

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 16th June 2015.

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

County Councillor: P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

Two Residents

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone, particularly the two residents.

As the meeting was being held in a room new to the Parish Council, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised everyone of the "housekeeping" rules.

Item 1. 15/68 Apologies for Absence

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

The Chairman advised that a resident had expressed an interest in filling the vacant seat on the Council, and this would be discussed towards the end of the meeting.

Item 2. 15/69 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 15/70 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited the County Councillor to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 1).

Councillors discussed the matter of inconsiderate parking at School leaving time. Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised of increasing problems at the entrance to Longdean Park and County Cllr. May agreed to monitor this. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill considered that a meeting should be sought with the School to discuss potential travel alternatives and several Councillors expressed an interest in being involved in any such meeting.

Re the future development of land at Vigo Lane, Councillors considered that it would be beneficial to invite a representative of the County Council Planning Department to a Parish Council meeting. The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 15/71 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2015, 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 5. 15/72 Chairman's Report

- a) Re Minute 15/58. Re the Horticulture Portfolio, Cllr. Mrs. May expressed an interest in assisting Cllr. Mrs. Walton who confirmed her agreement to this. Cllr. Mrs. LeDune, the existing assistant holder, also accepted this. Councillors therefore agreed that Cllr. Mrs. May is to be the new assistant Horticulture Portfolio Holder. The Chairman advised that consequently the Publicity Portfolio was now vacant. Cllr. Mrs. Forrester expressed an interest in this. Councillors agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Forrester is to be the Publicity Portfolio Holder.
- b) Re Minute 15/60. Re emergency vehicle sirens, the County Cllr. advised that he had discussed this with the Fire and Police services. Emergency vehicle drivers were entitled to use sirens whenever they considered that there could be a risk to themselves or the public. However, drivers tried to keep use of the sirens to a minimum. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that any residents not satisfied with the use of sirens should make a complaint to the relevant service.
- c) Re Minute 15/63 section a). Re the road surface at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had been advised that re-surfacing was included on the County Council's programme although no date had yet been set.
- d) Re Minute 15/63 section b). Re the dead tree at Merlin Drive play area, the County Council had advised that this would be replaced at the appropriate time of year.
- e) Re Minute 15/63 section c). Re replacement seats, County Cllr. May advised that a new seat for the Northlands bus shelter was on order. The County Cllr. also considered that the two seats on the left side of the entrance to Lombard Drive from North Road were in a poor condition and he would be willing to finance their replacement although any new seats should be installed in a different position to avoid the present problems of being situated under trees. Councillors thanked the County Cllr. for this offer and agreed to give consideration to it.

The Chairman advised that he had no matters to report.

Item 6. 15/73 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Waugh to give his report.

a) Finance

Cllr. Waugh advised that as there were a number of financial items on the Agenda he had no further report to make.

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

b) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 2). The Clerk will advise various matters contained in the report to the County Council. Re the seat at Caxton Way/Picktree Lodge, County Cllr. May offered to finance a replacement. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council. Re new dog waste bins and notices on lamp standards, County Cllr. May suggested inviting the Neighbourhood Wardens to a Council meeting and he will follow this up.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt 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 3). Re shrubs at Northlands, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that a resident had kindly cut back several of these. A resident had complained of trees on County Council land overgrowing into his property. The Clerk will advise the County Council accordingly.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton.

d) Planning

The Chairman advised that there were no matters to report.

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

e) Play Areas

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that at Low Flatts, there were still weeds needing to be cut back at the small gap in the hedge. At Merlin Drive, there had been no re-occurrence of the molehills. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and invited Cllr. Mrs. Forrester to give her report.

f) Publicity

Cllr. Mrs. Forrester's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester.

Item 7. 15/74 Correspondence

1) From N. Alderson

Letter of thanks.

2) From a Resident

Expression of interest re vacant seat on Parish Council.

3) From Arizona Chemical

Notification of intention to close its facility at Vigo Lane.

The Clerk will write to the company to express thanks for the provision of the meeting room.

