

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 January 2017.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Martin, Maureen May,
Patrick Driscoll, John Murray, Colin Noble-Nesbitt,
David Snaith.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.00pm, welcoming everyone to the first meeting of 2017 and wishing everyone good health and happiness.

Item 1. 17/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Carole Walton, Dennis Hall and John Waugh.

Item 2. 17/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School. Cllr. Jackie Martin declared an interest as Chairman of North Lodge Residents Association. Cllr. Maureen May and County Cllr. Peter May declared interests, as the property owners, in the planning application for Hollydene.

Item 3. 17/03 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor Peter May to give his report which included the following matters - a possible meeting of residents with Durham County Council to discuss the Coveris noise issue, cleaning of footpaths at Picktree Lodge and Lyndhurst Avenue, a request to the County Council to review the speed limit in Vigo Lane, a request to the County Council to review the traffic flow at the junction of Park Road North and the Picktree Lane roundabout, a request to the County Council to make it safer for pedestrians to cross Picktree Lane near to the petrol station, an update re the installation of 20mph lights on North Road near to the school.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 17/04 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th November 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. 17/05 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 16/112 section e). Re the missing "Keep Left" sign at the pedestrian refuge on North Road near to its junction with Low Flatts Road, this had now been replaced although the sign at the south end of the refuge now looked like it might also need replacement in the near future.
 - b) Re Minute 16/112 section f). Re the re-painting of the 30mph road marking on North Road, this had still not been carried out. Cllr. Murray pointed out that the 40mph marking on the northbound carriageway also required re-painting. County Cllr. May will again chase this up.
 - c) Re Minute 16/112 section g). Re the cleaning of the Low Flatts/Drum Industrial Estate path, Cllr. Caygill had spoken to a member of the Co-op Environment Volunteers team. Following this, the Clerk is to contact the team leader to make a request for their involvement.
- The Chairman's report included matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 1).
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 17/06 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 2).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for her report.

b) Finance

Cllr. Waugh had confirmed to the Clerk that he had received the most recent bank statements and he was satisfied that the finances were in order.

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

c) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matter.

For clarification, there are to be four additional bus shelter signs. One is to be placed on the north facing wall of the North Road/BOC shelter, one on the east facing wall of the Vigo Lane shelter and one on each of the north and south facing walls of the stone built bus shelter in Picktree Village.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Maureen May to give the Horticulture report.

d) Horticulture

Cllrs. May and Walton's report included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 3).

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

e) Planning

Cllr. Snaith's report included the following matters.

1) Cllr. Snaith gave details of the recent planning application for housing at the former BOC site. A public consultation event would be held on Wednesday 18th January by the agents for the developers.

2) Cllr. Murray enquired if there were planning rules re the paving over of front gardens. Cllr. Snaith kindly agreed to provide an answer at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith and invited Cllr. Margaret Caygill to give her report.

f) Play Areas

Cllr. Caygill's report included the following matters.

1) At Merlin Drive play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. The County Council was still looking for a design of litter bin with a cover. A "Smoke Free Zone" sign was now in place. There was a slight mole infestation.

2) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. The ground around the new hedging had been weeded and the roots re-covered with earth. A "Smoke Free Zone" sign had been requested from the County Council. The Clerk is to hold a site meeting with a contractor to discuss the required extended tarmac (not concrete as originally agreed) path at the entrance to the play equipment section.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report.

g) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester advised that all publicity matters had been contained in her Chairman's Report earlier.

Councillors thanked the Chairman.

Item 7. 17/07 Correspondence

1) From The Children's Foundation

Thank you for donation.

2) From Citizens Advice County Durham

Thank you for donation.

3) From Great North Air Ambulance

Thank you for donation.

4) From Fairhurst

Email re public consultation event re the former BOC site, Vigo Lane.

5) From Npower Northern Ltd

Letter and revised invoices re power for tree lights.

6) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re Council Tax referendum principles.

b) Email re Durham County Council "Do It On Line" system.

c) Email re external audit appointments.

d) Notification of cancellation of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting.

7) From Durham County Council

a) Notification of AAP Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 19th January 2017.

b) Notification of AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 23rd January 2017.

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

a) Application for full planning permission for the erection of 123 dwellings and associated access, landscaping and engineering works and outline planning permission (all matters reserved) for the erection of up to 80 dwellings, at British Oxygen Co, Vigo Lane.

b) Approval for works to 12 no. trees protected by a TPO, at Hollydene, North Lodge.

Item 8. 17/08 Setting the Precept

Copies of financial forecasts prepared by the Clerk had been previously circulated. These formed the basis of extensive discussions by Councillors who kept in mind, amongst other matters, the continuation of the programme of renovations to the bus shelters and the improvements achieved over the last year in the horticultural and environmental appearance of the Parish.

