

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 21st June 2016.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Jackie Martin, Maureen May, Carole Walton,
Dennis Hall, Colin Noble-Nesbitt, David Snaith,
John Waugh.
County Councillor: Peter May.
Clerk: David Murrell.

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Claire Teasdale of the Durham County Council Strategic Planning Team. Councillors discussed with Claire the planning process and the future development of the Vigo Lane area of the Parish. The Chairman thanked Claire for a very interesting and informative discussion.

The meeting commenced at 6.35pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 16/61 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Margaret Caygill.

Item 2. 16/62 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Jackie Martin declared an interest as Chairman of North Lodge Residents Association. Cllr. Maureen May and County Cllr. Peter May declared interests in the planning application for Hollydene, North Lodge.

Item 3. 16/63 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. 16/64 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th May 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. 16/65 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report included matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 16/54 section b). Re overhanging vegetation on the footpath between North Road and Lyndhurst Avenue, County Cllr. May advised that this had been inspected by the County Council and the outcome was awaited.

b) Re Minute 16/54 section f). Re the new dog waste bin installed by the County Council at Picktree Lodge, Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt had discussed the site with residents in the immediate

vicinity of the bin, and this had brought forward a suggestion for a new site which had provided a very satisfactory solution for all concerned. Accordingly, the bin had now been re-sited.

c) Re Minute 16/58. The Clerk advised that the Newsletters were now available for distribution by Councillors. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and his wife for all their hard work in producing the draft for the Newsletter.

Item 6. 16/66 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Crime and Community Safety

The Chairman invited Cllr. Jackie Martin to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).

Cllr. Martin advised that PCSO Christine Taylor was available to attend the next meeting of the Council. Councillors agreed that the PCSO would be very welcome.

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 balances. The Clerk advised that a grant of £2K for the Environment Caretaker project had been agreed by the County Council, from County Cllr. May's neighbourhood budget.

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) New seats installed next to 1 Lombard Drive appeared to be too close to the pavement in that the feet of anyone sitting at the seats could cause a slight obstruction of the pavement. County Cllr. May agreed that if problems did develop he would ask the County Council to re-site the seats.

2) Some months ago the County Council had agreed to put on its programme of works the extension of the length of double yellow lines at the entrance to Lombard Drive but this work had not yet been done. The Clerk is to follow this up.

3) Work by the County Council to the footpath between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge was still awaited. County Cllr. May will follow this up.

4) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had inspected the reinstatement of several footpaths following various works by utility companies in the Parish, and had formed the opinion that, in terms of safety, the works had been carried out to a good standard.

5) Re the possible provision of adult exercise equipment at Merlin Drive, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had inspected the new equipment at Wharton Park, Durham City.

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

d) Horticulture

Cllrs. May and Walton's report included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 4).

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. May and Walton for their report and invited Cllr. David Snaith to give his report.

e) Planning

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith.

f) Play Areas

Cllr. Margaret Caygill, in her absence, had provided the Clerk with the following report.

1) At Merlin Drive play area, the equipment appeared to be in order.

2) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. Weeds needed cutting down around the new hawthorn cuttings. A replacement sign (from a company recommended by the County Council) for the play equipment enclosure would cost approx. £250 to supply and fit.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for providing the report.

g) Publicity

Cllr. Elsie Forrester's report included the following matter.

As Chairman, Cllr. Forrester asked that any complaints received should be dealt with using the following procedure.

"Should a complaint be received, details (including the name and contact details of the complainant) must be forwarded without delay to the appropriate Portfolio Holder who will investigate the complaint, speaking to the complainant whenever necessary to gather facts and eventually to advise a decision. The Clerk is to be copied into all correspondence, including emails, so that a complete record of the complaint is held by the Council."

Councillors agreed with the Chairman's proposal which is to be implemented with immediate effect.

Item 7. 16/67 Correspondence

1) From the Pensions Regulator

Acknowledgement of declaration of compliance.

2) From NALC and SLCC

2016 - 2018 National Salary Award.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) Invitation to submit nominations for the CDALC Executive Committee.
- b) Invitation to a vermin control course.
- c) Email re items contained in the Queen's Speech.
- d) Notification of Neighbourhood Planning campaign.
- e) Notification of "Your Council, Your Finances, Your Responsibility" event to be held on 8th September 2016.
- f) Notification of Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on Friday 29th July 2016.