4) From the Planning Inspector, County Durham Plan

Update re judicial review and closure of Programme Office.

5) From Community Lincs

Confirmation of renewal of insurance.

6) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re County Durham Volunteering Awards 2015.

b) Email re consultation draft of the Co. Durham Rights Of Way Improvement Plan 2015-2018.

c) Email re "Delivering Differently" scheme.

d) Email re taxi licensing policy review consultation.

e) Email re nominations for County Association.

7) From Durham County Council

a) Letter re No Waiting road markings.

b) Email re Park Close, North Road.

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

Application for erection of two storey side extension, at 14 Merlin Drive.

Item 8. 15/75 Welcome Signs

Due to the pressure of time, the Chairman proposed that this item should be held over to the next meeting of the Council, and this was agreed by Councillors.

Item 9. 15/76 Approval of the Accounting Statements

Councillors discussed the Statements for the year ending 31st March 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statements.

(Resolved - to approve the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31st March 2015).

Item 10. 15/77 Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit

Councillors discussed the system and agreed that it was robust and effective.

Item 11. 15/78 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement

Councillors discussed the Annual Governance Statement for 2014 / 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statement.

(Resolved - to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2014 / 2015).

Item 12. 15/79 An Overall Amount for Donations

Councillors discussed an overall amount for donations during the financial year 2015 / 2016 and agreed an amount of £200.

(Resolved - to set an overall amount of £200 for donations during the financial year 2015 / 2016).

Item 13. 15/80 Requests for Donations

Councillors discussed the one outstanding request and declined to make a donation.

At this point, the residents and the County Councillor left the room.

Item 14. 15/81 Review of Chairman's Allowance, Salaries, Wages and Expenses

The Chairman left the room whilst the Chairman's Allowance was discussed, the Vice-Chairman taking the Chair. Councillors agreed that there should be no change in the amount of the Allowance. The Chairman re-entered the room and was advised of the decision. Councillors discussed the other payments and agreed that no changes should be made except for the Clerk's salary which is subject to the national agreement.

At this point, one resident and the County Councillor re-entered the room.

Item 15. 15/82 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries June 2015	
Expenses	£80.00	Expenses June 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions June 2015	
HM Revenue & Customs	£198.60	PAYE	
Pot-It-On	£355.98	Horticulture	
I. Herberson	£40.00	Internal Audit Fee	
D. Snaith	£150.00	Chair's Allowance	
D. Murrell (via Morrison's)	£7.82	Stationery	£1.30
JAK Publications Ltd	£460.80	Newsletters	£76.80
E. Forrester	£20.00	Gift Voucher for N. Alderson	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 16. 15/83 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters to report.

The Chairman then asked the resident to leave the room whilst the vacancy for a seat on the Council was discussed. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that the Newsletter, which had not yet been delivered to residents, contained an invitation to apply for the vacancy. Councillors therefore agreed that a decision on co-option should be made at the September Council meeting which would provide sufficient time for all residents to have the opportunity to read the Newsletter and express an interest should they wish to do so. The resident then re-entered the room and was advised of the decision.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st July 2015.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		Salaries July 2015	
Expenses	£80.00	Expenses July 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions July 2015	
Npower Northern Ltd	£21.73	Power for Christmas Lights	£3.62
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	

Balance to 30th June 2015

Balance b/f	£40478.26	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - June 2015	<u>£ 1934.26</u>		Current £ 637.12
	£38544.00		30 Day <u>£37906.88</u>
			Total <u>£38544.00</u>
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£38544.00		£38544.00

County Councillor Peter May

North Lodge Parish Council Report May/June 2015

Capital Works Programme 2015/16 – North Lodge

Please find below the list of highway works which are programmed to be carried out within your division this financial year. I would like to point out that this list may be subject to change throughout the year without notice

Scheme Type	Road No	Location	Contractor	Status
Carriageway	Unc	Drum lane Ind Est, Chester-le-Street	Highway Services	Committed
Carriageway	A167	Picktree Rbt to Junc 63 NB	Highway Services	Committed
Footway	Unc	Drum Road, Chester-le-Street	Highway Services	Committed
Street Lighting	Unc	Kingsmere, North Lodge	Highway Services	Committed

New seat for bus stop at Northlands Roundabout

Original disappeared during construction works and Tony Hicks has promised a new green one. Martin Briscoe has the seat on order and is awaiting delivery.

