

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 20th January 2015.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May,
Mrs. C. Walton, N. Alderson, D. Hall,
C. Noble-Nesbitt, D. Snaith, J. Waugh.

County Councillor: P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

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

Item 1. 15/01 Apologies for Absence

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

Item 2. 15/02 Co-option of Councillor

The Chairman welcomed Dennis Hall to the meeting.

(Resolved - to co-opt Mr. Dennis Hall as a Parish Councillor).

Item 3. 15/03 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School.

Item 4. 15/04 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 5. 15/05 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor P. May to give his report which included the following matters and began with the County Cllr. wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

- a) The County Cllr. outlined the "It's Your Neighbourhood" fund available to community groups.
- b) The County Council was seeking to implement a 20mph speed limit outside all schools in the County although probably not in Lombard Drive.
- c) The County Cllr. had dealt with residents complaints re street lighting.
- d) The County Council had been asked to consider additional street lighting in Longdean Park.
- e) The County Council needed to make additional savings of £16.3M for 2015 / 2016.
- f) The County Cllr. outlined a planning application at 1 Park View.
- g) Fly-tipping had increased by 37% year on year. The County Council had introduced a campaign to tackle this problem.
- h) The County Council was reviewing play provision throughout the County. However, in Chester-le-Street, all play provision would continue to be supported.
- i) At the recent Residents' Association meeting, some in attendance there had complained that there was no representative from the Parish Council. Councillors discussed this and were surprised at the comment, given that it was the first time in memory that there had not been a Parish Councillor at a Residents' Association meeting. Although attendance will resume, there are other well-established channels for anyone wishing to contact the Parish Council at any time.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 6. 15/06 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th November 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 7. 15/07 Chairman's Report

a) Re Minute 14/119 section a). Re the Drum pond project, the Clerk will pursue the land ownership issue.

b) Re Minute 14/119 section b). Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that she had been unable to locate the plaque for the millennium yew tree. Councillors agreed that a replacement should be purchased.

c) Re Minute 14/120 section a). Re dog fouling signs and bins for the Picktree Lodge area, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and the County Cllr. agreed to liaise in making a new request to the County Council.

d) Re Minute 14/120 section 7c1). Re a possible community room at Park View School, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the difficulties of cost and disruption to the school in removing the asbestos there has put the project on hold indefinitely. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will, however, continue to press for a facility at the School.

e) Re Minute 14/120 section f). Cllr. J. Waugh kindly offered to take up the vacant Finance Portfolio post. Councillors accepted the offer and thanked Cllr. Waugh.

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

Re Northumbria in Bloom, the Chairman is shortly to meet with the Civic Pride team to discuss the Barley Mow roundabout area.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 8. 15/08 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 3).

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 4).

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reminded Councillors that the willow tree in Lombard Drive is to be moved to Merlin Drive play area. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill suggested that this could be done in conjunction with planting of shrubs to fill the gap in the hedge at Low Flatts play area. County Cllr. May advised that he hoped to hold a front gardens competition and also to arrange a walk around the Ward. Cllr.

Mrs. Caygill suggested that a boundary walk should be arranged.

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

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. May and invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report which included the following matters.

d) Play Areas

At Low Flatts

1) The dog fouling sign had now been installed.

2) There was damage to some safety surfacing.

3) Litter had been cleared and put into bags although it was not known by whom.

4) The bridle path alongside the play area might now need re-surfacing. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will inspect the path.

5) Sustrans intended to create a wildflower garden near to the footbridge over the railway.

At Merlin Drive

6) The play area had been inspected and everything was in order.

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

e) Planning

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith.

f) Finance As Cllr. Waugh had only just taken up the Portfolio, no report was made.

Item 9. 15/09 Correspondence

1) From North Lodge Residents' Association

a) Christmas greetings.

b) Agenda for meeting held on Monday 12th January 2015.

2) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Agenda for the Chester-le-Street Sub-Committee meeting held on Saturday 13th Dec. 2014.

b) email re 276th National Council bulletin.

c) email re NALC media policy.

d) email re County Council fly-tipping campaign.

e) email re use of electronic summonses for council agendas.

f) Invitation to meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner to be held on Friday 30th January 2015.

g) email re consultation on the Police Council Tax 2015 - 2016.

h) email re County Council budget consultation.

i) email re Buckingham Palace garden parties.