4) From Durham County Council

- a) Email re changes to Registered Trader Scheme.
- b) Email re Environment Awards 2016.

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

- a) Application for refurbishment of existing industrial units 3 and 5 including new external metal profiled cladding to front and rear elevations and upgrade of hard standing and parking areas to frontage area, at Unit 3, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
- b) Application to fell 4no. Sycamore trees, reduce height by 1m and prune canopy to 1no. Cedar to boundary and prune 1no. Silver birch tree to boundary (all covered by TPO CLS-1 North Lodge), at 21A North Lodge.

During consideration of the following application, Cllr. Maureen May and County Cllr. Peter May left the room.

- c) Application for new bungalow with integral garage within existing house curtilage and new access for existing dwelling, at Hollydene, North Lodge.
- d) Application to fell 1no. Beech tree and stump ground out (covered by TPO CLS-1 North Lodge), at 18 North Lodge.
- e) Approval for construction of 105m safety post & rail fence, at Lambton Castle.

Item 8. 16/68 A Strategy for the Bus Shelters

The Clerk outlined details of the second quote received for work to protect the structures of the bus shelters. Councillors discussed various options including the replacement of the shelters with current designs. The Chairman kindly agreed to explore the possibility of funding for maintenance of the existing shelters.

Item 9. 16/69 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement

Councillors discussed the Annual Governance Statement for 2015 / 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statement.
(**Resolved** - to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2015 / 2016).

Item 10. 16/70 Approval of the Accounting Statements

Councillors discussed the Statements for the year ending 31st March 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statements.
(**Resolved** - to approve the Accounting Statements for the year ending 31st March 2016).

Item 11. 16/71 An Overall Amount for Donations

Councillors agreed to defer this item to the January 2017 meeting of the Council.

Item 12. 16/72 Requests for Donations

Councillors agreed to defer this item to the January 2017 meeting of the Council.

Item 13. 16/73 Review of Chairman's Allowance, Salaries, Wages and Expenses

Councillors discussed these matters and agreed that they should remain at present levels except for the Clerk's salary which is subject to national agreements.

Item 14. 16/74 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£496.31	Salaries June 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses June 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£144.30	Pensions June 2016	
Pot-It-On	£523.00	Hort./Bus Shelters June 2016	
HM Revenue & Customs	£195.00	P.A.Y.E.	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Allowance	
Co. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£312.91	Annual Subscription	
Hirst Signs Ltd	£93.00	Sign for Bus Shelter	£15.50
Thomas Owen & Sons Ltd	£42.78	Hi-Vis Clothing	£ 7.13
JAK Publications Ltd	£456.00	Newsletters	£76.00

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

Item 15. 16/75 Other Matters for Information

There were no matters submitted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

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

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries July 2016	
Expenses	£	Expenses July 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£	Pensions July 2016	
Pot-It-On	£	Hort./Bus Shelters July 2016	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£46.08	Postage Stamps	
<u>Balance to 30th June 2016</u>			
Balance b/f	£40871.86	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - June 16	<u>£ 2493.30</u>		Current £ 463.56
	£38378.56		30 Day <u>£40921.21</u>
			Total £41384.77
Add Grant Received	<u>£ 2000.00</u>		
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 1006.21</u>
Balance c/f	£40378.56		£40378.56

North Lodge Parish Council
June Report
County Councillor Peter May

Roads and Pavements.

Have reported the poor condition of pavements and roads around Kingsmere, Queensmere, Low Flatts and Lyndhurst Ave to John Reed of DCC.

Hello John

Please see the attached email from North Lodge Parish Council (Councillor M Gaygill) to me.

Apart from the areas she has mentioned may I draw your attention to Queensmere and Kingsmere. All of these areas have had major relaying of utilities by Northumbria Water and British Gas and the pavements especially are a patchwork of tarmac and very unsightly. Please can you arrange for the pavements and roads to be reinstated to their former good condition.

Regards

Peter

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Caygill [<mailto:gmcaygill@gmail.com>]

Sent: 19 June 2016 11:23

To: Cllr Peter May

Cc: North Lodge Parish Council

Subject: Road Surface, Low Flatts Road & Lyndhurst Avenue.

Hi Peter,

Residents have raised the following with me and I hope you can forward.

