

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Jackie Gregory.  
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Elsie Forrester, Maureen May, Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall, John Waugh.  
County Councillor: Craig Martin.  
Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone back after the winter break. Councillor John Waugh was not present at the start of the meeting.

### **Item 1. 21/01 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **Item 2. 21/02 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Item 3. 21/03 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 -

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**Additional Silos at Paccor**

Paccor, on the Drum Business Park, have applied to put in additional silos. They will be located round the back of the site, facing residential properties, storing flakes of plastic.

While sitting on the Drum Business Group I have repeatedly reminded organisations that residents should not be subjected to excessive noise from their operations. I've met with Paccor to ensure the needs of residents are heard and met.

To ensure residents are protected a full noise reduction plan will be implemented. It aims to reduce noise levels even more so than what occurs at this current moment in time. It will do the following:

All external pipework to be cladded with noise reducing lagging –This includes replacing the piping already in place. The cladding will be above and beyond the minimum specification that is required to reduce noise. Silos will only be operated during the dayshift– Material will be stored in the building overnight. Control systems will only allow plastic to be pumped through the day, in and out of the silos. Significant reduction of lorries–The new silos mean that 80% of HGVs operating on the site will no longer be needed. Meaning less disturbance from loading and unloading supplies in the production process.

Shrubs and trees to shield sound–Hedge rows between the site and residential properties will be allowed to overgrow and not to be cut down. Creating a natural sound barrier for any noise coming from the factory.

Work to install the silos is expected to occur March and April 2021. Regrettably, residents may hear the building work that takes place during this period. But all work will be restricted to 8.00am to 5.00pm during weekdays.

### **Review of the Council's Headleases**

Durham County Council have agreed to review their multi million pound headleases. These agreements could have long reaching consequences with taxpayers taking on the risk and the economic downturn COVID is causing.

The headlease of particular concern is £120 million agreement at Milburngate, Durham. This includes 5,000 square metres speculative office building, alongside 153 built-to-rent apartments. Where the Council will pay for the buildings over the next 30 years. But it is Durham County Council's responsibility to run the facility, and find organisations to rent the space.

Taking on the risk of venture means that the taxpayer foots the bill if it goes wrong. These decisions are being made behind closed doors, with the public being barred from knowing the details.

The Council have agreed for a full review to take place, with a report going to cabinet in the new year. This is something that needs to be carefully watched with Croydon going bankrupt for not managing such agreements effectively.

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Re the Paccor planning application, the County Cllr advised that Paccor had been very co-operative in answering his questions and he would continue to keep residents advised of progress.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

At this point, Cllr Waugh joined the meeting.

### **Item 4. 21/04 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, draft copies of which had been previously circulated, were adopted as a true and accurate record of the Meeting and would be duly signed by the Chairman.

### **Item 5. 21/05 Chairman's Report**

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 20/81 section a). Re the proposal for a new seat on North Road in the vicinity of Kingsmere, the Chairman advised that any further discussion on this would be held over until after the current lockdown.
- b) Re Minute 20/81. Re the outstanding cheque for the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund, the Chairman and Clerk had agreed to wait until the cheque became out of date before issuing a further replacement.
- c) Re Minute 20/82 section d). Re leaf clearing at the entrance to Lambton Park, the Clerk is to arrange for the second visit to be made by the contractor. The Chairman advised that future consideration should also be given to clearing leaves from within the bus shelter at the Lambton Worm, North Road where there were regular accumulations.
- d) Re Minute 20/84 section c). Re email addresses for Councillors, the Chairman and Clerk advised of progress to date. The Clerk would soon be sending out information for each Councillor to activate their own account.

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

19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Happy New Year

Unfortunately the Country is in lock down again. The Parish Council is of course following the strict guidelines and adopting the Covid-19 rules. The monthly council meetings will continue Zoom.

Travelling should only be made as necessary and must stay local.

Christmas was a quiet time for many people. Lock down rules can make residents feel isolated. As Councillors we should be aware that the situation could effect the health of our residents.

The Parish Council continues to receive Covid-19 updates from Durham County Council which are circulated to Councillors. If any Councillor is made aware of any issues, please pass on details of help lines with website addresses and telephone numbers.

The Parish Council can also assess the help it may be able to supply.

It was good to see in December, the Parish Christmas trees lit up around the area.

Other important issues will be discussed in the Portfolio Holders section.

Once again, please stay safe.

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Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

**Item 6. 21/06 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

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

**a) Play Areas**

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Both Merlin Drive and Low Flatts have been inspected and all equipment appears to be in working order. The Covid advice notices remain in place.

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The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

**b) Highways and Website**

Cllr Gregory gave her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -  
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## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Report to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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**Subject: Highways**

**Prepared by: Jackie Gregory**  
**Sent to Clerk on: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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### 1.0 **SUMMARY** *(Type brief details in 2/3 lines here)*

Details of work on the roads, paths and verges in the Parish

### 2.0 **DETAIL** *(Type fullest relevant information here)*

2.1. *Key Issues:* Gas pipe repair/renew work of the footpath in Picktree Lane, leading from the A1 motorway junction to Picktree Village.

