

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 18th April 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.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm by welcoming everyone and congratulating Councillors on their re-election in the forthcoming uncontested election on 4th May 2017. Councillor Carole Walton, after 34 years as a North Lodge Parish Councillor, had decided not to stand again. The Chairman will deliver to Carole flowers and a card signed by all Councillors and the Clerk.

Item 1. 17/30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Carole Walton.

Item 2. 17/31 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.

Councillors agreed to take the Planning Portfolio Holder's Report next.

Item 6. 17/32 Portfolio Holders' Reports (Part One)

a) Planning

Cllr. David Snaith gave an update following approval by the County Council of the recent planning application for new housing at Vigo Lane. Building work is expected to commence in the summer. Councillors discussed the amount and method of allocation of Section 106 monies by the County Council. Cllr. Martin raised a concern re the long-term responsibility for trees (protected by a Tree Preservation Order) associated with the housing development. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt pointed out that there was no provision for new play facilities nor was there easy access to existing facilities. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to raise concerns re the ongoing maintenance of the trees, the lack of play facilities and the lack of consultation with the Parish Council and others re the allocation of the Section 106 monies.

Item 3. 17/33 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 below -

County Councillor Peter May North Lodge Parish Council April 2017 Report

This is the last report for the current election cycle.

I would like to congratulate all Parish Councillors who have been re-elected for a further term of office and wish them every success.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their support, kindness, friendship and partnership over the last 4 years? It has been a pleasure working with you all for the benefit of our community.

There has been very little happening of note over that last month with Council meetings being on hold mainly due to Purdah.

However it is interesting to report that at my Environment and Sustainable Communities committee. It was announced that due to the success of the repairs done to major roads that there is some surplus that will be spent on estate roads throughout the county. The amount has not yet been revealed.

Damaged and dangerous wall Picktree Village

I have reported that a long section of wall running from Picktree village southwards is in need of urgent repair. DCC have inspected it and agree with me and a letter is being sent to Lambton Estates reminding them of their responsibility for this wall

The main issue is the agreement to build upon the British Oxygen site in Vigo Lane which was ratified at the April Planning meeting.

- Only one house builder is to build – Avant homes
- There is to be significant changes to the road system around the Barley Mow roundabout with the corner of the road removed for an extra lane of traffic
- There are to be bus pull ins on Vigo Lane

106 Agreement

- 15% of the houses will be affordable housing.
- £352,550.00 will be given to Park View School towards provision of additional capacity.
- £22,000 towards biodiversity improvement at Waldrige Fell SSSI
- £203,000 towards the provision of improvements to open space and recreation **within North Lodge**

Electoral Division

The 106 agreement of £203k is extremely important and it is imperative that the Parish Council, Residents Association and District Councillor work very closely with Stephen Reed to progress this. Money will be given as the building progresses with the majority of it awarded after the 190th house is built. There will be three payments of £27k after the 45th dwelling is occupied.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 17/34 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st March 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. 17/35 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 17/22 section c). Re the recently installed "20mph" flashing lights on North Road, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had ascertained from the County Council that the timings had been set to take into account the arrivals of parents/guardians. Cllr. Caygill will seek the opinion of the Headteacher as to the timings to help inform Councillors in consideration of proposing revised timings. Re the lack of signage denoting the ends of the "20mph" zone, County Cllr. May is still awaiting a reply from the County Council but will chase this up, as he will re lighting on Picktree Lodge and the deficient lighting of several road signs.
- b) Re Minute 17/24 section b). County Cllr. May advised that there had not yet been a meeting of the Drum business group at which he hoped to raise the matter of litter.
- c) Re Minute 17/25 section a3). Cllr. M. May advised that the rotten wood at the bed at the entrance to Longdean Park had now been removed and was being stored by Cllr. Martin who awaited instructions for its removal.
- d) Re Minute 17/25 b1). Re the sink hole at Merlin Drive, Cllr. Driscoll advised that the County Council had an engineer investigating.
- e) Re Minute 17/25 section c4). Re the path surface at Caxton Way/Picktree Lodge, County Cllr. May is awaiting a response from the County Council.
- f) Re Minute 17/29 section a). Cllr. Caygill advised that a suitable replacement for the Millennium Yew Tree plaque was still being sought.

