

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 October 2017.

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

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed everyone.

Item 1. 17/90 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Colin Noble-Nesbitt and David Snaith.

Item 2. 17/91 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.

Item 3. 17/92 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor Craig Martin to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

County Councillor's Report

North Lodge Parish Council October 2017

Cllr Craig Martin North Lodge and Chester-le-Street

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Budget Underspending

As part of the scrutiny committees I've been attending we've been reviewing various department's progress in meeting the budget. It was noted that most areas were underspending because they were delivering their efficiency savings/budget cuts sooner than expected. I criticised this on the basis that we are doing a disservice to the community. We have money we can spend today that we won't have tomorrow, we should be spending it for our residents.

Universal Credit

The roll out across County Durham is upon us, it will go live in Chester-le-Street during March 2018. From this date any new claimants or those that have a change of circumstance will be put onto Universal Credit. Key concerns are all claimants are required to have access to the internet, have a bank account, and there is almost a two-month waiting period before funds are received. DCC are working with all partner organisations to ensure the transition will be smooth and no one gets left behind.

Drum Business Group

Met on Thursday 5th October, the main discussion point was the work being performed by Highways. DCC aim to resurface all main roads within the industrial estate. They will be especially reinforced to cope with the number of HGVs using it. All work will take place overnight so that deliveries are not disrupted.

Organisations also raised concern about road safety. Requests are being made to the council to repaint road markings so that it is clearer for all motorists who has the right of way.

Regarding the Drum Business Group, County Cllr. Martin confirmed that at the recent meeting he had distributed copies of the Parish Council Newsletter. On behalf of the Parish Council, he had thanked the Co-op volunteers for their recent work on the Low Flatts to Drum Right of Way path. In addition -

1) Cllr. Caygill advised that a resident of Low Flatts Road had tripped over a cable running across the footpath from a house to a parked car. The County Cllr. noted the potential for many more such incidents in the future and will ascertain the present regulations. 2) Re the Picktree Lodge road signage lights not working, the County Cllr. advised that Gateshead MBC would be attending to these in the near future. 3) County Cllr. Martin advised that he would be willing to fund from his Neighbourhood Budget the purchase and installation of an additional waste bin at Low Flatts play

area. However, at present the County Council would not be willing to service the bin as it would not be on County Council owned land. County Cllr. Martin will, though, seek a solution to this. 4) Regarding a waste bin for the Drum pond area, the County Cllr. advised that the County Council did not own any footpaths in the vicinity, just the roads. 5) In reply to a question from Cllr. Gregory, the County Cllr. advised that the air quality monitoring equipment at Blind Lane was giving readings showing an upward trend in pollution, approaching warning levels. The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 17/93 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th September 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. 17/94 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 17/84 section a). Re the sinkhole at Merlin Drive, County Cllr. Martin agreed to find out why Northumbria Water had not yet attended to carry out final repair work.
- b) Re Minute 17/84 section e). Re the flower bed in the grounds of Park View School, Cllr. Caygill gave an update on the planting project.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17.10.2017.

Information from AAP Meeting held 25.9.2017.

CHESTER BEST. 2018, Hope to have a new award for "Young Gardiner of the Year".

POLICE. - .Problems with anti social behaviour in he following areas.

Great Lumley.Perkinsville.Ouston.Bournemoor.

Goups of young people are gathering who are coming from outside the areas.

Police are trying their best to work with the young

Begging in Front \Street PCSO"s are working to try and eradicate this problem.

Also people are sleeping rough behind the church.

Individual has been found sleeping in a tent in the Cone Terrace area, tent has been removed.

Mick Rogers and Derek Briggs are continuing with the Speed Watch Campaign.

.FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES.- There has been a slight decrease in fires in the area.

But in some areas refuse bins that are left outside are being set alight.

Everyone must be diligent as Bonfire \night approaches.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS. - It is hoped that all the businesses in the main street will become involved with this.

30.11.2017.Christmas Tree Lights will be switched on.