Low Flatts road surface has been left in a most unsatisfactory uneven condition after the recent gasworks were carried out. I understand it was also necessary for Northumbrian Water to do some work.) As requested frequently, the road at the south end of Lyndhurst Ave. (around nos. 20 to 27a) is urgently in need of re.surfacing as it causes a severe trip factor.

Thank you,

Margaret Caygill

Although it is not within the Parish I am also trying to get the pavements and roads around Rickleton and Camperdown Avenue resurfaced as the paving slabs are in a dangerous condition

Hello John

Camperdown and Rickleton Avenues are two of the last areas in my division to have paving slabs as pavements.

The condition of these pavements in my opinion is now reaching a dangerous level for pedestrians.

Movement in the paving slabs has caused unevenness and is also very unsightly with grass and weeds starting to grow from the cracks between the slabs. Some areas are worse than others but generally I believe that they should be removed and the paths relayed with tarmac.

Also the condition of the roads in this area is very poor with several areas badly in need of repair.

This is a nice part of Chester Le Street with well looked after properties but is now starting to look frayed around the edges by the lack of investment by the Council.

Unfortunately, my budgets will not even make a dent in the cost of repair and I am concerned that if left any longer both pavements and roads will deteriorate to such an extent that the pavements especially will become very dangerous.

Please will you look at the area urgently and begin repairs as soon as possible.

Regards

Peter

Update on Arizona Chemicals issues

After asking the DCC to investigate the issues raised by residents especially the dust pollution I received the following report.

From: [Gary Hutchinson](#)

Sent: 15/06/2016 17:07

To: [Cllr Peter May](#)

Cc: [Oliver Sherratt](#)

Subject: Arizona Chemicals site: dust nuisance

Dear Councillor May

I thought it would be appropriate to provide you with an update on your enquiry concerning the above matter.

The investigation by the Environment Protection (EP) team revealed there was a dust nuisance on the site and that dust was emanating from the site, affecting at least some of the residents at Picktree Lodge. Our officers visited the site on several occasions during their investigation to advise the operator to control the dust nuisance, and to more widely observe the site operations. We concluded, due to the nature of the site, that the regulatory and enforcement responsibilities fell to the Environment Agency and the Health & Safety Executive rather than the Council. The EP team has no enforcement powers for this site.

Even though we were limited by law in what we could do, we actively sought to report our findings to the appropriate regulatory agencies and encouraged them to further investigate the situation, which has resulted in the agreement to hold a site meeting on Friday 17 June 2016 that will be attended by the agencies and the

site owner, with an officer from the Council to represent the residents' concerns and the Council's position. Additionally, we reported a specific matter relating to the dust nuisance to Darlington Borough Council who are responsible for the issue of an Environmental Permit for certain equipment used on the site; they too, will attend the meeting. We have also continued to informally request that the operator controls the dust nuisance in the meanwhile.

We believe that the intervention by our EP team will facilitate improved investigation and control at the site and that this will combat and resolve the dust nuisance in particular and the environmental pollution concerns in general.

I would advise that if the residents have new concerns or complaints that they direct them to the Environment Agency using the telephone number 0800-807060 as they are best placed to investigate and to provide advice.

I hope this helps.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Gary

Gary Hutchinson

Environment Protection Manager

Neighbourhood Services

03000-261007

**Gary Hutchinson reports that the site is still the responsibility of Arizona Chemicals
I am awaiting a report of the findings of the last site meeting.
Unfortunately I was not allowed to attend the meeting**

Coveris latest report from Richard Wormold Environmental Services

You will be aware that we received a copy of the Coveris noise impact assessment concerning the various items of plant presently being operated to the rear of the factory.

Whilst reading through the report, we had some concerns regarding the overall content of the report.

On Wednesday 8th June we had a meeting with both Coveris and Apex Acoustics and it was agreed further noise measurements would take place, which will ensure the report addresses the overall noise climate from Coveris fully.

The noise impact assessment established a clear problem concerning noise from the silos/cyclones/associated pipe work. During the meeting this was discussed and it can be confirmed lagging will be fitted to reduce the noise. Acoustic lagging has been sourced and relevant checks are presently being undertaken to ensure the level of required attenuation will be achieved and maintained. I should have further information on time scales this week and will email you once these have been confirmed.