Councillors agreed that the Chairman should be nominated to attend a Party.

j) email re Local Councils Working Group meeting held on 9th December 2014.

k) email re Local Government Pension Scheme deficits.

l) email re possible NALC ceremony to recognise parish council achievements.

3) From Durham County Council

a) email re Poplar tree at Merlin Drive play area.

b) Notification of the AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 26th January 2015.

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

a) Application for erection of single dwelling (outline - all matters reserved), at 31 North Lodge.

b) Application for demolition of existing maintenance building, and erection of proposed vehicle maintenance building, at Simpson Bros, Drum Road.

c) Application for new dwelling situated on land to the rear of 1 Park View.

Item 10. 15/10 The Precept for 2015 / 2016

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. It was agreed to maintain the precept at an amount of £19.35 Band D equivalent per household per annum. Including the LCTRS grant of £623.00, this will provide an income of £17, 999.30.

(Resolved - to set a Precept for 2015 / 2016 of £19.35 per Band D equivalent household).

Item 11. 15/11 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 February 2015 meeting of the Council.

Item 12. 15/12 Transparency Code

The Clerk outlined the new Code which is intended to be introduced to replace the present Audit regime. The Government intends to provide support to assist with the introduction of the new Code and details of this support are awaited.

Item 13. 15/13 Local Council Award Scheme

The Clerk outlined the new Scheme which has replaced the Quality Council scheme. Councillors agreed to keep the Scheme in view whilst making progress towards an application for Foundation status.

Item 14. 15/14 Request for Donations

Councillors considered the outstanding requests for donations and agreed not to make any donation at present but to consider any further requests as they were received.

Item 15. 15/15 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
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	£409.96	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	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 16. 15/16 Future inclusion of "Other Matters" on the Agenda

Due to the pressure of time, this item will now be considered at the February meeting of the Council.

The Clerk confirmed that a survey of the Parish Council's bus shelters is now to be commissioned.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th February 2015.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary February 2015	
D. Murrell		Expenses February 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension February 2015	
D. Murrell (via Costco Ltd)	£299.89	Laptop Computer	£49.98
Pot-it-On		Horticulture February 2015	

Balance to 31st January 2015

Balance b/f	£35091.54	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Dec 14/Jan 15	<u>£ 2481.07</u>		Current £ 359.37
	£32610.47		30 Day <u>£32391.21</u>
			Total <u>£32750.58</u>
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 140.11</u>
Balance c/f	£32610.47		£32610.47



CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM

NORTH LODGE **PARISH**

BEAT OFFICER – Vacant.

PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor

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REPORTING PERIOD 1st August to 31st August 2014

BURGLARY	0
THEFT	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2
ASB NUISANCE	3
VEHICLE NUISANCE	0

1st November to 30th November 2014

Burglary 0

Nothing to report

Theft 1

- 1) Push bike taken on North Burns

Criminal Damage 2

- 1) The Close East, Damaged to drain pipes.
- 2) Glenmore Avenue, damage to pigeon loft.

Nuisance 3

- 1) Pelaw Place, Banging on the window.
- 2) Conyers Road, Banging on the door.
- 3) Ambleside Court, Noise Complaint.

Vehicle Nuisance 0

Nothing reported.

INFORMATION

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

Up to 70% of all car crime in Chester le Street in the last 12 months is because the vehicles have been left unlocked.

Winter is here!

Please don't leave your vehicle unattended while de-icing on these frosty days, a number of vehicles have been stolen and your insurance will not pay out.

If you get a phone call asking you to call a 0809 number back, don't. It will cost you over £1000.

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

Thank You,

PCSO Christine Taylor

Telephone the police on 101

christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk

Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 20 January 2015

The incomplete Leander Avenue remedial patching appears to be on a DCC listing for future work.

DCC has taken action to rectify the tripping hazard between lamp standards 20 and 22 on North Road.

A dog waste bin and 'Dog fouling' notices remain as priorities for Picktree Lodge, as described in the November report.

Northlands Roundabout new layout – comments coming my way continue to be very positive indeed about the new system as a whole. Because the traffic lights cause traffic to move north in 'batches' along North Road, the gaps created allow for the easier emerging of traffic from Lombard Drive when turning right. There may be similar positive effects that can be observed on the roads radiating from the roundabout.

The rebuilding of the North Road bus stop shelter appears to be substantially completed.

The Junction 63 roundabout alterations are at a stage where the temporary signs indicating the lane to be taken for the southbound A1 contradict the markings on the road surface for traffic emerging from Blind Lane, for example.

C N-N 20/01/2015