

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 17th November 2015.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. David Snaith.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Elsie Forrester, Linda LeDune,
Maureen May, Carole Walton, Dennis Hall,
Colin Noble-Nesbitt.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

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

Item 1. 15/115 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Jackie Martin and John Waugh.

Item 2. 15/116 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 15/117 Report of the County Councillor

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

Item 4. 15/118 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th October 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. 15/119 Chairman's Report

- a) Re Minute 15/109 section a). Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised that the County Council had offered a refurbished seat for Low Flatts play area and installation was now awaited.
- b) Re Minute 15/109 section b). Re parking at Lombard Drive, Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt gave an update following a response from the County Council. This was discussed by Councillors. The County Councillor had observed that the footpath there had dropped, probably due to parked cars. The Clerk is to write to the County Council requesting the extension of the yellow lines to approximately twice their present length into Lombard Drive.
- c) Re Minute 15/109 section c). Re the potential development of the Drum pond area, Cllr. Elsie Forrester advised that the angler's group had not replied to any messages for contact. The Clerk had ascertained from the landowners and from the Environment Agency that they also had had no recent contact. Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised that the pond and surrounding area was full of rubbish, and there was evidence of anti-social behaviour. The Clerk is to contact the landowners to ask them to tidy the area and to ask if they have CCTV covering the area. Cllr. Elsie Forrester will again try to make contact with the angler's group.
- d) Re Minute 15/109 section d). Re trees blocking out light adjacent to 5 Caxton Way, the County Councillor will be visiting the site in the next few days.

- e) Re Minute 15/109 section e). Re the poor road surface at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue, Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised that the County Council might include the re-surfacing work in next year's contract.
- f) Re Minute 15/109 section f). Re the Drum Lane Traveller's site, the Chairman advised that the Planning Department considered all planning permissions to be in order.
- g) Re Minute 15/110 section b4). Re the traffic flow at Northlands roundabout, Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt gave an update following responses from the County Council who have asked the Police to take action re vehicles running the red lights and are continuing to make observations re large vehicles turning right from Blind Lane to North Road.
- h) Re Minute 15/110 section c). Cllr. Carole Walton advised that the gardener is trying to source hawthorn plants to fill the gap in the hedge at Low Flatts play area.
- i) Re Minute 15/110 section e). The Chairman advised that he had laid a wreath, on behalf of the Council, at the recent Remembrance Day service which had been well attended and well organised.

Item 6. 15/120 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt to give his report which included the following matters.

a) Highways and Website

- 1) There were no issues with the website.
- 2) The overgrown footpath at Picktree Lodge/Caxton Way had not yet been attended to by the County Council. The Clerk will follow this up.
- 3) The bridge at the entrance to Picktree Lodge was presently under repair.
- 4) Dog waste bins appeared to be full more often than in the past.
- 5) County Cllr. Peter May agreed to contact the Neighbourhood Wardens to establish a way forward re enforcement procedures against property owners with overhanging trees and shrubs.
- 6) Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised on a new dog fouling sign, recently erected in Wear Lodge, which she had re-aligned following a complaint from a resident.
- 7) Cllr. Margaret Caygill asked the County Councillor to inspect the overhanging trees on the footpath between North Road and Lyndhurst Avenue, and to take appropriate action towards the trees being cut back.
- 8) Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised of three street lights (numbers 2376, 2378 and 2379) on North Road that were not working. The County Councillor kindly agreed to take up this matter with the County Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and invited Cllr. Carole Walton to give her report.

b) Horticulture

Cllr. Maureen May presented the Horticulture report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 2).

- 1) The County Council had provided a verbal quotation of £297 for cutting back the shrubs at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue and this was agreed by Councillors subject to receipt of a written quote for this amount.
- 2) Re graffiti at Lombard Drive bus shelter, Cllr. Margaret Caygill kindly agreed to advise Park View School in case the School was able to help find the culprit.
- 3) The Chairman advised that the raised bed at Picktree Village required attention including the planting of brighter coloured plants.
- 4) Three flower tubs needed to be sited. Cllr. Elsie Forrester proposed that they should be installed on the verge on North Road outside the former BOC site. Councillors agreed this with the condition that, as tubs had been stolen from there before, the three tubs should be securely fastened together.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Walton and Cllr. May for their report and invited Cllr. Margaret Caygill to give her report.

c) Play Areas

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

- 1) At Low Flatts, all equipment was in good order.
- 2) At Merlin Drive, the County Council had installed a new multi-instruction sign. A new chain had been put on the junior swings. There was a small amount of surface damage by moles. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill and invited Cllr. Elsie Forrester to give her report.

d) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Forrester.

e) Planning

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

Councillors thanked Cllr. Snaith.

f) Finance

In the absence of Cllr. John Waugh, no report was made.