MR,DEREK SNAITH.- Derek is temporarily being moved to Consett to cover the Derwent Valley AAP Co-ordinator position whilst that person is on maternity leave.

He should be returning in the summer of 2018. to Chester le Street AAP.

A replacement for him at Chester le Street is being sought !!!!!!! watch this space.

One of the current AAP team is covering his position at this time.

All PC members should have received a AAP Board Summary and E-Bulleton.

**Mrs E.Forrester BA.
Chairman. NLPC.**

In addition, Councillors agreed that the Chairman and Cllr. Caygill are to represent the Council at the forthcoming Remembrance Day Service.
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 17/95 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Horticulture

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

County Councils Responsibilities (16 Flower Beds)

- All flower beds have been emptied ready for replanting of winter bedding.

Parish Council/Gardener Responsibility

- **Low Flatts Road Trees**

These trees were planted by, and are the responsibility of the Parish Council. Councillor Caygill and Councillor May have attended meetings with two Arboriculture Companies and requested quotations for essential tree works/maintenance on these trees, for consideration by the Parish Council.

- **Hawthorn Hedging in Low Flatts Play Area**

Durham County Council will sell established hawthorn trees – under negotiation.

- **North Lodge (Lambton Park) Entrance**

Local residents are working with the Gardener to help clear millions of leaves which continually fall and accumulate at entrance during the Autumn season.

- **Heather Bed**

Councillor Driscoll has established that the Laylandi Hedge belongs to the resident in property at back of hedge, who has agreed to trim the hedge back. The Clerk has had some communication with Miller homes but is awaiting further information from them.

- **Seat at Low Flatts Road Play Area**

Vandalism now seems to have ceased and seat will be varnished during the next month.

No.	Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month Hrs 22	Accumulation 67
1	Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Cut back overhanging Shrubs. Dead heading roses.	3.5	5.5
3	Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.		_____	_____
3	Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound) Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Bus shelter Maintenance. _____	0.5 _____	1.5 _____
1	Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge.	Cleared undergrowth and weeds at Hawthorn Hedge.	3.0	4.0
1	Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park.	Clear out/weeding of bed ready for winter planting.	4.0	9.0
1	Shrub Bed within Longdean Park.		_____	_____
1	Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm pub (South Bound).	Cleaning and tidying.	0.5	1.5
1	Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Cleaning and tidying.	0.5	1.5
2	Raised Shrub Beds North Road		_____	6.0
2	Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Cut grass and on to weed clearance	1.5	3.0
2	Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.		_____	_____
	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	Tidying and graffiti cleaning	0.5	1.5
1	Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.	Clearing out of Bedding/Weeding	2.0	4.0
No.			Present Month	Accumulation

	Description	Comment	22	67
		Hours	Total	
1	Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.		_____	_____
1	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Tidying and weeding.	0.5	1.5
1	Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Tidying, cleaning and weeding.	0.5	1.5
	Bus Shelter. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers	Tidying only.	0.25	0.75
1	Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Bus shelter maintenance	0.25	0.75
2	Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Cleared Picktree Lodge Plinth bed and surrounds.	1.5	7.5
1	Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.		_____	_____
1	Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	Cleaning and tidying.	0.25	0.75
2	Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	Removal of Ivy from bus shelter roof and sides.	2.0	2.5
3	Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).		_____	2.5
1	Heather Bed at Picktree Village.		_____	8.0
	Daffodil planting.		_____	_____
	Handyman.	Painted Electricity box on North Road.	0.75	0.75

Regarding the trees in Low Flatts Road, one quotation had now been received but the second quote was still awaited.

(**Resolved** - that the Chairman, Councillors May and Caygill and the Clerk are, together, to consider the two quotes and proceed to appoint a contractor to carry out the works).

In addition, regarding the flower bed at the entrance to Longdean Park, Cllr. Waugh advised that he had produced a draft plan. Councillors agreed to discuss this at the next Parish Council meeting and thanked Cllr. Waugh for his work on this project.