Extra floral decoration for the Northlands Roundabout.

I have asked Martin Briscoe to investigate the possibility of covering the Xmas Tree metal pit cover with a removable display. He is concerned that it may be difficult to water during the summer.

Bollard at entrance to Picktree Lodge

Toppled bollard fixed after being reported to me by resident Jackie Proud

Verge removal

Met with Paul Anderson and Alan Ramsey in Camperdown Ave to discuss removing the grass verges .No Council budget is available for verge workings and the cost is prohibitive re my budget capability will cost at least £11,000 for 100mt length (£110 per linear mtr)

Parliamentary Candidates for the 2015 General Elections in North Lodge Results

Kevan Jones Labour Party 54.92% 13644 votes

Laetitia Glossop Conservative Party 20.93%

Malcolm Bint UKIP 15.95

Peter Maughan Liberal Democrats 5.10

Vicki Nolan Green Party 3.1%

School Parking issues Kingsmere/Queensmere.

Meeting with Lee Mowbray from DCC Traffic department Wed 29 April to discuss situation.

Lee agrees that it is a good idea to have double yellow lines at the entrances to both roads plus North Lodge and will get back to me probably June as the County is generally discussing many areas.

I now have confirmation that the entrances will have the double yellow lines

Lights out in Longdene Park numbers 238 239 on small pathway

I reported the fault to the maintenance team and unfortunately there was an underground fault on the distribution cables at this location, this had been causing an intermittent power supply failure. An excavation team carried out repairs to the cables, test results indicated the problem was caused by water ingress. **Lights fixed**

Watermain Bursts in Kingsmere area

DCC have now received the Street works Notice for works in Kingsmere, Queensmere and Wear Lodge, Chester le Street

Start date 30 June duration 25 working days but could start earlier

One further note is that the existing gas mains within the area which are still on the risk replacement programme and thus these will be commencing after the NWL works but only at the junction with Wear Lodge.

DCC County Plan

Until further notice most decisions will be made using the old District plans. This does not mean that Developers cannot submit planning applications for any other sites as they will be individually considered.

Cabinet agrees planning statement

Councillors have agreed to endorse a guidance note which details how applications should be considered for planning in County Durham.

Following the Inspectors interim report on the County Durham Plan there was an identified need to clarify the council's position whilst the future of the plan is decided. Durham County Council's Cabinet endorsed the Policy Position Statement to ensure consistent decisions continue to be made. The statement is designed to help all interested parties involved in the process by setting out how much weight can be given to existing local plan policies, neighbourhood plans and the County Durham Plan alongside the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) when applications are considered.

Where no overarching plan exists, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is weighted towards approving applications unless the negative impacts significantly outweigh the benefits. With the County Durham Plan proceeding to Judicial Review and the already existing adopted local plans being between 11 and 19 years old the council moved to ensure that guidance was provided for how each of these documents should be considered.

Having explored all options for the County Durham Plan, it was felt that there was no other way forward than by pursuing a Judicial Review. Although not the position the council wished to be in, the recommendations presented by the Inspector would mean economic decline. This was submitted on 15 May to the High Court in Leeds. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have 21 days following the council's submission to provide their defence. A High Court judge will then assess whether or not there is a case to answer. The council however remain committed to avoiding legal action if at all possible and continue to seek a way forward working with the Government.

Whilst the future of the County Durham Plan is being decided, the statement sets out the legal position for considering developments relating to student accommodation, green belt land and affordable housing among others. The aim of the statement is to provide guidance which allows the council to continue to support growth while respecting the natural environment and world-class heritage of County Durham.