Item 7. 15/121 Creation of New Portfolio

In response to the Police no longer attending Council meetings, Cllr. Jackie Martin had proposed the creation of a new Portfolio, titled Crime and Community Safety. The Portfolio holder would be expected to liaise with the Police to provide a two-way flow of information. Councillors discussed this and agreed to the creation of the new Portfolio.

(Resolved - to create a new Portfolio titled Crime and Community Safety).

Cllr. Jackie Martin had indicated her willingness to put her name forward for the Portfolio.

Councillors discussed this and agreed to elect Cllr. Jackie Martin as Portfolio Holder until the Annual Meeting in 2016 when, as with all Portfolios, the position will be open to nominations.

(Resolved - to elect Cllr. Jackie Martin to the Crime and Community Safety Portfolio).

Item 8. 15/122 Correspondence

- 1) From North Lodge Residents Association
Email re Northumbria in Bloom 2016.
- 2) From the War Memorials Trust
Bulletin, Number 67, November 2015.
- 3) From Coveris Rigid UK Ltd
Email re Drum pond area.
- 4) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Notification of the Smaller Local Council meeting to be held on Friday 20th November 2015.
 - b) Email re Neighbourhood Plans.
 - c) Email re Community Buildings grants and Neighbourhood Planning grants.
 - d) Email re the structure of the County Association following the AGM held on 24th Oct. 2015.
 - e) Email re affiliation fees for 2016/2017.
 - f) Email re Tesco small project funding.
- 5) From Durham County Council
 - a) Email re traffic at Northlands roundabout.
 - b) Email re parking at Lombard Drive.
 - c) Notification of AAP Improved Environment Meeting to be held on 19th November 2015.
 - d) Notification of AAP Board Meeting to be held on 23rd November 2015.

Due to the pressure of time, Councillors agreed to carry over Item 9 (Warning Signs), Item 10 (Additional Dog Waste Bins), Item 11 (Identification Badges) and Item 12 (War Memorial Group) to the next meeting.

Item 13. 15/123 Requests for Donations

The Clerk advised that there were no outstanding requests.

Item 14. 15/124 Payment of Accounts

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£480.95	Salaries November 2015	
Expenses		£ 80.00	Expenses November 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		£140.11	Pensions November 2015	
Pot-It-On		£312.98	Horticulture November 2015	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 15. 15/125 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2016.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries December 2015	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses December 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions December 2015	
Pot-It-On	£452.98	Horticulture December 2015	
D. Snaith	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
D. Murrell (via Comwales Ltd)	£ 59.24	Purchase of Printer/Copier/Scanner	£11.85
HM Revenue & Customs	£198.60	PAYE	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£118.00	Annual Subscription	
Durham Cathedral	£ 50.00	Donation	
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 50.00	Donation	
Salaries		Salaries January 2016	
Expenses		Expenses January 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund		Pensions January 2016	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture January 2016	
Durham County Council	£356.64	Horticulture	£59.44

Balance to 30th November 2015

Balance b/f	£33250.59	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Nov. 2015	<u>£ 1014.04</u>		Current £ 329.67
	£32236.55		30 Day <u>£31906.88</u>
			Total £32236.55

Deduct cheques not yet presented £ Nil

Balance c/f £32236.55 £32236.55

North Lodge Parish Council Report November 2015

County Councillor Peter May

Remembrance Sunday Parade

This took place at 11.45 on Sunday 8th November at the War Memorial in the market place. As usual I will presented a wreath from all of the residents within the North Lodge electoral division.

MERGED POLICE DOG SECTION WILL BOOST 'PD POWER'



Durham Constabulary, Cleveland Police and North Yorkshire Police are to merge their police dog sections to create a single integrated service from summer 2016, in a move that will reduce overall costs by more than three million pounds over the next five years and enable a substantial 24-hour dog unit to be retained across the three Forces.

North East Combined Authority - Devolution Proposals

On 23 October all members of the NECA Leadership Board signed a document setting out the terms of a proposed agreement with Government to move forward with a radical devolution of funding, powers and responsibilities. A copy of the document is attached to this letter, and provides for the transfer of significant powers for employment and skills, transport, housing, planning, business support and investment from central government to the North East. It paves the way for further devolution over time, and for the reform of public services including health and social care, to be led by the North East.

The proposed agreement builds on the ambitions set out in 'More and Better Jobs' the North East's Strategic Economic Plan, and draws on the responses to the consultation exercise we conducted earlier this year, which demonstrated wide public and business support.

