

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

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

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone.

### **Item 1. 15/94 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Mrs. M. May and County Councillor P. May. The Chairman advised that Councillor Dr. D. Hartley had tendered her resignation from the Council. The Clerk is to write to Dr. Hartley expressing thanks for her service to the Parish. The Clerk will advertise the new vacancy.

### **Item 2. 15/95 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **Item 3. 15/96 Co-option of Councillor**

Councillors discussed the interest expressed by Jackie Martin, a resident of the Parish, in filling the vacancy created by the resignation of a Councillor in May 2015.

It was proposed by Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Caygill that Jackie Martin be offered a seat on the Council. The proposal was carried unanimously. The Clerk will contact the resident accordingly.

**(Resolved** - to offer to Jackie Martin a seat on the Council).

### **Item 4. 15/97 Report of the County Councillor**

In the absence of the County Councillor, a written report (Appendix 1, attached) had been provided and this was read out by Cllr. Mrs. Forrester.

### **Item 5. 15/98 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 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 6. 15/99 Chairman's Report**

- a) Re Minute 15/86. The replacement seat for Low Flatts play area had not yet been installed. The Clerk will again remind the County Council.
- b) Re Minute 15/88 section a). Re parking at Lombard Drive, it appeared that vehicles were being left there all day whilst the drivers were at work elsewhere. At school leaving time in particular, but also throughout the day, this was causing difficulties for other traffic entering or leaving Lombard Drive at the North Road junction. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to seek a solution to the problem.
- c) Re Minute 15/89 section c). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the Co-op Environment Team had again done an excellent job in clearing the footpath from Low Flatts to Drum Industrial Estate. The Clerk is to express thanks to the Co-op and an item is to be included in next year's Newsletter. The Clerk was thanked for taking away the bags of rubbish collected by the Team. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and the Clerk will liaise in the submission of an article to the local newspaper.
- d) Re Minute 15/93 section b). The Clerk advised that the County Council had declined to provide a waste bin for the Drum pond area because 1) the land is privately owned, 2) the County Council does not have any available manpower to service any additional bins.
- e) The Chairman advised that he now had an email address. He had attended the recent Residents' Association meeting and had given a report on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **Item 7. 15/100 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Waugh to give his report which included the following matters.

### **a) Finance**

Cllr. Waugh gave an up-date (Appendix 2, attached) of bank balances held by the Parish Council. The Clerk had prepared a grant application to the County Association for £346 towards the cost of implementing the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities, and submission of the grant was approved by Councillors.

**(Resolved** - to submit a grant application for £346 in respect of the Transparency Code).

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 following matters.

- 1) Following distribution of the Newsletter containing a request to residents to cut back overhanging hedges, several hedges had been attended to.
  - 2) A footpath in the Caxton Way/Sustrans cycleway area required clearing of leaves. The Clerk will advise the County Council.
  - 3) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had asked the County Councillor to look into a matter regarding tall trees blocking out light in the Leander Avenue/Bafflebank area. A response was awaited.
  - 4) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the County Council had carried out some temporary patching of the road at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue, prior to the road being inspected by the Highways Inspector next month with a view to a more substantial repair.
  - 5) Cllr. Waugh advised that there was graffiti on the motorway side of the fence between Lambton Park estate and the motorway. The Clerk will advise Highways England accordingly.
- 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). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill reminded Councillors that the willow tree near the entrance to Lombard Drive was due to be moved to Merlin Drive play area. However, with several trees there dying recently, Councillors now considered that the willow tree should remain at its present site.

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

#### **d) Play Areas**

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters.

- 1) At Low Flatts, all equipment was in good order and being well used.
  - 2) The Clerk had received a report of a car being driven round the grassed area and this had been passed on to the Police.
  - 3) Concern had been expressed regarding the condition of horses in a field next to the play area. The Police had been advised.
  - 4) At Merlin Drive, a damaged item of equipment had been attended to by the County Council.
  - 5) The County Council had advised that there were no more recent signs available than were already at the play area except that "No Smoking" signs would soon be installed.
  - 6) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt proposed that an item of adult exercise equipment should be considered for installation. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill is to enquire about prices.
- The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill.

#### **e) Planning**

Cllr. Snaith's report included the following matters.