The Chairman's report included the following matters -

- 1) The Chairman and Cllr. M. May had attended a Neighbourhood Plans meeting at County Hall. Councillors agreed that no further consideration would be given to Neighbourhood Plans unless there was some material change in the scheme.
- 2) A new monthly market had commenced at the town centre market place. Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 17/36 Portfolio Holders' Reports (Part Two)

b) Horticulture

The Chairman invited Cllr. Maureen May to present the Horticulture report which included the matters contained in the written report below -

HORTICULTURE REPORT APRIL 2017

County Councils Responsibilities (16 Flower Beds)

- Following close examination of the two flower beds on Vigo Lane and North Road (close to Queensmere) which were thought to have had some plants stolen from, it would appear that perhaps the salt and rain water from the roads has been thrown onto beds by passing vehicles - polluting/damaging the soil. Evidence of this is that small plants remain deep down into the soil. All other beds look very colourful and pleasant.
-

Parish Gardener Responsibilities

- Frank will cut back ivy which is hanging over fence behind shrub bed at Picktree Village, also remove ivy from top of bus shelter.
- Heather bed at Picktree Village is ongoing and looking quite nice.
- Councillor Caygill and her husband continue to tend Northlands shrub bed as well as the northlands bus shelter beds. (now all looking smart) until October 2017. The three tubs also in the vicinity are looking very nice.
- The Millennium bed looked lovely for the 'In Bloom' judging.
- We would like to give special thanks to Mary Dinsley (a resident from North Road) for her outstanding efforts in improving the frontage of both, her own and her neighbours, front grassed areas.

In Bloom

- We have now had our first (Spring) judging for 'In Bloom'. The team all worked extremely hard to ensure that the Parish judging areas were clean, tidy and looking beautiful. We have received many nice comments from residents and passers-by.
- Thanks also go to Frank, our Parish Gardener, for all his extra efforts at the time of judging.
- We felt that the two judges were suitably impressed, although we are still awaiting written feedback.
- The final (Summer) judging will take place on 05 July 2017. Lots more hard work to be done.

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.
- There is an issue regarding dog fouling bags being “dumped” at end of public footpath next to Low Flatts Road play area (67 bags). To be discussed with Parish Council.
- Both the Parish Gardener and a Resident reported: a double bed size mattress has been dumped in the bus shelter at Picktree Village. County Council informed.

Carole Walton/Maureen May

1) Re the two damaged flower beds, Cllr. Murray suggested moving them back from the road. Cllr. May will discuss this with the County Council.

2) It was agreed that the Environment Caretaker would also litter pick along the inside edge of the bridle path hedge at Low Flatts play area, and also in the enclosed play equipment section.

3) At the Drum pond area, there had been much fly-tipping. However, due to prompt action by members of the public there was sufficient evidence available to raise a prosecution.

4) The beds at the Picktree Lodge plinth and entrance were said to be in poor condition. Cllr. May will inspect these.

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

c) Play Areas

Cllr. Caygill's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

PLAY AREA REPORT 18th APRIL 2017

LOW FLATTS

Equipment appears to be OK

Some of the Safety Surface is starting to show signs of wear around the edges and needs to be monitored.

We are waiting for the new bye law sign ordered from Interplan.

The new grass matting is now in place at the Play Area entrance but we await the fitting of more pegs to secure it and thus avoid tripping.

An order has been placed to have the goal posts re painted and rust removed.

More dog litter bags have been dumped at the North access. I have requested their removal and will continue to monitor. We have asked for a bin here but due to the location access for emptying may be a problem.

The permanent NO DOG FOULING sign seems to have been complied with by most dog owners.

MERLIN DRIVE

Equipment appears to be OK.

Mole hills have been flattened by the grass cutter. We await a long term solution re these from DCC.

I am very disappointed that the hundreds of daffodil bulbs planted by residents and Park View School pupils have been destroyed by weed killing and premature grass cutting by DCC. Council will write to DCC regarding this.

