

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 February 2017.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Martin, Carole Walton,
Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall, John Murray,
Colin Noble-Nesbitt, David Snaith, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm.

Item 1. 17/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Maureen May.

Item 2. 17/12 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.

Item 3. 17/13 Report of the County Councillor

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

a) County Cllr. May advised that he had recently attended various meetings with County Council officers to gather information in advance of the forthcoming vote on the County Council's budget for 2017/18.

b) Cllr. Murray asked why there were two different types of light fittings on Picktree Lodge estate. County Cllr. May will make enquiries with the County Council.

c) Cllr. Murray asked for an update re the lighting of signage at the entrance to Picktree Lodge estate. County Cllr. May will chase this up with Gateshead Council.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 17/14 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2017, 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. 17/15 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 17/03. Re the new "20mph" flashing lights on North Road, County Cllr. May will enquire with the County Council regarding the times of activation of the lights and regarding any requirement to have signage indicating the end of the "20mph" zone.
- b) Re Minute 17/05 section b). Re the re-painting of the 30mph and 40mph road markings on North Road, County Cllr. May will again chase this up.
- c) Re Minute 17/05 section c). Re the cleaning of the Low Flatts/Drum Industrial Estate path, Cllr. Caygill had arranged with the Co-op Environment Volunteers team to carry out the work after the bird nesting season. In the meantime, Cllr. Caygill and her husband had carried out a litter pick along the path and her husband was willing to cut back branches overhanging the path. Councillors thanked Cllr. Caygill and her husband for their very helpful work. Cllr. Caygill also advised that much of the litter consisted of plastic cups from the nearby Co-op warehouse and County Cllr. May agreed to mention this at the next meeting of the Drum business group.
- d) Re Minute 17/06 section c). Councillors considered that the recently installed Parish signs on bus shelters looked very good and were, therefore, carrying out their desired function.
- e) Re Minute 17/06 section e2). Cllr. Snaith outlined the planning requirements regarding the paving over of driveways.

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

Item 6. 17/16 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).

The Chairman advised of several recent incidences of thefts of purses from people within churches.

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

b) Finance

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

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

c) Highways and Website

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

- 1) Several footpaths were potentially dangerous due to mulched leaves. The Clerk will report these to the County Council.
- 2) The final stage of consultation regarding the proposed extension of the yellow lines at the entrance to Lombard Drive was awaited.
- 3) Several incidences had been observed of footpaths being obstructed by vehicles sticking out from private driveways. Cllr. Martin kindly agreed to report this to the PCSO.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

d) Horticulture

In the absence of Cllr. Maureen May, the Clerk read out the report that had been prepared by Cllrs. May and Walton (Appendix 4, attached). Cllr. Martin advised that the daffodil bulb planting referred to in the report had been a community event led by Mr. Newton.

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 matter.

Cllr. Snaith gave details of a revised plan recently submitted to the County Council for housing at the former BOC site. Any comments from Councillors would be collated by Cllr. Snaith and advised to the Planning Department.

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 had advised that they did not attend to molehill infestations except to flatten them with the grass cutting machines. Councillors considered that this was not a strong response to the potential trip hazard of the molehills and the Clerk is to advise the County Council accordingly. Recently planted daffodils were now coming through. Concern was again expressed re a tree on private land leaning against the play area fence and Cllr. Caygill will inspect this.

2) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. The new hedging was now sprouting. Councillors agreed to the purchase and installation of a multi-instruction sign at a cost of £120. Quotes were awaited for the extension of the path at the entrance to the play equipment section. There were many bags of dog waste at the Sustrans bridge entrance to the play area. Cllr. Caygill will discuss with Cllr. May the inclusion of the play area in the sites covered by the Environment Caretaker and the Clerk is to write to the County Council to ask if one of the displaced bins from the County Councillor's "New Bins" application could be re-sited to here.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report.

g) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester gave details of this year's Big Spring Clean campaign.

Councillors thanked the Chairman.

Item 7. 17/17 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Copy letter to Fairhurst re consultation event.

2) From The Royal British Legion

Request for volunteers.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service public consultation.

b) Email re Royal Garden Party nominations.

c) Email re Neighbourhood Planning grants.

d) Email re Charter between CDALC and Durham County Council.

4) From Durham County Council

a) Email re Big Spring Clean 2017.

b) Notification of AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 27th February 2017.

c) Report re arrangements to count votes in the elections to be held on 4th May 2017.

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

Application for erection of single storey extension to side and rear, at 22 North Road.

Item 8. 17/18 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 487.60	Salaries February 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses February 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 141.51	Pensions February 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 294.00	Horticulture February 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 175.00	Environment Care February 2017	
The Information Commissioner	£ 35.00	Annual Registration Fee	
DSJ Property Services	£ 120.00	Fixing Signs to Bus Shelters	
Total Payments	£1333.11		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 9. 17/19 Other Matters for Information

The following matter was submitted for information.

Cllr. Martin advised that she had received a request from a resident for more flower barrels and had advised the resident to write to the Parish Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.17pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

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

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£	Salaries March 2017	
Expenses		£	Expenses March 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund		£	Pensions March 2017	
Pot-It-On		£	Horticulture March 2017	
Pot-It-On		£	Environment Care March 2017	
HM Customs & Revenue		£	P.A.Y.E.	
E.Forrester		£ 150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
	Total Payments	£		

Balance to 28th February 2017

Balance b/f	£25785.50	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - February 2017	<u>£ 1333.11</u>		Current	£ 1416.69
	£24452.39		30 Day	<u>£23421.21</u>
			Total	£24837.90
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 385.51</u>
Balance c/f	£24452.39			£24452.39

County Councillor Peter May North Lodge Parish Council February 2017 report

Fly tipping still a major concern at Fatfield Charterhouse Bridge area – monitored by Sunderland Council for DCC



Briefing for prospective election candidates

Anyone considering standing as a candidate in the forthcoming county and parish council elections is invited to attend a briefing session on the election process.

