

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 March 2017.

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

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

Two Residents.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm by welcoming everyone, in particular the two residents.

Item 1. 17/20 Apologies for Absence

No Apologies for Absence were received.

Item 2. 17/21 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. John Murray declared an interest as Chairman of North Lodge in Bloom.

Item 3. 17/22 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 a new housing development at Portobello Road should remind people of the need for vigilance in case the County Council should again propose a housing development on the land between Picktree Lane and the motorway.
- b) Residents had raised concerns regarding the likely noise and disruption that would be caused by the proposed new housing development on the former BOC land.
- c) Re the recently installed "20mph" flashing lights on North Road, further enquiries were needed to establish who was responsible for the operational times of the lights.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 17/23 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st February 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. 17/24 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 17/15 section b). Re the re-painting of the 30mph and 40mph road markings on North Road, County Cllr. May advised that this could not be carried out in cold weather so would be done when the weather turned milder.

b) Re Minute 17/15 section c). Re cutting back branches overhanging the Low Flatts/Drum Industrial Estate path, Cllr. Caygill advised that this had now been done by her husband. The Chairman thanked Mr. Caygill for his very helpful work. Re raising the subject of litter at a meeting of the Drum business group, County Cllr. May advised that the next meeting was not yet due. The Chairman's report included matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 17/25 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Horticulture

The Chairman invited Cllr. Maureen May to present the Horticulture report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 3). In addition,

1) Cllr. Caygill advised again of numerous dog waste bags at the Sustrans bridge entrance to Low Flatts play area. The Chairman, Cllr. Caygill and Cllr. May are to visit the site to establish what needs to be done to clear away the bags.

2) Cllr. Caygill advised that Park View School had apologised for the actions of several students who had vandalised daffodils along North Road. The School was taking further action on this matter.

3) Cllr. Martin advised that the wood edging of the bed at the entrance to Longdean Park was rotten. Cllr. May will ask the Gardener to remove the wood.

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

b) Play Areas

Cllr. Caygill's report included the following matters.

1) At Merlin Drive play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. The badly controlled use of weedkiller by the County Council had made a mess and might have killed some daffodils.

Councillors advised of similar examples around the Parish. County Cllr. May will forward the complaints to the County Council. The County Council officer responsible for the maintenance and inspection of play areas was now considering proposal of a County Council policy regarding molehills. The tree on private land leaning against the play area fence had again been inspected by the County Council and was not considered to be dangerous. It was hoped that a replacement litter bin could be provided from the ones displaced by the new bins to be installed around the Parish from County Cllr. May's project. Cllrs. Driscoll and Noble-Nesbit advised on a sink hole that had appeared, and been attended to by the County Council, at Merlin Drive.

2) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. The multi-instruction sign was awaited from the supplier. Councillors discussed quotes for the extension of the path at the entrance to the play equipment section and agreed to accept the quote of £250 from David Jefferson for the installation of grass matting. The goalposts required rust removal and re-painting. The Clerk is to obtain a quote for this.

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

c) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 4). The Clerk will report items 4 and 6 to the County Council.

Cllr. Murray advised of tarmac breaking up because of weeds coming through on the path at Caxton Way/Picktree Lodge. County Cllr. May kindly agreed to follow this up.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. David Snaith to give his report.

d) Planning

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith and invited Cllr. John Waugh to give his report.

e) 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. Jackie Martin to give her report.

f) Crime and Community Safety

Cllr. Martin's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 5).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for her report.

g) Publicity

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

Councillors thanked the Chairman.

Item 7. 17/26 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Copy letter from Fairhurst re consultation event.

2) From North Lodge in Bloom

Email re flower bed in Vigo Lane.

Cllr. May is awaiting a reply from the County Council re replacement plants for the bed and will then liaise with the In Bloom team re the future of this bed.

3) From Northern Powergrid

Unmetered Supplies Connection Agreement.

(Resolved - The Clerk is to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Parish Council).

4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re Elections and Purdah.

b) Email re new Public Space Protection Order.

The Clerk has asked the County Council to include Merlin Drive and Low Flatts play areas in the list of parks to be included in the Order.

c) Email re Neighbourhood Planning regional event to be held on 18th April 2017.

The Chairman and Cllr. May are to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

5) From Durham County Council

a) Email re Community Safety Fund.

b) Email re molehills.

c) Email re changes to Pension Scheme employee contributions.

- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for erection of single storey extension on south elevation, detached double garage, fencing and access gates, at 5 North Lodge.
 - b) Application for single storey extension to rear, at 11 Ash Meadows.
 - c) Application for single storey extension to front and side, at 11 Longdean Park.

Item 8. 17/27 The Annual Risk Assessment

Councillors discussed the Annual Risk Assessment, draft copies of which had been prepared by the Clerk and previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Assessment in the form provided. **(Resolved** - to approve the Risk Assessment in the form provided).

Item 9. 17/28 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 487.60	Salaries March 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses March 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 141.51	Pensions March 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 341.19	Horticulture March 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 140.00	Environment Care March 2017	
HM Customs & Revenue	£ 195.20	P.A.Y.E.	
Durham County Council	£ 313.19	Tree Lights	£52.20
Durham County Council	£ 341.89	Web Hosting	£56.98
E.Forrester	£ 150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Total Payments	£2190.58		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 17/29 Other Matters for Information

The following matters were submitted for information.

