

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester  
Councillors: Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. C. Walton, N. Alderson,  
C. Noble-Nesbitt, J. Waugh.  
  
Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.  
  
A resident

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone, in particular Parish resident Dennis Hall who had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

### **Item 1. 14/114 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Caygill, Dr. D. Hartley, Mrs. M. May, D. Snaith, County Councillor P. May and J. Martin (Chair of North Lodge Residents' Association).

### **Item 2. 14/115 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

### **Item 3. 14/116 Report of the Police**

The Police were not present at the meeting but had provided a written report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk.

### **Item 4. 14/117 Report of the County Councillor**

The County Councillor was not present at the meeting but had provided a written report (Appendix 2, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk.

### **Item 5. 14/118 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014, 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. 14/119 Chairman's Report**

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 14/109 section c). Re the Drum pond project, the AAP had included an article on its Facebook page.
- b) Re Minute 14/109 section d). Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that she had searched part of her garage for the plaque for the millennium yew tree, and would be searching the rest of the garage shortly.
- c) Re Minute 14/110 section a1). Cllr. Mrs. Walton will inspect the tree overhanging Merlin Drive play area from a neighbouring property.
- d) Re Minute 14/110 section a4). Re the stone wall between the Sustrans bridge and the former Pelaw Grange Cottage, the Clerk will again contact the County Council to ask what progress has been made.

The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

### **Item 7. 14/120 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

#### **a) Highways and Website**

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 4). Re incomplete road patching at Leander Avenue, the Clerk will contact the County Council. Re dog fouling signs and waste bins, the Clerk will contact the County Council. Re the inspection cover on North Road, the Clerk will advise the County Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his 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 5). Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that weeds needed cutting down alongside the footpath near the Sustrans bridge. The Clerk will advise the County Council. Councillors expressed thanks to the Residents' Association for re-planting the flower tubs with winter bedding. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report.

#### **c) Play Areas**

In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, the Clerk presented her report which included the following matters.

- 1) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had obtained answers to Councillors' questions re the possible use of a community room at Park View school. However, asbestos had been discovered in the ceiling of the room and this would, therefore, delay matters.
- 2) At Low Flatts, the gap in a perimeter hedge where plants had died would take only 4 or 5 plants to be filled. It might be possible to obtain a National Tree Week grant to purchase the plants.
- 3) Park View school had carried out work on trees in the school grounds.
- 4) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and Park View school students had planted the two tubs in Lombard Drive with winter flowering pansies supplied by the Residents' Association. Shrubs which had grown too big for the tubs were re-planted in the school garden.
- 5) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had attended the Remembrance Service with the Chairman and had felt proud of the number of people in attendance.

#### **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. Cllr. Dr. Hartley had forwarded an email from a resident advising that Lambton Estates had appealed the decision of the County Council to not allow building of houses at Picktree Village.

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

### **Item 8. 14/121 Correspondence**

1) From Lloyds Bank

Letter confirming changes to the bank account signatures.

2) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) email re road traffic accident mapping.
- b) email re Neighbourhood Plans.
- c) email re NALC Smaller Councils' Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014.
- d) email re NALC Scrutiny Panel meetings.
- e) Agenda for the CDALC Smaller Councils Forum to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014.
- f) email re national pay award.

- 3) From Durham County Council
  - a) Letter re fly-tipping campaign.
  - b) Notification of the AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014.
- 4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
  - a) Application for single storey extension to front of factory, at Unit 19, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
  - b) Application for conversion of existing macadam play area to a floodlit, fenced 3G synthetic pitch (resubmission with changes to hours of use), at Park View Comprehensive School.
  - c) Approval for first floor extension to the side, at 66 Longdean Park.
  - d) Approval for change of use from B8 to a mixed use of B1, B2 and B8 and installation of silos, at 1 Drum Park.
  - e) Approval for installation of new synthetic sports pitch with associated floodlights and fence enclosure, at Park View Comprehensive School.
  - f) Refusal for erection of 12 no. town houses, at site of former Pelaw Grange Cottage.

**Item 9. 14/122 Adoption of new Financial Regulations**

In the absence of Cllr. Dr. Hartley, who was to give a presentation on this matter, this item will be carried over to the Agenda for the January 2015 meeting of the Council.

**Item 10. 14/123 Request for Donations**

Councillors considered the outstanding requests for donations and agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Further consideration of outstanding requests is to be made at the January 2015 meeting of the Council.