Cllr Neil Foster, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "Although the council is committed to supporting growth to improve County Durham both economically and socially, this must not be at any cost and it is vital that only sustainable development on appropriate sites should be considered. This statement is essential to ensure that planning applications are dealt with in a consistent and sensitive manner while making sure that appropriate development and investment that could benefit the county isn't delayed."

Chester Le Street Air Quality Management Area update.

AQMA Boundary has been reduced to Menceforth Cottages Pelton Fell Road
I have asked for air pollution monitoring reports to be still ongoing around Blind Lane area.

Cabinet Vigo Lane – have asked for update

Batleys Pond

Am awaiting for an update from the anglers

FEASIBILITY STUDY AND POND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Direct quote from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation.

“ A pond can be defined as a man-made or natural water body between 1 metre square and 2 hectare in area which holds water for more than four months of the year.”

Wetland areas of all types throughout the UK including ponds, have been disappearing at an alarming rate due to neglect and lack of management. It is estimated that around three quarters of the UK’s ponds have been lost over the last 100 years.

Introduction.

According to Ordnance Survey map circa 1894 – 1899 the pond does not exist but appears on the circa 1919 – 1926 one. In the 1856 – 1865 map a pond can be seen in the approximate area Batleys Warehouse now stands, and in later maps a field drain appears leading from that pond towards the one we are looking at.

By 1970 the pond at Batleys has disappeared but our pond remains, whether it was dug out or is the subject of mining subsidence is unknown, but with the former Ouston Colliery being located very close by, subsidence is the best guess.

The pond at some stage has had a concrete culvert entrance and exit constructed, which assists in stabilising the water level, and allowing a constant flow of water preventing stagnation.

The pond which is known locally as ‘Batleys Pond’ is about 100 years old and as can be seen has so much potential for better usage by local people and organisations,

Aim.

The project which would be a joint venture between a number of official bodies and local people, who’s aim is to advance the education of the public and those managing the area in the management of land which is sympathetic to wildlife. ‘Batleys Pond’ as it is known to locals is located on the edge of the Drum Industrial Estate, alongside two large warehouses to its North and South East, on the East side is the Coast to Coast cycle route following the course of a disused mineral railway line, used extensively by cyclists and dog walkers. The area is heavily populated with trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife to the area, the pond itself is teeming with freshwater fish and pond life. Our aim would also be to enhance the general pond area to attract more wildlife and birds, pond life and fauna, creating an area of beauty. The Council have started the ball rolling by providing three bench seats on the upper rim of the pond. Andy, Paul and Ian have planted a number of willows but would like more to be introduced,

We personally would like this pond to be a community pond, and not a club run water.

Pond Group

Name	Email Address	Organisation	Contact Details
Peter May	Peter.may@durham.gov.uk	Durham Council	0191 3883812
Margaret Caygill	gmccaygill@talktalk.net	Parish Council	
Elsie Forrester		North Lodge Parish Council	0191 3884689
Paul Frear	paulfrear@environment-agency.gov.uk	Environment Agency	
Paul Miller	paulmiller@coveris.com	Coveris	
Andy Topping	Andytopping7@gmail.com	Stakeholder	07930505559
Ian Craig	stripeytwo@hotmail.co.uk	Stakeholder	07449323306
Paul Morgan	Paul.morgan12@tiscali.co.uk	Stakeholder	07709823896
Barry Watkin	Barrywatkin@aol.com	Stakeholder	

List of existing problems and potential problems with possible solutions

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Aquatic Weed Control	Can be done by stakeholders
Surrounding area weed and grass	Stakeholders and Coveris
Water inlet and outlet, silting	Stakeholders and Environment Agency
Eroding Banks	Coveris and Council
Litter	Stakeholders, Coveris and Council
Pet Nuisance	Council
Algae Blooms	Environment Agency
Pollution	All parties, reporting, dealing
Drugs and Drinking, Hooligan element	All Parties, police,

The above list is not exhaustive in listing problems and remedies, I have entered the possible solutions but this needs to be clarified at a meeting of all parties.

Points to be clarified

Which part of the group will be responsible for what ?

What funds are available and from who ?

What can be put in place to enhance the area ?