- a) Cllr. Caygill reminded Councillors that the missing plaque for the Millennium Yew Tree had still not been replaced. Cllr. Caygill will seek a quote for a replacement.
- b) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reminded Councillors that it would soon be time to begin consideration of the annual Newsletter, including this year the responsibility for its production.

Having asked the two residents if they had any comments or questions, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

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
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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 Report
March 2017

County Durham tax and why I voted for a 1.99% rise plus 2% for adult services no other way to vote!!

As a responsible Independent Councillor I have a duty to consider the merits of all proposals for the budget that are given to me. This includes any amendments that are proposed. No budget will be perfect but if the proposals are generally positive and can withstand scrutiny then I will consider supporting them.

(Irrespective of who /party proposes them)

I was given the Labour budget proposals around 3 weeks prior to the budget meeting and I met with senior officers of the Council whose job it is to give professional advice to the Council. This is to ensure that the County Council stays solvent and can continue with its responsibilities. They gave assurances that the proposals were within the guidelines that their professional bodies expected. I was also satisfied that finance was being made available for Adult services, Roads, schools etc. It was also made very clear to me that in order to ensure that The County Council was in good shape to withstand any unforeseen future issues arising from the Government's austerity measures and Brexit. The earmarked reserves £187m and the General reserves £33m were considered essential for a £billion authority.

I was not given any prior information by the Liberal Democrats for their proposals. The only information was given during the meeting and was shown on a screen. I therefor had no opportunity to evaluate the information and to discuss it with the Council Officers. Given these circumstances I supported the Councils proposals.

During the meeting I addressed the Council stating that not to have the entire information required for making an informed choice was to show disrespect to both my residents and me. I asked for a postponement in order to study the proposals but was told that legally this was not possible.

Coveris

I had a meeting with Kevan Jones MP to discuss the way forward. He is to approach Coveris to ask for the Apex acoustic report to be made public.

White lines North Road

30/40 mph markings to be repainted when the weather is warmer. The paint does not adhere in the cold.

Signs outside of Picktree Lodge that belong to Gateshead to be requested for repair by DCC

Light issues in Picktree Lodge being investigated (two types of Lights)

Pedestrian crossing from Park Road North to Garage has been agreed and will happen in new financial year. However the roundabout is more problematic as it appears its going to be difficult to slow down the traffic for a safe left turn into Park Road North – issue ongoing.

I will be standing for election at the next County Council elections May 4th 2014 once again as an Independent

Thank you for your support over the last 4 years.

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) contacted again. Martin will again explore these issues.

All other beds look very colourful and pleasant.

Parish Gardener Responsibilities

- General winter maintenance and tidying continues around the parish.
- Primula and pansy beds etc. will be fed and watered when required.

Heather bed at Picktree Village will be re- plenished

- Millenium bed to be replanted very shortly.

In Bloom

- Everyone is working hard towards "In Bloom"

Environmental Caretaker

Frank is now litter picking down path, towards roundabout on west side of Picktree Village, and along Vigo Lane (which had been omitted in beginning). These two

areas have added extra time to his programme and now the whole round takes three weeks to complete.

Carole
Walton/Maure
en May

Highways Report for Tuesday 21st March 2017

1. The potentially dangerous footpaths at Caxton Way and around the NW edge of Picktree Lodge have been cleared of the mulched leaves by DCC – not perfect but major improvement to a useable level.
2. The local consultation for extending the Lombard Drive double yellow lines has been completed and the outcome/action is awaited.
3. Still some footpaths being obstructed regularly by vehicles sticking out from private driveways in the evenings/overnight – would need specific alerts to police for any chance of action
4. The other keep left sign on the central reservation of the pedestrian crossing on North Road, close to the Low Flatts Road junction, needs reporting as defective to DCC. DCC will repaint the nearby faded 30 mph and 40 mph signs when the temperature allows.
5. With Drum Road bridge open again, the traffic on North Road can be expected to lessen somewhat.
6. The one-way entrance from Vigo Lane that services Lea Green, in Gateshead, and the whole of Picktree Lodge Estate, is in need of some renovation, being completely out of character with the recently re-surfaced Vigo Lane, for example. Needs reporting to DCC but Gateshead may be the responsible authority.
7. DCC has been asked to review the flashing times for the new “School 20 when lights show” signs on North Road and Lombard Drive.
8. Consultation for removal of street lights, e.g. A693 west of Northlands roundabout, is deferred until 5 May 2017.
9. The recently renovated section of path linking Caxton Way with Picktree Lodge is breaking up close to the whole of one edge (north). DCC needs alerting to take remedial action as soon as possible.

Crime and Community Safety Report- Tuesday, 21st March 2017

Current.

Theft of a pedal cycle from Picktree Lodge.

Theft of metal from a building site in Blind Lane.
(south side, outside of parish area).

Update on Previous issues.

Door to Door sales. Residents to be made aware of these persons and that the cost of items for sale are highly inflated.

Concerns raised by a Councillor about vehicle obstruction on local estates were forwarded to the local police.

Police visited the areas and decided that no action would be taken against residents.

Theft from churches outside the Chester-le-Street area. Local police thanked councillors for the information.

Crime and Community Safety Group (CCS) Forum.

Results from the Chester-le-Street Area Action Partnership's public vote for 2017 showed that Crime and Community Safety was not a priority. Therefore this was the last meeting of the CCS group.

The balance of the CCS community fund was given to the local police for the purchase of crime prevention articles.