Durham County Council is holding two sessions for prospective candidates and agents at County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, 1 March at 2pm and 4pm.

The county and parish council elections are due to take place on Thursday, 4 May across all 63 county divisions, electing 126 members and 194 parish/ward council areas, each with their own individual number of seats available to be contested. Anyone who wishes to attend a briefing session or who would like more information, should contact electoral services on 03000 261 212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk

Further information for prospective candidates and agents can also be found at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england-and-wales>

Boundary Commission for England announces publication of Responses to their Initial Proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies

On 24 February, 2016, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) announced the start of a review of the Parliamentary Constituencies in England. The BCE is required to report to Parliament in September 2018.

Parliament has specified that the review must reduce the number of constituencies, and therefore MPs, in the UK, to 600. It has asked the BCE to consider where the boundaries of the new constituencies should be, ensuring that every new constituency has roughly the same number of electors – no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507. England will have 501 constituencies, 32 fewer than there are currently. With regards to the North East, BCE proposes to reduce the number of constituencies from 29 to 25.

BCE published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency boundaries on 13 September, 2016 for consultation, with responses to be submitted by 5 December, 2016. BCE received nearly 20,000 responses to that consultation.

The next stage of the 2018 Review is for BCE to publish all those representations so that others may comment on them.

BCE intend to publish all the representations on Tuesday, 28 February 2017, and invite comments on them for four weeks until Monday, 27 March 2017.

All representations will be published on their website at www.bce2018.org.uk.

Following the secondary consultation, the Commission will consider all representations received from both consultations, and will consider whether any revisions are needed. If they decide to revise the proposals, they will consult on the revised boundaries. They currently expect any such consultation to happen towards the end of 2017, or in early 2018.

Coveris Issue

Despite the Council deciding that there is now no reason to complain and that the statutory obligations placed upon Coveris have been rectified - residents are still complaining about incessant noise that was not there until Coveris came. Now awaiting the Ombudsman to intervene.

New Bins for North Lodge

I have now signed the application from my NB for 14 new rubbish bins to be replaced around the whole of my area.

Neighbourhood Budget – this is now spent and will not be available until May

Picktree Lodge entrance Shrub Clearance

Probation Service has done a pretty good job in opening up the area. I have now asked Martin Briscoe to arrange a further clear up of the construction materials now exposed. – He has agreed to this.

Pot holes and the Liberal Democrat Activists latest Claim to have influenced the Councillors and Council. He is apparently responsible for the Council fixing the potholes in Leander Avenue. Ref his November leaflet.

Of course this is just another lie aimed at influencing residents.

The truth as per DCC documentation – the actual paperwork shows that order number 00012432 for pot hole repairs was issued by roads inspector Kevin O' Rourke **14/09/2016 a month before the Lib Dem leaflet**. This means that the actual inspection of the road would have been even earlier.

The rest of North Lodge was examined at the same time.

Now unless Mr Martin can go back in time to influence the Inspector he is obviously telling lies as he could not possibly have had any input at all on the inspectors report.

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report- Tuesday 21st February 2017

Current

No incidents/issues have been reported.

Crime and Community Safety Group (CCS) Forum.

PACT = Police And Communities Together.

Staff had visited a PACT house in Stanley to observe. Will discuss this at next meeting.

PACT meeting held in Grange Villa, well supported. Success at contacting landlords regarding problems with rubbish accumulating in the rear yards of domestic properties.

Mutual Gain project in Sacriston : grant awaits formal assessment by Durham County Council.

Beat the Scammers: BT is now offering a call blocking scheme to customers. Age Concern is training volunteers to help with the installation of call blocker equipment in domestic properties.

Easter Activities for Children: Group has supported the Children and Young Person forum group with a grant to help with this project. There is a small amount of money left in CCS funds for community projects.

Devon and Cornwall Police have made enquiries regarding the 'One Punch' campaign.

Thanks were given to the team of volunteers who help with the Community Speech Watch scheme.

Hate Crime survey currently in progress. Contact Police or Durham County Council for more information.

Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016-2019. If the CCS forum continues (local priorities for 2017) then a request has been made to consider this plan with any community projects undertaken by this group.

County Councils Responsibilities

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

Stolen plants from flower beds on Vigo Lane and North Road (close to Queensmere) have still not been replaced by Durham County Council. Martin Briscoe (DCC) to be contacted again, now that spring is approaching

- **Area opposite plinth at Picktree Lodge**

This area looks quite nice at present. Derek Newton has planted daffodils in this vicinity; therefore after we see where the daffodils bloom, we can then decide what other plants should be planted for the summer.

Parish Gardener Responsibilities

- General winter maintenance and tidying continues around the parish.
- Primula and pansy beds etc. will be fed and watered when required.
- Next meeting with Parish Gardener will be to discuss summer bedding and how the Parish Council can help to enhance the area ready for 'In Bloom'

In Bloom

We are awaiting amount of £1200.00 which has been funded by Chester le Street Area Action Partnership (AAP).

- £1000.00 will be used for specific commodities as requested on application.

£200.00 will be used for extra flowers

- A walk-a-around in the Parish will take place shortly with the 'In Bloom' team and officers of Civic Pride DCC in order to confirm route.
- Next meeting will be to plan specific areas of beauty and design to be used for 'In Bloom' within the Parish.

Environmental Caretaker

Continuing well. Horticulture team to discuss with the County Council the protocol and safety of Litter Picking at lower end of Picktree Village.

This will be reported back at next Parish meeting.