

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 February 2016.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. David Snaith.
Councillors: Elsie Forrester, Jackie Martin, Maureen May,
Carole Walton, Colin Noble-Nesbitt, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

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

The Chairman advised that Councillor Linda LeDune had resigned from the Council following over forty years as a Councillor. A token of thanks had been delivered to Mrs. LeDune. Councillor Elsie Forrester kindly agreed to approach her regarding a possible news item for the local press and for the Parish Council Newsletter.

Item 1. 16/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Margaret Caygill and Dennis Hall.

Item 2. 16/15 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Jackie Martin declared an interest as Chairman of North Lodge Residents Association.

Item 3. 16/16 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).

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 16/17 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2016, 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. 16/18 Chairman's Report

a) Re Minute 16/03. Re noise from the Coveris factory, the Clerk advised that Coveris expected to commence remedial works on 14th March.

b) Re Minute 16/06 section a) The County Council had not yet installed the refurbished seat for Low Flatts play area. The Clerk will again chase this up.

c) Re Minute 16/06 section c). Re the potential development of the Drum pond area, Cllr. Elsie Forrester advised that a grant application had been submitted to the County Council's New Year, New Neighbourhood scheme and a response was awaited.

d) Re Minute 16/06 section d). Re trees blocking out light adjacent to 5 Caxton Way, a search at the Land Registry for the owners of the land had been inconclusive. The Clerk advised that a County Council officer had recently inspected the trees and found them to be in good health.

e) Re Minute 16/06 section f). Re the traffic flow at Northlands roundabout, the County Council had advised that, because of the restricted space, there were no alternative sites for the pedestrian and cyclist crossing points at the west end of Blind Lane.

f) Re Minute 16/07 section e). The Chairman confirmed that a response to planning application 2/13/00135/FPA had been submitted to the County Council.

Item 6. 16/19 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Jackie Martin to give her report.

a) Crime and Community Safety

Cllr. Jackie Martin's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for her report and invited Cllr. John Waugh to give his report.

b) Finance

Cllr. John Waugh advised Councillors of the present bank balance and asked Councillors to particularly note the funds still available for unallocated expenditure.

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

c) Highways and Website

Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

- 1) Re a new dog waste bin for Picktree lodge, the Clerk will advise the County Council that funds are available for the purchase and installation, and will ask for an estimate of the installation date.
- 2) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt outlined a case for the provision of adult play equipment at Merlin Drive. This was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, in conjunction with Cllr. Margaret Caygill, is to put together a proposal for the purchase and installation of the proposed equipment.
- 3) The Clerk is to advise the County Council that the Parish Council wishes to take out a Service Level Agreement for the website.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllrs. Maureen May and Carole Walton to give their report.

d) Horticulture

Cllr. Maureen May gave the report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 3).

Re the revised proposed horticulture plan, Councillors discussed the siting of the proposed new flower beds. Re the proposed bed for the entrance to Queensmere, it was noted that this would be on privately owned land although it was maintained by the County Council. However, an indication had been given that the land owner would welcome the bed and Councillors agreed that the site would provide a flower bed for the enjoyment of the wider public. It was agreed by an unanimous show of hands (with Cllr. Elsie Forrester abstaining having declared an interest as a resident of Queensmere) to proceed with the bed.

(Resolved on a show of hands - to include the proposed new flower bed at the entrance to Queensmere in the revised Proposed Horticulture Plan for 2016 - 2017).

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Maureen May and Carole Walton for their report.

e) Planning

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

f) Play Areas

Cllr. Margaret Caygill's report, read out by the Clerk, included the following matters. At Low Flatts, the seat has not yet been replaced. There is still a gap in the hedging. At Merlin Drive play area, the molehills have again been reported to the County Council. There had been a small fire underneath the slide. The damage was not serious but had been reported to the County Council. The County Council was cutting back overgrowth at both Low Flatts and Merlin Drive.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill in her absence for her report and invited Cllr. Elsie Forrester to give her report.

g) Publicity

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Forrester for her report.