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

b) Finance

Cllr. Waugh confirmed that he had received the most recent financial information and he was satisfied that the finances were in order. The Clerk advised that a grant of £557.76 had been received from NALC re the operating costs of the website.

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

c) Crime and Community Safety

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

North Lodge Parish Council.

Crime and Community Safety Report 17th October 2017

Current

No recorded incidents of crime in the Parish.

Community Safety

Information on the police monitoring van attending Blind Lane and North Road still awaited.

Speed Visor in Picktree Village. Enquiries have revealed that to replace this one and others around the parish is too costly.

The Guild Dogs campaign regarding parking on pavements continues to get the attention of more MPs.

Regarding the crime percentage figures shown in the last PACT document. There will be extra patrols regarding shoplifting. Reassurance has been given that attention will be shown to other areas of crime.

Thank you to David for circulating 'In the Know' e-mails.

Remember **non** emergencies contact the Police on telephone no 101.

Any emergencies contact the Police on telephone no. 999

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

d) Play Areas

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

MERLIN DRIVE

On inspection all play equipment appears to be in order.

LOW FLATTS

All play equipment appears to be in order. The new notice has been erected...

The seat still needs the wooden slats treated.

The hedge has still to be cut.

The safety surface, whilst no worse, will need attention in due course. I will discuss this with council.

Margaret Caygill

Regarding the play equipment at Merlin Drive, Cllr. Driscoll advised that a swing had required repair which had been carried out very quickly by the County Council. Re the safety surfacing at Low Flatts, the County Council technician had advised that it should be replaced. Councillors agreed that quotes should now be obtained.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report.

e) Planning

In the absence of Cllr. Snaith, no report was made.

f) Highways and Website

In the absence of Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, no report was made.

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. 17/96 Correspondence

1) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) Email re "Planning for the right homes in the right places" consultation.
- b) Email re General Data Protection Regulation training.
- c) Email re Neighbourhood Planning funding.
- d) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 35.
- e) Email re CDALC AGM.
- f) Email re revised Code of Conduct

2) From Durham County Council

- a) Notification of Durham County Pension Fund Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday 8th November 2017.
- b) Email re AAP Engaging with Communities.
- c) Notification of cancellation of AAP Environment Task Group meeting for October.
- d) Notification of AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 23th October 2017.

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

- a) Application for crown lift of 7 no. trees (Holly, Lime and Maple) to 4m and fell 1no. Laburnum, at 14 North Lodge.
- b) Application for two storey extension to side, at 72 Lyndhurst Avenue.
- c) Application for change of use from industrial unit to fitness facility, at Unit 27, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
- d) Application for felling of 1 no. Horse Chestnut, at 16 North Lodge.

Item 8. 17/97 Vigo Lane Housing Development Section 106 and the County Councillor's Neighbourhood Budget monies

The County Councillor advised that he had received from Councillors several ideas for projects. He would shortly be meeting with the County Council's Chief Planning Officer to promote these ideas. Cllr. May asked for consideration to be given to a piece of artwork at Northlands roundabout.

Item 9. 17/98 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries October 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses October 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions October 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 288.00	Horticulture October 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care October 2017	
DSJ Property Services	£ 70.00	Installing Signs	
M. Caygill (via Pity Me Nursery)	£ 30.00	Plants	£1.15

Total Payments £1243.66

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 17/99 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters submitted for information.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

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

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries November 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses November 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions November 2017	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture November 2017	
Pot-It-On	£	Environment Care November 2017	
D. Murrell (via Shaw & Sons Ltd)	£ 76.74	Receipts & Payments Book	£12.79
Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00	Wreath and Donation	
Total Payments	£		

Balance to 31st October 2017

Balance b/f	£31024.88	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Oct. 2017	<u>£ 1243.66</u>		Current £ 1274.44
	£29781.22		30 Day <u>£29094.54</u>
			Total <u>£30368.98</u>
Add Grant Received	<u>£ 557.76</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 30.00</u>
Balance c/f	£30338.98		£30338.98