Once the project is going which organisations can be introduced to it ?

If problems occur which are 'major' or out of our depth who can we turn to ?

How can we cut costs of maintaining a 'good' pond ?

The name of the pond can it remain as Batleys Pond ? are the present owners okay with that, is Batleys okay with that?

Possible additions to the area to attract more wild life and people

A new walkway on the rim of the pond bowl.

For the fisherman more stable platforms and a disabled access area.

Plants and trees planted (insect attracting flowers and fauna)

Signage stating safety facts, brief history, contact info, map, etc.

Information plaque stating what wildlife can be seen in this area

Litter/ dog waste bins, more needed in area generally.

Introduction of bollards to prevent vehicular entry (with drop down bollard for access by maintenance vehicles)

Types of visitors to be encouraged:

Fishermen,

Bird Watchers,

Ramblers,

Picnickers,

Parents with children,

Cyclists,

Workers during breaks,

Joggers,

Dog walkers.

School children,

Organised Groups.

Personal Comments

I have been fishing this pond for a number of years with other fishermen, the water is very clear and appears to be well balanced nutritionally. Species of fish include, Roach, Rudd, Carp, Crucian Carp, Perch, Tench, and Goldfish.

The water also provides an ideal habitat for Swan Mussels and water snails, as well as many other water insects, Dragonflies and Damselflies are also present.

Birdlife is abundant; Ducks, Swallows, Kingfishers, Kestrels, Yellowhammers, Robins, owls and various types of the tit family all make an appearance.

Deer have been seen visiting I have been told and has been backed up by hoof prints at the waters edge. I have no doubt badgers and foxes visit also. This area is an ideal habitat for

Hedgehogs which sadly are in decline.
Swan Mussel shells have been found at the waters edge could be the signs of a visiting otter but this cannot be proved. Newts may also be present.

Educational

The pond is a great way to introduce youngsters to fishing as well as being used by schools for educational purposes, Cub Scout and Girl Guide troops could also use this facility for education as well as for pack exercises.

A display board showing a brief history surrounding the area with the wildlife, pond life and fauna that may be seen, would be a great help to the public.

A larger information sign to display warning and other relevant information, eg. Deep Water, No Swimming, No Litter, CCTV coverage of the area, area frequented by wardens, police environment Agency personnel, etc.

Other areas of discussion

Funding,
Grants available,
Companies who may be interested,
Groups who may be interested,
CCTV,

With the general Election soon, how would it possibly affect the funding,
Co-op possibly bring them into the discussion,
Disposal of excess pond weed, and other litter collected,
Litter Bins,
Doggy Bins,
Policing,

Visit to other areas where work has been done Wheatley Hill good start.
28th April, Ian, Paul and Andy visited the pond at Wheatley Hill and saw what can be achieved by a group of dedicated people, Alan Hall was an inspiration to us, his hard work with his friends and volunteers has created a wonderful area to be admired. This dedication needs to be by all parties, without a joint effort, this project will not come to fruition.

Interested parties could include;

Heritage Lottery Fund,
Biffa Award,
Hermitage funding for Barry
Council grants,
Possibly University interest?
RSPB,
Defra,
Forestry commission,
Buglife,
Amphibian and Reptile conservation
ARG.UK

Regular Group meeting should be arranged to organise Pond maintenance days, and to discuss any environmental or public problems that arise.

Blind Lane verge damage will be reinstated when resurfacing finished – re Tony Hicks

Residents Association Working with the North Lodge Residents Association on a two year plan for horticulture plans and funding for the Association.

Polling Stations for North Lodge

As the normal venue for the polling station (Wheatsheaf) is no longer available I have been asked to suggest alternatives.
Please read emails

Thank you for your suggestions which are most helpful. I will take these on board and get our mobile unit co-ordinator to visit these sites to see which would be the most suitable option.