Item 7. 16/20 Correspondence

- 1) From Linda LeDune
Letter of resignation from Council.
- 2) From Chester-le-Street Neighbourhood Watch Association
Invitation to meeting held on 26th January 2016.
- 3) From Coveris
Email re noise levels.
- 4) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Key Messages paper from the Local Council Working Group meeting held on 8th Dec. 2015.
 - b) Invitation to Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow to be held on 3rd March 2016.
 - c) Invitation to Community Led Development Network workshop to be held on 20th April 2016.
 - d) Email re Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 24th May 2016.
- 5) From Durham County Council
 - a) Email re traffic at Northlands roundabout.
 - b) Email re Chairman's Medal nominations.
 - c) Pension Fund employer update.
 - d) Letter re Community Governance Review - Pelton Fell.
 - e) Notification of AAP Board Meeting to be held on 22nd February 2016.
- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following was within North Lodge Parish:-
Approval for 2 no. single storey extensions, at Castle View Private Day Nursery, Blind Lane.

Item 8. 16/21 Welcome Signs

Cllrs. John Waugh and Colin Noble-Nesbitt had produced designs for consideration. These were discussed and a preferred design identified. Cllr. Waugh is to source prices for production and installation. The final design will then be submitted to the County Council for approval.

Item 9. 16/22 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries February 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses February 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions February 2016	
Pot-It-On	£255.00	Horticulture February 2016	
D. Murrell (via Morrisons)	£ 22.68	Postage Stamps	
D. Murrell (via HM Land Registry)	£ 12.00	HM Land Registry Searches	
E. Forrester (via Aldi Stores)	£ 12.84	Flowers and Gift	£ 2.14
D. Murrell (via WH Smith)	£ 24.17	Stationery	£ 4.03
D. Murrell (via Printerinks.com)	£ 17.80	Printer Cartridges	£ 2.96
The Information Commissioner	£ 35.00	Data Protection Act Annual Fee	
JAK Publications Ltd	£132.00	Name Badges	£22.00

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 16/23 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 15th March 2016.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries March 2016	
Expenses	£	Expenses March 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£	Pensions March 2016	
HM Revenue & Customs	£	P.A.Y.E.	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture March 2016	
D. Snaith	£ 150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Npower Northern Ltd	£ 18.90	Festive Lighting	£ 0.90
Durham County Council	£1132.91	Christmas Tree Lights	£188.82
Durham County Council	£3703.21	Flower Beds	£617.20

Balance to 29th February 2016

Balance b/f	£29428.12	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Feb.16	<u>£ 1212.55</u>	Current	£ 821.53
	£28215.57	30 Day	<u>£27406.88</u>
		Total	£28228.41
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 12.84</u>
Balance c/f	£28215.57		£28215.57

County Councillor Peter May

North Lodge Parish Council Report February 2016

Light at Northlands bus stop now working after the services were connected - working all of the time.

Refuse push carts. As promised at the last Parish meeting I have information regarding road sweeping carts for the PC to consider. If one needs to be seen it can be viewed at the CLS cemetery.

Tall trees at 5 Caxton Way

Because of the close proximity of the Caxton Way Sewerage pumping station I have asked that Northumbria Water take a look to see if the trees are a danger to the pumps etc. awaiting a reply.

BOC SITE

The Council have admitted that initial discussions with Bellway have not yet produced a planning application.

Damaged trees Merlin Drive play area. I reported that trees were damaging the fence between the motorway and the Merlin Drive play area - they are to be removed. Awaiting action. Reported to me by the Parish Councils gardener via the Horticultural portfolio holder.

Broken sign according to John Reed from DCC the broken sign I reported on Northlands Roundabout is now repaired.

The light not working in Picktree Village opposite the entrance to Longmeadows has been reported.

Winter Maintenance Service Information

The delivery of winter maintenance across the county is managed and delivered by Neighbourhood Services.

Between October and April they aim to provide a comprehensive and efficient winter maintenance service. This allows for the safe movement of traffic whilst keeping delays to a minimum and helps all other users of our roads and footpaths to go about their daily activities.

As part of this service they will provide daily updates which include a lunchtime confirmation of planned action for that day and the following morning, including a summary weather forecast. In addition, the following morning an update is provided to confirm the actual action taken.

I thought it would be beneficial if residents were also included in the updates and so I intend to send them to the Parish Council and Residents Association .

My reply to the Planners re the proposed application for Drum Lane Travellers site.

Regarding Planning Application DM/16/00001/VOC: 15 Drum Lane Traveller Site, Drum Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 2AF - Removal of condition 1 (temporary consent) of planning permission 2/13/00135/FPA to allow the permanent use of the land as a residential caravan site for travellers.

As the local County Councillor and previous District Councillor, I have had many years' experience in dealing with matters relating to the existing travellers' site.