A final agreement is conditional on a number of factors, including further public consultation, and we are keen to continue this conversation with partners and stakeholders. With this in mind we are holding a number of meetings across the NECA area over the coming weeks to discuss progress on the key issues and a workshop for residents and stakeholders in County Durham has been arranged for 6pm-8pm on Monday 9th November 2015 at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UF. Unfortunately I was unable to attend

County Durham Youth Offending Service has revealed that over the past five years the number of young people committing crime in the county has fallen by 51.5 per cent

Hett Hills Recycling Centre

The Potterhouse recycling centre in Durham will be closing for a period of two weeks between Monday 23 November and Friday 4 December in order to carry out some routine maintenance work at the site. The site is expected to re-open on Saturday 5 December weather and works permitting. During this period the contractors have arranged to provide alternative facilities at **Hett Hills, near Chester-le-Street on a 7 day a week basis. Hett Hills is normally open only at weekends but for the duration of the maintenance work at Potterhouse it will be open daily from 9am to 3:30pm.**

The Its Your Neighbourhood Grant Scheme has been extended until Wednesday 18th December this week (original deadline 13th November) Groups can apply for up to £500 in grant funding to help with a community based project that will be entered into the Royal Horticultural Societies' It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme.

New Seat for Picktree Village I would like to replace the seat in Picktree Village with a new one as the old one is getting rusty. I will speak to the Residents Association to see if they have the finance otherwise I will fund it

Continuing New instances of fly tipping - DCC land from Chartershaugh Bridge, Fatfield, towards Harraton Terrace, Lambton Park. The rubbish consists of interior doors, black sacks and other loose waste, and is situated at the roadside on the right [opposite the newly installed gate] just around the corner from Chartershaugh Bridge, before you reach the allotments near Harraton Terrace.

Have asked Oliver Sherratt for a report regarding any prosecutions. Awaiting reply.

Interesting Durham County Council Winter Statistics

A new depot and salt barn has been built at Wolsingham

14 new replacement gritting vehicles

Renewed weather forecasting service

Extended season for high/low Pennines 1st Oct - April 30th

Tracking system on all vehicles

ICT/GIS POTENTIAL TO GO LIVE FOR PUBLIC TO ACCESS THE TRACKING OF THE GRITTING SERVICE.

Key facts and figures

- 3780 Kms of roads in Durham County
- 45% of carriageways are treated
- Total winter maintenance budget is £5.4m
- Total salt stocks at the start of winter 42,000 tonnes
- 37 power gritters
- 33 trailer gritters
- 6 snow blowers
- 2310 salt bins
- 38 priority pre salting routes
- Average cost per turnout county wide is £28,000
- Average salt use per turn out county wide 250 tonnes
- Average salt costs £27 per tonne

I am a member of the Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership

The Partnership will ensure that Durham's support for refugees placed in the County is joined up.
The Partnership will promote cross service and agency working, as well as engagement with communities

HORTICULTURE REPORT NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL 17 November 2015

Picktree Lodge

- Second diamond bed now planted up. First diamond bed still needs weeding, but removal of leaves within the Parish has been a priority.

Millennium Bed at Lombard Drive

- Millennium bed now complete – topped with topsoil and hostas have been cut back.

Longdean Park

- This bed is now planted up but needs a lot of leaves removed - then will be edged. It has been discussed that a natural stone edging may look nice. Frank will enquire re cost of stone etc. Hydrangeas will be planted in springtime

Shrub bed at Lyndhurst Avenue

- Carole Walton, Maureen May and Frank Leighton met with Graham Cousins (Martin Briscoe's colleague) from Neighbourhood Services on Tuesday 10 November to discuss cutting, pruning and shaping of bushes. We are waiting for reply with costings etc.

New Replacement Bus shelter at Northlands

- Flower/shrub bed complete. Frank cuts the grass and keeps the bed tidy. Frank will re-plant in spring.

Graffiti

- Apart from usual graffiti, there were obscene words on North Lodge (near Lombard drive) bus shelter. Frank will remove it.

Northumbria in Bloom (2017)

- We are considering (in partnership with the North Lodge Residents Association) entering Northumbria in Bloom in 2017. Any ideas or suggestions would be very much appreciated.

Daffodils

- Suggestions for planting daffodil bulbs which North Lodge Residents Association has acquired are:
 1. Shrub bed at Northlands
 2. Lambton Park – Frank would like a supply of daffodils to plant in this area
 3. BOC area
 4. ? Wheatsheaf area

Flower Tubs

Two outstanding tubs will be delivered to Carole's house. We now have three. Suggestions required as to where to place the tubs in order to avoid theft again.

Ambleside Court

Next to number 1 Ambleside Court, there is a public footpath with shrub bushes on either side which are quite overgrown and dangerous. Following discussions with Graham Cousins (Durham County Council) it appears that these bushes are still the responsibility of the original builder. Graham Cousins will investigate. However in the meantime, Graham will arrange to have the bushes pruned ASAP due to safety and security issues.

We would like to thank Joanne Nailis and her mother (No 1) for maintaining and replanting the shrub bed in front of their house and at side of bus shelter which is believed to be the responsibility of the builder, and also for the several bags of leaves they have gathered and bagged from the area including the path. Frank has disposed of these bags for them.

The team would be very grateful for any suggestions how to improve the beauty of the North Lodge Parish for 2016, e.g. extra flower beds or tubs etc.

Carole Walton/Maureen May