Regards

Mr R. Wormald
Senior Environmental Health Officer
Neighbourhood Services

T: 03000 260993

E: Richard.Wormald@durham.gov.uk

I have written the following to Richard Wormold

Hello Richard

Please can you confirm if you have an actual target date set for the full report to be made available? I assume that after the lagging has been fitted and all other relevant issues have been attended to another noise assessment will be made, but done ASAP. Residents have been patient and understanding the issues but there needs to be closure and I would like to know your target date for this.

Regards

Peter

Park View School safety initiative North Lodge

I am still working with the highways team to try and resolve a cost issue but it looks positive.

North Lodge Parish Council.

Crime and Community Safety Report- Tuesday, 21st June 2016

Current.

No incidents for North Lodge area recorded, to date.

Update.

Suspect charged and received a two year prison sentence for a burglary in Blind Lane (South side) and 8 months prison sentence for an attempted burglary, elsewhere.

General Information. The offence of Harassment has now been classified as a crime.

Crime and Community Forum

Police continue with investigating 'Off Road' bike incidents, difficulty in identifying ownership of the bikes.

Current trends - (Seasonal) Theft of pedal bikes, hanging baskets, garden decorations. Reminding residents to secure garden items e.g. lawn mowers.

One Punch Campaign launch - positive media coverage. Future plans to target schools with publicity/education surrounding alcohol and violence. Group received further funding (£832.00) from the forum group. Discussions on going as how best to spend this money promoting this issue.

Application is to be made to Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board by Durham Fire Bridge regarding project 'Young Firefighters'. This funding is to provide uniforms and equipment. This project is for children in Co Durham to regularly attend allocated fire stations to help with team building and personal development.

Application also to be made to the AAP Board by Durham Police for a similar project 'Mini Police'. A copy of the business plan is available.

Sacrison Mutual Gain project- to develop a better environment and promote the village of Sacrison by involving residents and community groups.

Crime and Community Road Shows 2016 – The Road Show will have a stall at the 'Activities Week' in the Market Place, Chester-le-Street in August. Other dates and venues to be announced later.

Neighbourhood Wardens- New structure throughout the County.
Paul Rutherford, Manager of North Durham Wardens will be attending the North Lodge Residents Association meeting, 12th July to explain the changes and policies.

Illegal Money Lending Project to be launched in Pelton Fell, await dates.

Telephone Scams- Police to attend community venues to educate groups/residents on how the 'scammers' tend to operate.

Forum group next meeting- Monday, 4th July at 6.00pm, The Hub, Chester-le-Street.

HORTICULTURE REPORT
NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
21 June 2016

Flower Beds Installed by Durham County Council (Funded by North Lodge Parish Council)

- There are now only 14 raised flower beds throughout the Parish which the Parish Council finance for Durham County Council to dig, plant and maintain twice a year. The planting of these beds has now commenced.

County Councillor Peter May has kindly offered to finance all of the cost for the planting and maintenance of the two Diamond Jubilee flower beds at the entrance to Picktree Lodge

Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park

- Planted up

Shrub Bed within Longdean Park

- Maintenance and tidying continues.

Shrub Bed close to Northlands Roundabout

- Requires some clearing and tidying of bark from path due to: ? rain washing down from bed or birds foraging. Further planting to be done.

Flower Bed around plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge

- Red Geraniums have been planted around Plinth and summer bedding planted on top of plinth.

Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive

- No problems. Summer bedding has been planted. Millennium Yew tree looks healthy. Millennium plaque still required.

Heather Bed at Picktree Village

- Will be weeded shortly, after all summer planting within the Parish is complete.

Checks on Notice Boards

- Frank no longer needs to check notice boards as Parish Clerk will do so.

Flower/Shrub Bed close to Ash Meadows in Picktree Village

- Frank in partnership with local resident Mrs Kirkup is maintaining this bed. Old shrubs removed and replaced.

Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides) of Northlands Bus Shelter

- The flower bed is full of stones and the grass has been damaged by DCC installing a new lamp standard. DCC has been asked by County Councillor Peter May to re-instate area correctly.

Checks on Notice Boards

- Frank no longer needs to check notice boards as Parish Clerk will do so.

North Lodge Lambton Park Entrance

This flower bed is not private property and belongs to Durham County Council. However as the Parish Gardener has prepared and planted up this area, the Residents of Lambton Park have offered to help maintain these beds - e.g. water, cut grass and clear leaves in the Autumn.

Play Areas

The Parish Gardener will cease to have any responsibility for Merlin Drive play area as this is owned by Durham County Council.

Carol Walton/Maureen May