Although the current site is well-managed and well-maintained it is out of view to the majority of local residents due to the fact that it lies lower than the surrounding area (which is not the case with the application site which is in a much more prominent position at road level)

In my view the term "Travellers" is a bit of a misnomer as the residents of this site are permanent and that appears to be the outcome if this application is successful, as it really is for an extension to the existing site.

The land lies adjacent to Drum Road and within the designated Green Belt. It is very close to residential areas and close to the former BOC site on Vigo Lane which is currently for sale for residential development and part of the Durham County Plan for housing provision. The proposed residential caravan site will be very visible and will therefore further erode the value of the Green Belt.

If the proposed site mirrors the current one in as much as it will require toilet facilities etc. it will be more or less similar in scope to building bungalows on a site in the Green Belt which I would anticipate would be rejected in this particular location.

My understanding is that the Green Belt should only be built upon in exceptional circumstances and I cannot agree that this application provides those exceptional circumstances. Therefore I cannot support this planning application.

I asked for a report on Gypsy Traveller provision in County Durham . Please see reply.

Dear Councillor May,

I have been forwarded an e mail from you asking if Durham County Council is considered to be providing sufficient spaces for Gypsies and Travellers in County Durham relative to other parts of the country. Unfortunately, the answer to this is not simple.

The way that all Council's should plan for sites for Travellers is set out in specific government planning guidance. Guidance requires all planning authorities to set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers in development plans, allocating sufficient sites to meet any additional need for pitches as necessary. It requires a 'robust evidence base' to be used to inform this. Council's must also identify and up-date annually, a five year supply of specific pitches against their locally set targets.

The Council's most up to date assessment of need is the 'Durham County Council Traveller Site Needs Assessment 2013' prepared by 'Renaissance Research'. This was commissioned to underpin relevant policies in the Pre

Submission Draft County Durham Plan 2013, since withdrawn after the Inspectors Interim Report on the plan Inquiry was quashed. The assessment concluded that there was likely to be no additional need for new Gypsy and Traveller pitches in County Durham to 2025. However, the timing of this assessment was seriously complicated by the ongoing refurbishment programme on all of Durham County Council's six Gypsy and Traveller sites, with this refurbishment programme running over a prolonged period. The assessment is clear in the uncertainties created by this.

The assessment accurately identified that a substantial amount of new vacancy, amounting to at least 33 new pitches, would become available on the Council's refurbished sites. This included vacancy arising from the creation of ten new pitches. Using the best assumptions it was possible to make in the context of refurbishment, it concluded that this should be sufficient to meet needs to 2025. However, it recommended an early review should take place in 2020. In reality, available pitches on sites have been let much more quickly than anticipated. A recent planning inspectors decision on a planning appeal relating to a Travellers Site in Shotton in 2015 concluded from that the Council did not now have a five year supply of sites for Gypsy and Travellers. This was one of the reasons this site was approved at appeal. The Council has now commissioned a new Traveller Site Needs Assessment to inform plan preparation and to understand why refurbished pitches have filled up so much more quickly than anticipated. This report has not yet been finalised.

I appreciate that this response is probably more complicated than you would have liked. If you may feel a face to face meeting might be helpful in further understanding the situation, or wish to discuss this over the phone, do not hesitate to contact me.

Debbie Shanks

Senior Spatial Policy Officer

Tel 03000 261919

Flooding of footpaths between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge Report from Dean Bell (Drainage)after I asked him to report on the flooding issues.

From: [Dean Bell](#)

Sent: 02/02/2016 11:13

To: [Steven Craig](#); [Colin Hodgson - Highway Inspection Maintenance Manager](#)

Cc: [Cllr Peter May](#); [Brian Weatherall](#); [Simon Longstaff](#); [Brian Buckley](#)

Subject: Picktree , Walk through.

Steven, I have had a look at the grassed area and footpaths at the above location. It has recovered quickly considering the rain we have had.

Obviously you are aware there is no property flooding and more of a nuisance during heavy prolonged periods of rain.

You will be aware we wouldn't have connection rights to any NWL sewer and like to look at a sustainable approach where possible. Costs would also be very high to install field drains.

When things dry up a bit would you consider carrying out vertidrain to this area? This should improve things a lot.

Colin there is a footpath leading out of Picktree Lodge leading through to Caxton way. Its very flat and could maybe do with a camber to improve run off. Can your inspectors look at this? It is also a major route to school. A drain connection is some 50m away and would solve the full area of flooding.