Newly tarmac paths laid in Low Flatts Road.

### 3.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS** *(Select as appropriate)*

#### **x To note**

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Councillors thanked Cllr Gregory for her report and the Chairman invited Cllr Hall to give his report which included the following matters -

#### **c) Policy and Governance**

Cllr Hall advised that there were no matters to report but he considered that there should be a role for the Parish Council regarding the current pandemic and lockdown. The Chairman advised Councillors to contact the Clerk with any suggestions.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hall and invited Cllr Forrester to give her report.

#### **d) Publicity**

Cllr Forrester advised of matters arising from the recent AAP meeting.

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

#### **e) Finance**

Cllr Waugh advised that he had received the most recent financial information and was satisfied that the Council's finances were in order. He remarked that due to the pandemic there remained for the time of year a substantial sum in the bank accounts.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh for his Finance report and invited Cllrs May and Driscoll to give their report which included the matters contained in the written report below -

#### **f) Horticulture**

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**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Report to Council 19 January 2021**

**Portfolio: HORTICULTURE**

**Prepared by: Councillor Maureen May**

**Sent to Clerk on: 19 January 2021**

**Raised Shrub Beds (2) North Road**

**Summary**

Despite assurances by the Durham County Council that these will be done, it still has not happened. However, according to Simon Henig, leader of Durham County Council's update report, currently the Clean and green team are proving extra support to GP's surgery and vaccination centres to ensure all paths and car parks are cleared and gritted for safety of patients and staff.

**Christmas tree, Picktree Village.**

**Summary**

Christmas tree was erected and dressed as per last year by Down to Earth Landscapes and removed by them on 06 January 2021. The tree lights are now being stored by the Parish Clerk. M May

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In addition, 1) The flower barrels appeared to be in good condition. Councillors agreed to retain them, agreed that the County Council should plant them up and that there should be a review every twelve months. 2) Cllr May considered that due to the pandemic, and therefore the Parish Council being without a gardener for now, it might be necessary to contract the County Council to provide for and plant up the flower beds during the next twelve months.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs May and Driscoll for the report.

**g) Crime and Community Safety**

Cllr Gregory gave her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -  
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**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Report to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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**Subject: Crime figures and community issues**

**Portfolio: Crime and Community Safety**

**Prepared by: Jackie Gregory**

**Sent to Clerk on: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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**1. SUMMARY (Type brief details in 2/3 lines here)**

Monthly crime figure and community issues.

**2. DETAIL (Type fullest relevant information here)**

2.1. *Background:* Inform Councillors and residents, monthly, of crime incidents/trends for North

Lodge. Crime prevention initiatives.

2.2. *Key Issues:* Insufficient details included on the Police web-site

Criminal proceeding dropped by the CPS against male arrested for vehicle interference in the Barley Gate and North Lodge Estate.

Private security patrol initiative in the area by a member of the public, at a charge to residents of £3.

2.3. *Conclusions:*

Police are disappointed at the CPS decision. Await to see if areas are targeted again.

Police do not support the concept of private security patrols

Parish Council does not support private security patrols in the current format.

### 3. **RECOMMENDATIONS** (*Select as appropriate*)

x To note

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Councillors thanked Cllr Gregory for her report and the Chairman invited Cllr Waugh to give his Planning report which included the following matters -

#### **h) Planning**

Councillors agreed with Cllr Waugh that there were two planning applications requiring discussions, being a house extension at Woodside, Picktree Village and signboards at the motorway roundabout (not recorded by the Planning Department as being within this Parish). From the discussions, Cllr Waugh is to draft out comments to be forwarded by the Clerk to the Planning Department.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh for his report.

#### **Item 7. 21/07 Correspondence**

1) From Great North Air Ambulance Service  
Thank you for donation.

2) From Durham Cathedral  
Thank you for donation.

3) From CDALC  
Consultation re proposed increase in precept for the Police Crime and Victim Commissioners.

4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following was within North Lodge Parish:-  
a) Application for erection of 1 no. detached dwellinghouse on Plot 1, at site of former Pelaw Grange Cottage, North Road.  
b) Application for erection of 6 no. new external materials silos for existing manufacturing plant, at 1 Drum Park.

- c) Application for single storey rear extension, two storey front gable extension, first floor extension above garage, increase in roof height to allow loft conversion and amendments to existing fenestration, at 8 Eastlands, High Rickleton.
- d) Application for erection of 1 no. detached dwellinghouse on Plot 2, at site of former Pelaw Grange Cottage.
- e) Application for two storey extension to dwelling to include integrated garage and basement, at Woodside, Picktree Village.
- f) Approval for proposed rear single storey extension & replacement render, at 15 North Lodge.