**Item 11. 14/124 Payment of Accounts**

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary Nov 2014	
D. Murrell		Expenses Nov 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Nov 2014	
D. Murrell (via WH Smith Ltd)	£ 18.31	Copier Paper	£ 3.05
Pot-It-On	£379.98	Horticulture	
CDALC	£90.00	Governance/Accountability Books	
Durham County Council	£553.73	Annual Bedding	£92.29
Poppy Appeal	£50.00	Wreath and Donation	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

**Item 12. 14/125 Other Matters for Consideration**

1) The Clerk advised Councillors of an item in "The Clerk" magazine which stated that the inclusion of general agenda items such as "Matters Arising" or "Any Other Business" should be discouraged. Councillors agreed that this matter should be put on the Agenda for the January 2015 meeting of the Council.

2) The Chairman introduced Mr. Dennis Hall who wished to become a Parish Councillor. The co-option of Mr. Hall will be considered at the January 2015 meeting of the Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

**Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell		Salary Dec 2014 / Jan 2015	
D. Murrell		Expenses Dec 2014 / Jan 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Dec 14 / Jan 15	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 22.32	Postage Stamps	
Pot-It-On	£ 96.98	Horticulture Dec 2014	
Pot-it-On		Horticulture Jan 2015	
Soc. of Local Council Clerks	£118.00	Annual Subscription	
HM Revenue & Customs	£219.20	PAYE	
DSJ Services	£ 55.00	Fixing Sign to Post	
E.Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Allowance	
<b><u>Balance to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014</u></b>			
Balance b/f	£36865.20	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Nov 2014	<u>£ 1773.66</u>		
	£35091.54		
			Current £ 2031.16
			30 Day <u>£33891.21</u>
			Total <u>£35922.37</u>
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 830.83</u>
Balance c/f	£35091.54		£35091.54

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

- **Remembrance Day Service at the new war memorial.** I presented a wreath from all of the residents of The North Lodge Electoral Division (my remit goes beyond that of the Parish Council who also presented a wreath)
- Attended the official opening of the new Durham and Darlington Fire Authority HQ at Belmont – opened by HRH The Countess of Wessex (06 November)

**Interesting winter facts.**

The Council has invested additional resources over the past 12 months.

Increased the revenue budget by £1.5 m per year

Invested £1.5m in new salt barns at Wolsingham and Hackworth

Continued the lifecycle replacement of gritters

Installed new gritter tracking systems

**Key facts and figures**

Total length of carriageway in Co Durham = 3,773,000kms (234,400 ml)

% of carriageway treated (priority 1) 45%

Priority 1 presalting routes 38

Total winter maintenance budget £5.2m

Total salt stocks at the start of winter 42,700tonnes

Power gritters 40

Trailer gritters 33

Snow blowers 4

Average cost per turn out (County wide) £28,000

Average salt usage per turn out (County wide) 250 tonnes

Average salt costs £27 per tonne

Salt bins 2,400 approx

**Trees on North Road dropping leaves into peoples gardens**

**I can advise that Martin Briscoe has inspected the trees and his advice is that although the trees don't require any major pruning work they would benefit from some remedial work. The remedial work includes crown lifting over footpaths and the removal of branches that overhang properties. This work has been added to the winter work programme.**

I have had on two occasions the leaves swept off the North Road footpath as they were causing a danger for pedestrians.

**Bus Laybys for Vigo Lane**

This is the answer that was received after I enquired about the possibility of Laybys

Dear Cllr May

Your e mail regarding the above to Adrian White has been passed to me to reply.

Having looked at the particular location the stops in question are on a relatively straight section of road which offers adequate forward inter-visibility for overtaking vehicles when a bus is at the stop. In relation to the construction of laybys to accommodate buses off the main running lanes obviously there is a substantial cost associated with this, particularly if there are any public utility apparatus which requires diverting. Additionally bus companies are quite often against the provision of laybys as this can result in a bus being 'trapped' in the lay by if there is a constant flow of traffic.

With regard to the 'old BOC site' I have enquired with colleagues in Development Management who have responded with:

Dave

I've checked with both Fiona Clarke (Planning North) and Andrew Inch (Strategic Planning). Fiona's team dealt with an application to demolish the BOC site on which there was a reference to a future residential development. The site is shown as a housing site (H17) in the draft Local Plan, but no application has been submitted. Andrew Inch's team would deal with a site of

that size.

**Keith is correct, may be opportunity for planning gain from the housing developer. However, there is no application and therefore no opportunity for funding by a developer. Obviously I can't predict when a development may be submitted. It may be next week, or nothing may happen for several years.**

**Neil Thompson**

Principal Development Management Engineer  
Network Management  
Transport  
03000 267109

We have also contacted Go North East for their view on the provision of laybys at this location if/when a developer comes forward. Their response was:

**From:** Andy Gamblin [<mailto:andy.gamblin@gonortheast.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 01 October 2014 10:17

**To:** Tony Leckenby

**Subject:** Re: Vigo Lane, Birtley

Hi Tony

Service X25 is twice per hour and from experience picks relatively few passengers up here, the vast majority catching buses on main road between Barley Mow and Birtley where services are much more regular.