- 1) Negotiations were still ongoing re the County Durham Plan.
  - 2) Cllr. Snaith had obtained an assurance that the Parish Council would be included in consultations regarding the former BOC site.
  - 3) Cllr. Mrs. LeDune raised a concern regarding the development of the Drum Lane Traveller's site. Cllr. Snaith will enquire if planning conditions/approvals are up-to-date.
- Councillors thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report.  
The Chairman 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 8. 15/101 Correspondence**

- 1) From a Resident  
Letter re various County Council matters.
- 2) From Park View School  
Email re parking in Lombard Drive.
- 3) From BDO LLP  
External auditor certificate and report for 2014/15.  
The Auditor stated that no matters had given cause for concern.  
The Clerk was thanked for his work in obtaining the good report.
- 4) From Lloyds Bank  
Letter re changes to savings account.
- 5) From Durham Constabulary  
Email re plant theft.
- 6) From the Police & Crime Commissioner  
Letter re community newsletter.
- 7) From Co-operative Retail Logistics  
Email re clearing path at Low Flatts.

- 8) From Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners  
Email re Lambton Park planning application.
- 9) From County Durham's Environment Partnership  
Newsletter - Autumn 2015.
- 10) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils  
a) Email re Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting to be held on Thurs. 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015.  
b) Email re Star Council Awards longlist.  
c) Email re motions for the CDALC AGM.
- 11) From Durham County Council  
a) Email re Operation Aries Underage Drinking Strategy workshop to be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015.  
b) Letter re medium term financial planning and 2016/17 budget setting.  
c) Letter re Register of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Registerable Interests.  
d) Email re request for litter bin.  
e) Email re voting for favourite Green Flag park.  
f) Email re Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2015.
- 12) 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 storey side and rear extensions, at 12 North Lodge.  
b) Application for works to trees, at Northgate, North Road.  
c) Approval for erection of two storey side extension, at 14 Merlin Drive.  
d) Approval for extension of time limit for planning application 2/09/00120/FUL, at land to the north and west of Batley's PLC, Drum Road.  
e) Approval for erection of single storey side and rear extensions, at 12 North Lodge.

**Item 9. 15/102 Welcome Signs**

Due to the absence from the meeting of Cllr. Mrs. May it was agreed to leave this item over to the next meeting.

**Item 10. 15/103 Payment of Accounts**

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries August 2015	
Expenses	£80.00	Expenses August 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions August 2015	
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries September 2015	
Expenses	£80.00	Expenses September 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions September 2015	
HM Revenue & Customs	£198.60	P.A.Y.E.	
Pot-It-On	£319.56	Horticulture August 2015	
Pot-It-On	£534.56	Horticulture September 2015	
D. Snaith	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£24.74	Postage Stamps	
BDO LLP	£120.00	Audit Fee	£20.00

**(Resolved** - the payments be approved as submitted).

**Item 11. 15/104 Other Matters for Information**  
There were no other matters raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

**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> October 2015.**

	<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Salaries		£	Salaries October 2015	
Expenses		£80.00	Expenses October 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		£	Pensions October 2015	
Pot-It-On		£	Horticulture October 2015	

**Balance to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Balance b/f	£37351.21	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - Aug/Sept 2015	<u>£ 2749.58</u>		Current	£ 1194.75
	£34601.63		30 Day	<u>£33406.88</u>
			Total	£34601.63
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	£	<u>NIL</u>
Balance c/f	£34601.63			£34601.63

# North Lodge Parish Council

## September Meeting

### County Councillor Peter May Report

There have been no County Council meetings during August and very few during July.

- Chester-le-Street Town In Bloom have been invited to attend the Northumbria In Bloom Awards which take place in Berwick this year. visit cancelled due to lack of interest by AAP members in the Environmental task group. Myself as Vice Chair and Parish Councillor Maureen May volunteered to go but apparently this was not a viable proposition economically for transport.

Employment in Chester Le Street

- In 2000 we had 385 full time and 155 part timers (77 whole time equivalents) employed by DCC. Now we have 6 in the Front Street Office. The Independents Group are bringing this to the attention of the Council

Have asked for the footpath between Picktree Village and motorway to be cleared of overhanging shrubs etc.

