flooding Scrutiny Review.

I am part of an 8 Councillor group who are focussing on the policies and plans in place to manage flood risks that are relevant to DCC.

- The role of DCC as Lead Local Flood Authority

- Partnership working to mitigate the risk of flooding
- Work currently being undertaken to mitigate the risk of flooding
- Sources of funding

First meeting took place 10 January where we were given a general overview of what was in progress with a timetable to move forward with plans etc.

The Medium Term Investment Plan to help mitigate the risk of flooding entails a spend of £7.5m

Chester Le Streets initial share will be £195,000 for flood management works which includes the new Waldrige drainage scheme.

Other large spending - Lanchester flood alleviation scheme £1.2m

Seaham promenade £1.2m

Seaham North Pier £3m

Witton Gilbert flood alleviation scheme £1m

Second meeting took place 20th January when Northumbria Water and the Environmental Agency explained to us what their roles were within the flood protection partnership.

Chester Le Street Cong Burn Culvert

There is strong support to have the culvert removed and to expose the Cong Burn. This will help alleviate flooding and also help with the regeneration of the town. Meeting to be held at the Parish Centre 22 January to discuss this. If it happens it will be a long process – years rather than months probably.

Budget Savings - What the Public Said

The recent public consultation revealed that the public found it very difficult to suggest ways of saving the £100m pounds we have to find in the next 2 years.

Most popular ways :

Backroom administration: Legal, IT, HR. Democratic support (councillors help) Subsidised bus travel

Also popular were Grass cutting ,trees and flower beds. Maintenance of public buildings, Planning services, borrowing for new development.

Not really happy to cut services in:

Job creation, social work for adults and children, support for adults in their homes, education services, community projects, centres, groups, gritting and snow clearance, support for families.

Two thirds of people supported an increase in Council Tax of up to 2%