Regards

Dean Bell

Drainage Engineer

Latest as at 16/02/16 from Colin Hodgson

Peter

The situation could be improved by raising the footway level in the low area and introducing a crossfall on the footpath so that water does not pond.

It may be possible to do some localised drainage work to further improve things without the need to install 50m of drainage.

I have asked for a level survey to be undertaken so that the proposal can be developed further.

It is hoped that we can carry some work later this year.

Colin

Colin Hodgson

Highways Inspection & Maintenance Manager

☎ 03000 269219

✉ colin.hodgson@durham.gov.uk

From Steven Craig 16/02/16

Verti draining on open space is not something we would normally do due to wet conditions this year all greens have been wet. I will check the ground to see if compaction is an issue however if not verti drain will not improve the drainage in flood situations.

Regards

Steven Craig

Clean & Green Manager Northern Area

Mob:- 07818077409

steven.craig@durham.gov.uk

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report, Tuesday, 16th February 2016.

Update, December 2014 Longdean Park area, residential burglaries, suspect was subject to court bail conditions, should be returning to court for sentence soon.

Update, December 2015 - a) North Road, residential burglary investigations still on going.

b) Ash Meadows, residential burglary investigations still on going.

Current, January 2016 a) Picktree Manor, Picktree Village, residential burglary (PSCO to be contacted regarding the location of the building).

Operation Astro- Police Crime Prevention Initiative in the Chester-le-Street area including the North Lodge Parish Area.

Speed Watch- PSCO and Volunteers will be at the North Land roundabout in the near future. (volunteers cover 21 areas within the Chester-le-Street district).

Fly-tipping- Recent case in Chester-le-Street which was reported in the local free newspaper. Punishment (fine) did not cover the cost to bring the prosecution. County Council Management state that these cases must be brought to court as a deterrent and that the Council is working closely with the judiciary to increase punishments (costs/fines).

Drum Industrial Estate - Businesses now working with the Police regarding crime prevention.

To check with PSCO regarding traffic incident at roundabout opposite Maxwell DIY premises. Will report findings at the next Parish Council meeting.

Reminder- Crime and Community AAP Forum meeting Monday, 7th March at the Hub 6-8pm.

**HORTICULTURE REPORT
NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
16 February 2016**

Flower Tubs

- Two outstanding tubs have still not been delivered. Durham County Council has again been emailed.

Suggestions

- Although suggestions were put forward from some residents re more flower beds in specific areas – after discussions with the Parish Council and the Parish Gardener, agreement was reached on the following:
 - a) North Road –between the drives of the houses opposite to the entrance to Longdean Park. *It was unfair and not practical as every house would not have a flower bed planted beside their house. Rejected*
 - b) ? In open space opposite bungalows in Blind Lane. *It was thought by the Parish Council that the footfall in this area was too small in order that the general public could have any benefit of the beauty. Rejected*
 - c) Picktree village. *It was agreed that 2 flower beds should be planted in this area. The 2 tubs which are presently there will be removed and placed in Merlin Drive. Agreed*

Raised Bed Picktree Village

- It has been decided that Frank has weeded and cleared the correct section of this bed which the Parish Council has responsibility for. Heathers seem to be the best choice of shrubs for this bed due to the precarious position in which the bed is situated.

Shrub Bed at Picktree Village (close to Ash Meadows)

- Mr & Mrs Kirkup will plant bedding at front of this bed whilst the Parish Council will maintain the shrubs in the bed. However, on visiting the bed yesterday it was found that three shrubs had been reduced in size. Frank will need to remove stumps and replant.

Hawthorne Bushes/trees at Low Flatts Play Area

- The bushes/trees which are needed to fill the gap in the hedge in this area will be planted within the next two months. Frank has now found a supplier.

Stone Walls

- Frank has priced stone for walls around bus shelters, plinth and flower bed. Stone is £95 per Sq. metre. (684.00 +vat. for stone) Frank does not think it feasible for him to

carry out this work due to the delivery of the stone and materials etc. having to be delivered to an open unsecure site. It was agreed to delay this project until welcome signs have been placed on bus shelters. We could then approach Durham County Council or other companies for prices for the job.

Wild Flowers at near Wheatsheaf Pub

- This area has now been cleared and ?rotavated. It is thought that Cestria Community may have prepared this bed for planting of wild flowers. Councillor Forrester is presently trying to contact Mike Hall.

Councillors Carole Walton/Maureen May

M May 16/02/16