

## **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 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

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

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

(Councillor Jackie Martin had previously advised the Clerk that she now wished to be known by her married name of Jackie Gregory).

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed everyone

### **Item 1. 17/54 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor David Snaith. County Councillor Craig Martin was not present at the commencement of the meeting and had sent his apologies for this.

### **Item 2. 17/55 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School. Cllr. Jackie Gregory 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. 17/56 Report of the County Councillor**

County Councillor Craig Martin was not in attendance at this point. However, he had provided the written report below which was read out by the Clerk -

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# **County Councillor's Report**

**North Lodge Parish Council  
June 2017**

**Cllr Craig Martin  
North Lodge and Chester-le-Street**

## **BOC Site Building**

Since being granted planning permission Avant have started preparing the site over the last month. Residents situated directly next to the site are suffering some serious negative effects from the works. Not just noise and dust but the level of vibrations have caused cupboards to rattle, beds to shake, and cracks appear in plasterboards. DCC have acted to put further restrictions on the developers, such as limiting their work on a Saturday, monitoring noise and dust levels. I'll be continuing to liaise with residents and developer to maintain expected standards.

## **Low Flatts Road Crossroads**

A serious car crash occurred at this interchange, involving an individual getting lost while following a sat nav. The resident involved has requested that road markings are applied so that everyone knows who has right of way. I'm currently pursuing this with the council.

## **Political Balance in DCC**

One of the recurring arguments we have with the controlling political party is fairness in distributing positions of responsibility to opposition parties. Control over scrutiny should be distributed evenly between all political parties, not just the one in control. All the opposition group leaders came together to request Labour review this policy. If they refused we'd propose a member of each political grouping to become a Vice Chair of the various scrutiny committees. Surprisingly the Leader of the Council agreed to review this policy in the Constitutional Working Group. A small victory and the hope for fairer council in the future.

## **Teaching Assistants**

There will be a vote on Wednesday morning on their pay and conditions. But we've not be told what their revised contracts will be, which is unconstitutional. The unions have requested this speed so that they can ballot members before breaking up for summer. My political grouping will be meeting Head of Resources on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June's evening to quiz them further. I'm also hoping to meet TA's from the electoral division ahead of the meeting. In order to consult on their idea of a good deal.

**Cllr Craig Martin**  
**North Lodge and Chester-le-Street**  
[craig.martin@durham.gov.uk](mailto:craig.martin@durham.gov.uk)  
03000 268 745

#### **Item 4. 17/57 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 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. 17/58 Chairman's Report**

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 17/48 section a). Re the sink hole at Merlin Drive, County Cllr. Martin had not yet provided a report on any progress by the County Council.
- b) Re Minute 17/48 section d). Cllr. Gregory advised that the wildflowers on North Road were now showing through.

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

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NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL.

MEETING 20.6.2017.

INFORMATION TO DATE.

1.NO AAP BOARD MEETINGS UNTIL 26.6.2017.

2. YOUNG PEOPLES AND FAMILY TASK GROUP.  
CHAIR MR JAKE ROLLINGS.

WORK SHOPS THEMES FROM THE AAP CHILDRENS AND YOUNG PEOPLES SURVEY WHICH WILL SEE THESE THEMES BE A MAJOR PART IN THE 2017/2018 PROGRAMME.

- a.MENTAL HEALTH.
- b.TRAFFIC .SPEEDING TRANSPORT.
- c.SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES.
- d.FEELING SAFE.
- d.CAREERS.

3.CELEBRATE CHESTER LE STREET EVENT IS PLANNED FOR SEPT 2017.  
FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

4."BEAT THE STREET EVENT" THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS.  
CELEBRATION EVENT BEING PLANNED FOR 6.7.2017 10AM IN PARK VIEW SCHOOL.  
CHESTER LE STREET,  
REFRESHMENTS,TROPHIES,AWARDS.PRIZES  
EVERYONE INVITED TO JOIN IN THE FUN.

5.PELTON ROSEBERRY .NEWFIELD NEW SOCCAR PITCHES ARE NOW AVAILABLE  
WITH FACILITIES.  
CHESTER LE STREET LEISURE CENTRE HAVING MAJOR REFURBISHMENTS

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL TASK GROUP.  
CHAIR MR DEREK BRIGGS.

1."IN BLOOM" NORTH LODGE AND TOWN CENTRE AREAS WORK IS ONGOING.