Picktree Village Reported collapsing wall belonging to Lambton Estates who have been asked to repair it.

Fly tipping – Fatfield Harraton Terrace Lambton Park.

- Durham County Council own a small area of woodland accessed via a small lane at Harraton Washington. Local Sunderland Councillors have complained that DCC have not taken fly tipping reports seriously when reported.

I organised a meeting 07/08/2015 at the site with Oliver Sherratt, Martin Briscoe, Cllr Tony Taylor Sunderland and Sunderland Officers.

We toured site and were shown fly tipping sites and agreed to monitor the area with warden visits and cameras. Ideally this area should be taken over by Sunderland. There is still fly tipping and some people have been caught.

Awaiting formal report from Martin on DCC activity.

**Merlin Drive Play Area trees**

**From:** [Martin Briscoe](#)

**Sent:** 02/09/2015 09:03

**To:** [Cllr Peter May](#)

**Subject:** RE: Overhanging tree at Merlin Drive play area

Peter

I have inspected the tree overhanging the play area, as you know this one has been on our radar for quite some time. The tree does have a lean towards the play area but it is not showing any signs of movement at the current time, as you are aware it is located on private land and the land owner has a duty of care to make sure it's safe

Martin

Martin Briscoe  
Area Supervisor (North)  
Neighbourhood Services  
Durham County Council  
Morrison Busty Depot

Annfield Plain  
Stanley  
DH9 7RX

Tel - 03000265594  
Mob - 07747007096

**From:** Cllr Peter May  
**Sent:** 23 August 2015 22:42  
**To:** Martin Briscoe  
**Subject:** FW: Overhanging tree at Merlin Drive play area

Hello Martin  
Please can I have an update on this issue sent to you in July

Regards

Peter

**Peter May**  
**County Councillor**  
**North Lodge Division**

**Tel: 03000 268745**  
**Home : 01913880572**

**From:** Cllr Peter May  
**Sent:** 20 July 2015 14:35  
**To:** Martin Briscoe  
**Subject:** FW: Overhanging tree at Merlin Drive play area

Best wishes

Peter

Peter May

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**From:** [Cllr Peter May](#)  
**Sent:** 20/07/2015 14:33  
**To:** [martin.briscoe](mailto:martin.briscoe)  
**Cc:** [Maureen May](#); [North Lodge Parish Council](#); [Jackie Martin](#)  
**Subject:** Overhanging tree at Merlin Drive play area

Hello Martin  
I would appreciate you investigating what I consider a dangerous tree that is leaning over a fence into the area of the children's play area. See photo  
The tree is situated in the garden of Lough Finn North Lodge

Best wishes

Peter



Peter May  
County Councillor  
North Lodge

- Durham County Council has set up an arms-length private company with the aim of offering better choice for house-buyers and creating job opportunities.  
Will be constructing affordable homes on old Civic Centre Site
- Dogs Barking at Low Flatts Road – I have asked the Council to investigate after receiving complaints from residents that dogs (3) are being left alone for long periods of time and are annoying local people with their continuous barking. Currently being investigated by Richard Wormald from Environmental Health who has gathered evidence and is due to contact the dog owners imminently.
- Yellow no parking lines – Now installed at my instigation at the junction of North Road and Queensmere, Kingsmere and North Lodge.

**Syrian Refugees.** In response to this and the Government's announcement to help those affected Councillor Simon Henig has asked Cllr Eddie Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Assets, Strategic Housing and Rural Issues to chair a cross party member/officer working group to consider how the Council and its partners responds. I have been nominated to be the Independent Councillors representative. First meeting 17 September

#### **Snapshot of customer contact issues November 2014 – March 2014**

- Parking 555 issues of all types
- Flytipping 4055
- Dog fouling 1557
- Street litter 1332
- Litter bin and dog bins 375
- Bonfires 105
- Total 7424

#### **Customer Contact relating to parking**

- Street parking 477 19.9% (95 related to parking on grass)
- Highway obstruction 35 11.4% (4 related to parking on grass)
- Car parking on the highway 31 6.5% (2 related to parking on grass)
- Anti social behaviour 16 25% (4 related to parking on grass)

Waste disposal site at Hett Hills winter opening October - March from 9am until 3.30pm