I have spoken to one of my colleagues here that catches the service every day to work from Langley Park towards Gateshead and agrees that the number of times the bus stops there is relatively low and then only to let one or two on.

There used to be far more services operating this way in the past and no problems have ever been raised.

**Andy Gamblin**

**Infrastructure Manager**

**Go North East**

Tel : 0191 422 9212 Mob : 07712881685

Given the above I don't think we can justify the expense of providing laybys at this time however if/when a developer comes forward we will explore the possibility at that time.

Regards

**Dave Lewin** Section Manager

Strategic Traffic Management

Regeneration & Economic Development

Room 4/103-112, County Hall, Durham

DH1 5UQ.

### **Northlands Roundabout.**

General comments are favourable apart from a few residents who think its too complicated. Had meeting with Tony Hicks prior to the Safety Audit meeting of last week and pointed out my concerns.

Lorries can easily block exits

No audible signals when crossings ok to cross

Give way before lights coming from CLS causes mistakes

People look at other lights than the correct ones

Bus shelter to be constructed November – delayed because roof too heavy for original plans

### **Planning Issues**

Refused permission to build 12 Town Houses on Pelaw Grange because of overcrowding

and lack of parking

### **Biggest ever crackdown on flytipping launched**

A campaign to stop flytipping is being launched across County Durham from today.

Operation Stop It is Durham County Council's biggest ever crackdown on the illegal dumping of waste.

The council is working in partnership with Durham Police, Crimestoppers and the Environment Agency to target flytippers and ensure householders understand their responsibilities in making sure their waste is disposed of properly.

Flytipping is a serious offence which blights the environment, can pollute rivers and other waterways, endangers wildlife and is costly to clean up.

As well as targeting those who illegally dump waste, Operation Stop It also aims to remind householders that they are legally responsible for ensuring that anyone they use to dispose of their household waste – including furniture, household appliances and building materials – is properly registered with the Environment Agency as a waste carrier.

### **I am supporting the Park View School in their attempt to construct Community rooms.**

**Have visited site and am pleased with what is being presented – rooms should be ready by the turn of the year. I will probably use some of my allowance to buy fixtures etc.**

### **Reported the Lack of Pedestrian access across the roadworks at J63**

**From:** Cllr Peter May

**Sent:** 18 November 2014 08:12

**To:** Tony Hicks

**Cc:** Terry Collins; John Reed; 'gapnden@talktalk.net'

**Subject:** Pedestrian Access from Picktree Village to Chester Le Street

Hello Tony

I hope that you are the right person to help?

Due to the J63/A167 roadworks pedestrians who wish to walk to Chester Le Street from Picktree Village are being hampered by contractors parking their vehicles on the footpath near the J63 roundabout down the hill from the village. This means that the residents are having to walk on a very busy road.

Also, I am at a loss to see how they then can safely continue their walk across the roadworks to either the Riverside or into the Town centre without negotiating mud or even seeing where they are supposed to be going. (signage is very poor)

Yesterday I visited the site and parked on the pavement were 3 lorries and I was at a loss to see how any pedestrians could negotiate this construction site safely.

It would be appreciated if you or whoever is responsible can please take immediate action to rectify this situation.

### **Longdean Park Lighting – reported at Residents Association meeting**

Have asked for a meeting with Mark Readman to discuss the adequacy of the lighting

***Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 18 November 2014***

Footpath defects between numbers 65 and 67 Picktree Lodge, as reported in the June Minutes, have been rectified.

Damage to the pavement at 97 Picktree Lodge, caused by tree roots, has been comprehensively rectified.

Leander Avenue, running north/south, has evidence of remedial patching as forecast by DCC but this is incomplete - ACTION: needs further checking with DCC.

The need for a bin (for dog waste) remains as a priority for at least one of the three eastern grassed areas of Picktree Lodge, adjacent to the baffle bank, an area of proliferating use by dog walkers – ACTION: needs checking with DCC, if not already agreed.

The need for some 'dog fouling' notices in the same area of Picktree Lodge remains – ACTION: needs further checking with DCC.

On the A167 North Road east footpath, between lamp standards 20 and 22, almost exactly opposite lamp standard 21, erosion has produced a 4/5cm lip on a large GPO marked inspection/maintenance cover on its north side - ACTION: DCC needs notification for urgent action because of serious tripping hazard for pedestrians walking southwards.

Northlands Roundabout new layout – reports of incidents include examples such as: a car turning from Newcastle Road westward up the A693 Stanley Road and running into the back of the car immediately in front which was stopping because of the red pedestrian crossing light; a convergence of vehicles just after the eastern exit down Blind Lane, where merging is what is actually needed. Overall, the comments coming my way continue to be very positive indeed about the new system as a whole.

*C N-N 18/11/2014*