Marg. Caygill

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

d) Highways and Website

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

- 1) The extension of the double yellow lines at the entrance to Lombard Drive was still awaited.
- 2) A replacement keep left arrow sign was still awaited for the crossing point on North Road near to Low Flatts Road.
- 3) At the entrance to Picktree Lodge, the Gateshead Council section of the road surface had been attended to but not to a high standard.
- 4) There was now a "Right of Way" sign at the beginning of the Baffle Bank at Picktree Lodge.
- 5) Councillors discussed the construction of the Minutes and made suggestions which the Clerk will trial.

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

e) Finance

Cllr. Waugh confirmed that he had received the most recent bank statements as well as Draft Accounts prepared by the Clerk and he was satisfied that the finances were in order. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt considered that the County Council's percentage change calculation of the Adult Levy in the Council Tax notices recently delivered to residents was misleading.

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 below -

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report- Tuesday, 18th April 2017.

Current.

The paintwork was damaged on a number of unattended securely parked motor vehicles in Lombard Drive and Leander Avenue. Police are investigating.

General Community Information.

Police have advised residents to take care of their garden equipment due to the recent thefts from garden sheds in other areas of Chester-le-Street.

Due to recent thefts from unattended motor vehicles, Police continue to remind residents to lock the doors of their vehicles.

Information was received from the Traffic Management Office, Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit regarding speed data on A167 dual carriageway between Picktree Roundabout and Ropery Lane roundabout Chester-le-Street. This information has been forwarded on (19/04/17) to other Parish Councillors.

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. 17/37 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Email expressing appreciation for daffodil display.

2) From BDO LLP

Audit pack for 2016/17.

3) From Community Lincs

Insurance renewal papers.

4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re NALC Devolution Toolkit.

b) Notification of Smaller Local Councils Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 25th May 2017.

5) From Durham County Council

a) Notification of Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 27th April 2017.

b) Grounds Maintenance Contract.

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

Approval for single storey extension to rear, at 11 Ash Meadows.

Item 8. 17/38 Items Requested by Councillors

a) Dog Fouling

Cllr. M. May suggested the installation of an additional warning sign at Low Flatts play area. Cllr. Caygill will first monitor the situation for a month to see if there has been an improvement following the removal of the numerous bags of dog waste there. Cllr. Murray commented on a proliferation of dog fouling along the Baffle Bank. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that the dog waste bins in that area were being well used.

b) Speed of Traffic

Cllr. Martin advised that new information will soon be available from the Police and this will be circulated to Councillors on receipt.

c) Newsletter

Councillors discussed roles and responsibilities for the production of this year's Newsletter. This matter will be included in the Agenda for the May meeting of the Council.

Item 9. 17/39 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries April 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses April 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions April 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 350.96	Horticulture April 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 175.00	Environment Care April 2017	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 2.90	Postage	
DSJ Property Services	£ 160.00	Installation of Matting	
D. Murrell (via Express Matting Ltd)	£ 52.76	Matting for Play Area	£ 8.79
D. Murrell (via Express Matting Ltd)	£ 16.31	Extra Pegs for Matting	£ 2.72
Durham County Council	£3065.96	Flower Beds	£510.99
Total Payments	£4527.55		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 17/40 Other Matters for Information

The following matters were submitted for information.

- a) Cllr. Martin advised that wildflower planting was expected to be carried out shortly by the County Council.
- b) A resident had asked how high a fence could be at the front of a property. The Clerk will circulate to Councillors the appropriate link to the Planning Guidance website.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries April 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses April 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions April 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 350.96	Horticulture April 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 175.00	Environment Care April 2017	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 2.90	Postage	
DSJ Property Services	£ 160.00	Installation of Matting	
D. Murrell (via Express Matting Ltd)	£ 52.76	Matting for Play Area	£ 8.79
D. Murrell (via Express Matting Ltd)	£ 16.31	Extra Pegs for Matting	£ 2.72
Durham County Council	£3065.96	Flower Beds	£510.99
Total Payments	£4527.55		

Balance to 31st March 2017

Balance b/f	£24452.39	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2017	<u>£ 2190.58</u>	Current	£ 340.60
	£22261.81	30 Day	<u>£21938.49</u>
		Total	£22279.09
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 17.28</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£22279.09		£22279.09