2."CHESTER BEST".NOT MANY ENTRIES TO DATE. ENTRIES TO BE ALLOWED FOR A FEW MORE DAYS.

3.ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS  
CLOSING DATE 20.7.02017.

4.WORK ALONG THE RIVERSIDE IS ONGOING.  
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE PUBLIC PLACE PROTECTION ORDER FOR DOG CONTROL IHAS NOW BEEN ENFORCED.

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Smaller Councils Forum Peterlee.25.5.2017.

Attended the above meeting with Cll Maureen May.

Very few people in attendance. 16..

(101 Parish Councils in County Durham of which 101 are members of the CDALC.).

Election of Chairman. Nomination of - Mr R,Harrison from Sacriston PC. No more nominations. Mr R Harrison was duly elected.

Vice Chair Mr M.Taylor

Discussions :- Codes of conduct. And CDALC Secretariat 1.4.2018.

Are Codes of Conduct being applied at meetings?????

All Parish Councillors must familiarise themselves with Councils Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

Trainings. Councillors 25.7.2017 Barnard Castle 26.7.2017 Peterlee.

Chairman.31.7.2017 Peterlee. 1.8.2017 Barnard Castle

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Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

## **Item 6. 17/59 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

### **a) Play Areas**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Caygill to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -

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#### **MERLIN DRIVE**

The equipment seems all in order. We still await a secondhand covered replacement waste bin. DCC have now put up a sign banning dogs from the fenced off area, this joins the no smoking sign put up previously. Together with the PLAY AREA sign, instructions on the use of the area are very clear.

#### **LOW FLATTS**

The play equipment is in order but in the last few weeks we have had serious damage done to the safety surfacing by vandals. Neighbours alerted the clerk. I inspected the damage and cleared away most of the mess and informed the police. I had a site meeting with PC L Morrisroe and we found evidence of drinking and drug taking. I also spoke to PCSO Christine Taylor. The youths returned to the area. The police are making additional visits and residents have been asked to ring them if they see anything untoward. It has also been reported that quad bikes have been ridden on the field.

The DCC officer for play areas has been informed and he has already had the damaged repaired and we will discuss further action with him soon.

David and I have pressed Interplan for the long awaited sign. They will fit in the next few days.

DCC have put up a sign banning dogs from the fenced area.

Once again the bins are overflowing with dog waste bags. I contacted DCC. The indiscriminate dumping seems to be over.

The seat (recycled) is badly in need of a coat of varnish.

A resident has asked for a CCTV camera to be put in this area.

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Cllr. May will ask the Gardener to varnish the seat. There was no support from Councillors for a CCTV camera. Cllr. Gregory advised that the County Council Clean and Green team were arranging to install waste bins at Merlin Drive play area and at Lombard Drive.

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

**b) Highways and Website**

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

- 1) The damaged keep left bollard on North Road had now been replaced.
- 2) The 30mph and 40mph road surface markings on North Road still awaited re-painting by the County Council.
- 3) The damaged edge of the path at Caxton Way/Picktree Lodge still awaited repair by the County Council.
- 4) The overhanging trees on North Road still awaited attention by the County Council.
- 5) The overhanging trees on Lombard Drive near to the entrance to Park View School had now been cut back.
- 6) Road repairs at various sites in the Parish still awaited attention by the County Council.
- 7) The Clerk is to advise to the County Council the Parish Council's support for the timings of the "School 20" lights as proposed by Park View School.
- 8) Councillors were satisfied with the trial layout of the Minutes and this layout is, therefore, to be continued.

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

**c) Finance**

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

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

**d) Horticulture**

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

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**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL  
HORTICULTURE REPORT  
20 JUNE 2017**

**County Councils Responsibilities (16 Flower Beds)**

Flower Beds have been emptied and prepared for planting of summer bedding.

We have requested that the two diamond flower beds at entrance to Picktree Lodge have more soil imported, in order to give the beds more height. Martin Briscoe has agreed.

**Parish Gardener Responsibilities**

At present, the Parish gardener is concentrating on preparing and planting up the four main flower beds for summer

- Picktree Lodge Plinth
- North Lodge Lambton Park
- Longdean Park
- Millennium Bed

**In Bloom**

Ongoing. Next meeting is 27 June 2017.