It was agreed to increase the Band D equivalent charge from £21.48pa in 2016/2017 to £29.53pa in 2017/2018. It was recognized that this would be a large percentage increase of 37.5% yet would entail an increase in charge of just £8.05 (67p per month) for the whole year and this would allow the Council to continue the improvements to the living and working environment of the Parish. (Resolved on a show of hands by 7 to 1 - to set a Precept of £29.53 per Band D equivalent property for the financial year 2017/2018).

Item 9. 17/09 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 487.60	Salaries December 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses December 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 141.51	Pensions December 2016	
Pot-It-On	£ 266.00	Horticulture December 2016	
Pot-It-On	£ 140.00	Environment Care November 2016	
D. Murrell (via JAK HQ Ltd)	£ 28.80	ID Badges	£ 4.80
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 299.73	PAYE	
St. Astier Ltd	£3521.81	Renovation of Bus Shelter	£586.97
Durham County Council	£2742.68	Flower Beds	£457.11
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 50.00	Donation	
Co. Dharm School Benevolent Fund	£ 50.00	Donation	
Citizen's Advice County Durham	£ 50.00	Donation	
The Children's Foundation	£ 50.00	Donation	
E. Forrester	£ 150.00	Chair's Allowance	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 108.00	Annual Membership Fee	
Association of Local Council Clerks	£ 10.00	Annual Membership Fee	
Salaries	£ 487.40	Salaries January 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses January 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 141.51	Pensions January 2017	
Hirst Signs Ltd	£ 89.00	Bus Shelter Sign	£ 14.83
Npower Northern Ltd	£ 23.57	Power for Tree Lights	£ 1.12
Pot-It-On	£ 273.98	Horticulture January 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 171.00	Environment Care January 2017	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 17/10 Other Matters for Information

For the next Council meeting, Cllr. Murray requested the discussion of street lighting at Picktree Lodge.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.52pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st February 2017.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries February 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses February 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 141.51	Pensions February 2017	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture February 2017	
Pot-It-On	£	Environment Care February 2017	
DSJ Property Services	£ 120.00	Fitting Signs	

Balance to 31st January 2017

Balance b/f	£35228.09	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - January 2017	<u>£ 9442.59</u>		Current	£ 1003.29
	£25874.50		30 Day	<u>£24921.21</u>
			Total	£25924.50
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 139.00</u>
Balance c/f	£25785.50			£25785.50

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report – Tuesday, 17th January 2017

Current

No Incidents/Issues have been reported.

Crime and Community Safety Group (CCS) Forum

Leaflet distributed by the Police, 'Does your work take you behind doors, We need your help'. This leaflet supplied information regarding Child Exploitation, Human Trafficking, Stolen Goods/ Counterfeit Goods and recognising someone living beyond their means.

The Herbert Protocol. Police initiative for helping the elderly and vulnerable people.

A 'PACT' premises in Stanley was discussed. Police to research the benefits before consideration is given to opening a similar property in Chester-le-Street.

Group discussed the purchasing of a number of machines used to block unwanted telephone calls. It was decided to assess the benefit and value for money before offering any funding. Update at next meeting.

Document on display showing the CCS Action plan for 2017.

Neighbourhood Watch group has been disbanded.

**Next Forum meeting Tuesday, 6th February 6-8pm at the Hub,
Chester-le-Street.**

**HORTICULTURE REPORT
NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
17 January 2017**

County Councils Responsibilities

- **Flower Beds Installed by Durham County Council. Total 16.**

Flower Bed on Vigo Lane has had approximately half of its plants stolen. Martin Briscoe (DCC) informed.

- Area opposite plinth at Picktree Lodge – Still waiting for some tidying etc. to be done. Martin Briscoe again contacted.

Parish Gardener Responsibilities

- **General winter maintenance and tidying continues around the parish.**

- **Heather Bed at Picktree Village.**

On-going. Requires tidying. Maintenance is carried out once or twice per year. Frank (Parish Gardener) to look at planting some Lavender in bed as well as possibly Hydrangeas at back of bed. - Under discussion.

- **Three Flower Tubs at Northlands Roundabout**

Frank has drilled holes in the three flower tubs which were placed at Northlands end of North Road. The flowers in these tubs were becoming water logged. The tubs are now draining well.

- **Hawthorn Hedge at Low Flatts Play Area**

Frank has made a boarder approximately 20 inches in depth and cleared the area between the two posts. - Hopefully to allow hawthorn saplings to grow more effectively.

There are eight saplings in total.

In Bloom

There have been no further meetings.

Application form for 'In-Bloom' 2017 has been completed and submitted

Environmental Caretaker

Half Yearly Review

Environmental Caretaker trial post has now been in operation for six months.

It appears to be working well. Frank Leighton (Operator) is able to complete litter picking of the whole Parish every two weeks.

An extra benefit to the Parish from this exercise has been Frank's observations of other Parish issues e.g. Fly tipping/ damage to walls/fences and street signs.

Frank does not Litter Pick on the footpath from the motorway to Picketree Village, but this is currently under review.

C Walton/M May