Much appreciated
Dawn

From: Cllr Peter May
Sent: 10 June 2015 20:46
To: Dawn Humble
Subject: RE: Polling Station at North Lodge

May I suggest that the grassed area next to the Merlin Drive play area might be considered. Also the grassed area where Kingsmere joins North Road. They both would require portaloos and generators. The car park of the Pelaw Grange dog track might be an alternative

Regards
peter
County Councillor Peter May
North Lodge
03000 268745
Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [Dawn Humble](#)
Sent: 10/06/2015 14:05
To: [Cllr Peter May](#)
Subject: Polling Station at North Lodge

Dear Councillor May

It has come to our attention that we may no longer be able to use the Car Park at the Wheatsheaf Pub to locate our Mobile units that we currently use as a polling station for future elections. I would therefore be grateful for any suggestions on where we could re-locate the mobile units or alternatively any premises within the area that you may be aware of that we could use.

In the past we have used the Lambton Arms Hotel car park and Park View School Car Park however these premises are reluctant to have the units located on their premises.

Any suggestions on this matter would be very grateful.

Kind regards
Dawn Humble
Senior Electoral Officer

Drum Industria l Estate Group

I have now attended 2 meetings of the group who wish to promote the Estate and improve facilities.

Would like a bus service into the estate and I am following this up.

In order to understand the DCC involvement with the estate I posed questions and these are the answers:

1. Road Networks - DCC is responsible for the areas of highway that are adopted (see attached map). Mark Readman is Highway Operations manager and he is in charge of the delivery of highway and winter maintenance and capital projects.

Highway operations carry out regular inspections on our highways, including Drum Industrial estate. These inspections generate safety and structural repairs. Drum has been identified as needing resurfacing works and the first section of the estate (from the A693 to the first roundabout opposite Batley's) will take place this sometime this year.

2. All parts of the adopted highway including surfacing, footpaths, lighting and signage fall within the remit of DCC via Neighbourhood Services.

Lighting - spot checks on lighting are not carried out routinely on the Drum Industrial Estate. Any issues with lighting are normally reported via the help@durham.gov.uk email.

Pavements - any issues with pavements are reported in the same way as lighting. These are normally picked up by the public, businesses or DCC staff. There is an adopted footway on Drum Road within the industrial estate, with the exception of between Third Avenue and First Avenue where there is grass verge. The carriageway is the only adopted section in this area and it does not include any portion of the verge. Durham County Council does not own the land that is either side of this portion of carriageway.

3. Signage - DCC does not own or have responsibility for any signs on the estate. Most of the signage on the estate is on the land owned by Ranger Ltd or Northern Trust and therefore it is their responsibility to look after the signs.
4. Funding – currently there are no funds allocated to help finance improvements to the estate. However, Andrew Megginson from the Chester-le-Street and District AAP attended the last meeting and this may be something the AAP might want to consider.
5. General upkeep of the buildings - whilst there may be some specific conditions for maintenance and upkeep attached to an original planning permission to build a unit or erect a sign, it all depends on how long the building has been there and what conditions were given as part of the planning permission. However unless a poorly maintained sign or building is reported, DCC do not have the resources to do spot checks on all buildings that erect signs or have recently been constructed.

Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 16 June 2015

On Lombard Drive, the DCC repainting of all the yellow lines, including the zig-zags, has been completed.

The County Council needs to be alerted that the 30 mph speed limit sign on the east side of North Road, near lamp standard 12, is completely hidden from view by overgrowing vegetation.

The single metal seat near lamp standard 472, on the green square between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge, is in need of some renovation (or replacement), having some sharp edges and poor paintwork.

The dog bin on Merlin Drive needs attention to its catch and lock (at minimum some oiling) so that when it is emptied, it can be locked as it used to be, rather than left open as an eyesore.

The 2014 Newsletter's message re the need to deal with overhanging bushes etc. had its usual effectiveness around the parish and the 2015 Newsletter's message should soon be circulated, following it being sent for printing last Friday.

In Picktree Lodge Estate (west) there is one longstanding overhang to 50% of passage width at head height, adjacent to lamp standard 488. The County Council needs alerting to this.

Regarding a new dog bin and notices on lamp standards on the eastern edge of Picktree Lodge Estate, is there any response at all from the County Council?

C N-N 16/06/2015

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