Final judging will be 14 July 2017

Cllr M May  
Cllr P Driscoll

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In addition, spent gun cartridges had been found at an open space at Picktree Lodge and this had been advised to the Police. Councillors were disappointed that the County Council had still not yet planted up the flower beds funded by the Parish Council. Cllr. May will take this up with the County Council. Cllr. Caygill advised that several trees in Low Flatts Road required attention. Cllr. May will arrange this. The Clerk is to contact the Co-op Environment volunteers to request that they tidy the bridle path between Low Flatts play area and the Drum Industrial Estate.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. May for her report and invited Cllr. Jackie Gregory to give her report.

**e) Crime and Community Safety**

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

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**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL.**

**Crime and Community Safety - Report June 2017.**

**Crime**

Update.

Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicles in Lombard Drive/ Leander Avenue. No further action taken due to lack of evidence.

Theft from motor vehicle, Amberside Court. One male arrested.

Theft from four motor vehicles, Wear Lodge. Investigations still ongoing.

Children using motorbikes at Low Flatts Road Park, adult male supervising issued with a 183 Traffic Regulation Order, valid for 12 months. If caught with a vehicle, and behaving in the same manor then he could be subject to a 184 Traffic Regulation Order to seize and destroy any vehicle he has control of at the time.

**Community Awareness**

30/40 youths congregating at Low Flatts Road Park. Spoken to by Police and moved on.

30/40 youths fighting at North Lands play area (adjoining North Lodge Parish ) dispersed on arrival of police.

Damage by means unknown to Low Flatts Road Park. Parish Council to deal.

Reply received from the Principal Private Secretary of the Office of the Police Crime and Victims Commissioner. Concerns of speeding on the A167 dual carriageway by the Riverside Park, Chester-le-Street had been raised by the Parish Council.

Thanks to David Parish Clerk for continuing to circulate 'In the Know' alerts from the Police.

Cllr. Caygill advised that there had been motorbikes on the Baffle Bank. Cllr. Gregory will report this to the Police.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Gregory for her report

At this point, County Councillor Martin arrived at the meeting.

**f) Planning**

Cllr. Snaith had advised the Clerk that there were no matters to 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. 17/60 Correspondence**

1) From Alderman Peter May  
Letter of thanks.

2) From ex-Councillor Carole Walton  
Letter of thanks.

3) From Durham Community Action  
Email re County Durham Funding Fair to be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

4) From Virgin Media  
Email re network expansion.

5) From Community Lincs Insurance Services  
Confirmation of renewal of policy.

6) From Lloyds Bank plc  
Letter re the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

7) From the Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner  
Email re speed of traffic on Park Road Central.

8) From Ethos Environmental Planning  
Email re Durham County Council Open Space Study.

9) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re Durham County Council Environment Awards.

b) Email re Public Space Protection Order.

c) Email re nominations for officials at the CDALC AGM to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

d) Email re CDALC Secretariat proposals for 2018/19 onwards.

e) Email re Good Councillors Guide to Transparency.

f) Email re pay claim.



- 10) From Durham County Council
- a) Email re A693 South Pelaw Bridge temporary road closure on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
  - b) Email re AAP Environmental Task Group vote for Chair.
  - c) Email re Chester's Best competition.
  - d) Email re planning complaint EN/17/00486.
  - e) Email re Vigo Lane housing development.
- 11) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for single storey classroom extension, at Castle View Nursery, Blind Lane.
  - b) Approval for erection of detached bungalow with detached garage, at 27 Blind Lane.
  - c) Approval for single storey rear extension to replace the existing conservatory, at 27 Picktree Lodge.

**Item 8. 17/61 Preparation of the Newsletter**

Cllr. May gave an update on the progress of the draft newsletter. Each Councillor present at the meeting and the Clerk gave their agreement to the inclusion of their photograph in the Newsletter. The Clerk is to contact Cllr. Snaith for his confirmation. Cllr. Caygill is to contact Park View School for agreement to include a photograph of school children. Councillors discussed and agreed the wording of an article re parking on pavements. Councillors thanked Cllr. May for all her work so far on this project.

**Item 9. 17/62 Items Requested by Councillors**

**a) Permanent role of Environment Caretaker**

Cllr. May presented a report (below) -

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**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL  
Environment Caretaker  
20 June 2017**

The trial period of one year for the above role is now complete.