#### **Item 8. 21/08 Items Requested by Councillors**

##### **a) Double taxation**

The County Cllr considered that there was a question of fairness in how the County Council organises Council Tax throughout the County. Councillors considered that although double taxation doesn't apply in this Parish, the CDALC motion for a Local Councils Working Group review should be supported.

##### **b) Dog waste left on pavements etc**

Councillors were aware of numerous instances throughout the Parish. Agreed that the Clerk is to contact the Neighbourhood Wardens to see what help they can offer.

##### **c) Proposed upgrade of Merlin Drive play area**

Councillors discussed the County Council's proposal to upgrade the play area, to be financed in the main from Section 106 money. The County Cllr gave an update on the current availability of Section 106 money. Councillors agreed to support the proposal in principle but expressed concerns at the lack of consultation by the County Council. The Clerk is to advise the County Council accordingly and to ask for consultation on the proposed equipment to be installed.

#### **Item 9. 21/09 Requests for Donations**

There was one outstanding request, from St. Cuthbert's Hospice which had received a donation from the Parish Council earlier in the financial year. Councillors agreed that, due to the current pandemic, the Council's Donations Policy rule of making only one donation per financial year per organisation should be waived on this occasion. Councillors agreed that a donation of £500 should be made.

#### **Item 10 21/10 Setting the Precept**

Copies of financial forecasts prepared by the Clerk for the financial year 2021/2022 had been previously circulated. These formed the basis of extensive discussions by Councillors including the need to replace the metal bus shelter in Picktree Village. Re a possible new bus shelter at the west end of Vigo Lane, the County Cllr considered that Nexus was causing delays and he would investigate this.

The following budgets were agreed -

Horticulture £10,000 plus £2,500 carried over from the current financial year.

Donations £3,000.

Training £315.

Newsletters £250 plus £250 carried over from the current financial year.

Purchase of assets £5,550 subject to review having obtained prices.

Taking into the account the agreed budgets together with the Clerk's forecasts, Councillors agreed to set a Band D equivalent charge for 2021/2022 of £31.53 which is the same figure as the current financial year.

**(Resolved - to set a Precept of £31.53 per Band D equivalent property for the financial year 2021/2022).**

**Item 11. 21/11 Payment of Accounts**

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 463.84	Salaries December 2020	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses December 2020	
Salaries	£ 464.04	Salaries January 2021	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses January 2021	
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 415.60	P.A.Y.E.	
Mazars LLP	£ 240.00	Audit Fee	£ 40.00
J. A. Martin	£ 165.00	Chair's Allowance	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 130.00	Annual Subscription	
Durham County Council	£2910.97	Flower Beds	£ 485.16
D. Murrell (via A.L.C.C.)	£ 40.00	Annual Subscription	
Trebor Landscapes	£ 180.00	Leaf Clearing	
D. Murrell (via Zoom inc)	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription Dec 2020	£ 2.40
D. Murrell (via Zoom inc)	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription Jan 2021	£ 2.40
D. Murrell (via Dobbies)	£ 59.96	Tree Lights	£ 9.99
D. Murrell (via Morrisons)	£ 14.00	Batteries for Tree Lights	£ 2.33
D. Murrell (via UKFast)	£ 28.99	Monthly Fee	£ 4.83
D. Murrell (via UKFast)	£ 186.00	Setup Fee	£ 31.00
S.E. Harrison & Sons	£ 120.00	Supply of Christmas Tree	£ 20.00
Down To Earth Landscapes	£ 120.00	Erect Christmas Tree & Lights	£ 20.00
St..Cuthbert's Hospice	£ 500.00	Donation	

**Total Payments      £6247.18**

**(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).**

**Item 12. 21/12 Other Matters for Information**

The Chairman considered that the Standing Orders should be updated before the next Annual Meeting. Councillors were asked to review the Standing Orders and advise the Clerk of any proposed amendments.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32pm.



## North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 464.04	Salaries February 2021	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses February 2021	
D. Murrell (via Zoom inc)	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription	£2.40
UKFast	£ 28.99	Monthly Subscription	£4.83
Cty DhM Assn of Local Councils	£ 10.00	Training Fee	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 607.42</b>		

## Balance to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Balance b/f	£49385.22	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Dec + Jan	<u>£ 6247.18</u>	Treasurers Account	£ 1260.53
	£43138.04	Instant Account	<u>£42548.33</u>
		Total	£43808.86
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ .82</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 670.00</u>
	£43138.86		£43138.86
Balance c/f	£43138.86		£43138.86

Three cheques not yet presented -

1) £50.00 cheque number 1401 dated 2/09/20 for a donation payable to County of Durham School Benevolent Fund. This cheque replaced cheque number 1375 dated 21/01/20 which is now out-of-date.

2) £120.00 cheque number 1424 dated 19/01/21 payable to Down To Earth Landscapes for erecting tree and lights at Picktree Village.

3) £500.00 cheque number 1426 dated 19/01/21 payable to St. Cuthbert's Hospice for a donation.