Evaluation:

- The Operative covers all areas of North Lodge Parish. On Blind Lane (going east) he ends at the bungalows' cul-de-sac. Through Picktree Village (going south) he ends at the bottom of the road. He does not enter the 'Round-a-Bout' area.
- Timescale – The whole area is litter picked within three weeks approx.
- The disposal of bags of litter has worked well due to his good communication with the Council.
- There have been no reports or complaints from Residents etc. of excess litter lying around.
- Due to the excellent vigilance of the Operative, he has reported many incidents/occurrences to myself which have been acted upon. e.g.
  1. Mattress found in Bus shelter Picktree Village on two occasions.
  2. Large concrete boulder lying in middle of pavement under bridge near to Wheatsheaf pub.
  3. Small drum of oil lying beside litter bin at top of Picktree lodge
  4. ? Virgin media bollards strewn all over pavement, exposing large hole on North Road

Councillors are now required to decide if the twelve month trial period has been successful and if the role should be made permanent.

Maureen May

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Councillors agreed to defer discussion of this matter to the next meeting of the Council. In the meantime, the role is temporarily extended to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

**b) Uses for Section 106 monies**

The County Council Planning Development Manager had advised the Clerk that it was likely to be two years before Section 106 money would be available from the former BOC site housing development. Councillors agreed therefore to defer consideration of this item to the November 2017 meeting of the Council.

**Item 10. 17/63 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement**

Councillors discussed the Annual Governance Statement for 2016 / 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statement.

**(Resolved - to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2016 / 2017).**

**Item 11. 17/64 Approval of the Accounting Statements**

Councillors discussed the Statements for the year ending 31st March 2017, 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 2017).**

**Item 12. 17/65 An Overall Amount for Donations**

Councillors agreed an overall amount of £250 for donations in the year 2017 / 2018. (Resolved - to set an overall amount of two hundred and fifty pounds for donations in the financial year 2017 / 2018).

**Item 13. 17/66 Requests for Donations**

Councillors agreed to defer this item to the January 2018 meeting of the Council.

**Item 14. 17/67 Review of Chairman's Allowance, Salaries, Wages and Expenses**

The Chairman left the room whilst the Chairman's Allowance was discussed. Councillors agreed to leave the Allowance unchanged but the Chairman was asked to maintain a list of amounts of expenditure incurred for consideration at the next review in June 2018. The Clerk's salary was to remain subject to the national review. Councillors agreed to leave unchanged the Clerk's expenses. Councillors agreed that the review of the Gardener's wages and expenses was to be deferred to the next meeting of the Council. In the meantime, Cllrs. May, Driscoll and Murray are to conduct a review of the workload of the Gardener to establish if the hours allowed match the requirements of the job.

**Item 15. 17/68 Payment of Accounts**

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries June 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses June 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions June 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 283.00	Horticulture June 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 175.00	Environment Care June 2017	
D. Murrell (via Costco)	£ 16.28	Stationery	£2.71
E. Forrester	£ 150.00	Chairman's Qtly Allowance	
E. Forrester (via Sainsbury's)	£ 22.99	Leaving Gift for County Councillor	£3.83
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 239.40	P.A.Y.E.	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£1590.33</b>		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

**Item 16. 17/69 Other Matters for Information**

The following matters were submitted for information.

- Cllr. Caygill advised that she had found a suitable manufacturer for a replacement Millennium Yew plaque. Councillors were satisfied with the estimated cost of £202 plus VAT.
- Cllr. Caygill requested that the Council provide funding of up to £50 for the purchase of plants for a flower bed in the grounds of Park View School, Lombard Drive towards the "In Bloom" competition. Cllr. Gregory advised that sufficient plants might already be available from the "In Bloom" committee although this would need to be confirmed. Councillors agreed that £50 would be made available in case of need.
- Cllr. Caygill advised that anglers had worked hard to make the Drum pond area a very attractive area.

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 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017.**

	<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Salaries		£	Salaries July 2017	
Expenses		£	Expenses July 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund		£	Pensions July 2017	
Pot-It-On		£	Horticulture July 2017	
Pot-It-On		£	Environment Care July 2017	
JAK HQ Ltd		£ 396.00	Newsletters	£66.00

**Total Payments    £**

**Balance to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Balance b/f	£43784.05	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - June 2017	<u>£ 1590.33</u>		Current    £    599.18
	£42193.72		30 Day <u>£41594.54</u>
			Total     £42193.72
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£        Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£42193.72		£42193.72