

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 19th October 2021.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Dennis Hall.

Councillors: Sue Brown, Margaret Caygill, Elsie Forrester, Jackie Gregory, Patrick Driscoll, Craig Martin, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Craig Martin (also in attendance as a Parish Councillor).

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 21/91 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Maureen May.

Councillors agreed to take part of Item 5 next.

Item 5 (part). 21/92 Chairman's Report, Co-options

The Chairman advised that two valid applications for co-option to the Council had been received and these had been previously circulated by the Clerk. The applicants, Suzanne Brown and Craig Martin, were present at the meeting and were invited to withdraw to facilitate a discussion by Councillors on the applications.

(Resolved an a unanimous show of hands - to co-opt Suzanne Brown and Craig Martin as Members of the Council).

The applicants returned to the meeting, took their seats and were welcomed as Councillors. The Chairman outlined progress with the increasing representation project and proposed a Parish-wide leaflet drop and continuing social media campaign to encourage applications for the remaining two seats on the Council.

Item 2. 21/93 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Craig Martin declared interests as a Governor of Park View School and as a County Councillor.

Item 3. 21/94 Report of the County Councillor

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

Additional Bus Services for Picktree Village

Picktree Village now has a full bus service on Sunday and additional services on an evening. Follows my recent petition, widely supported by residents, and my long standing campaign for improvements. This comes following a post COVID review of timetables.

The number 8 service will now run on an evening and all day Sunday. Previously this service only went through Picktree Village during the day, excluding evenings and Sundays. Providing residents the opportunity to use the bus every day, all day.

Although the 50 will no longer run through the village, which only went through on an evening. Despite this there is net positive effect on the service.

I will continue to campaign for an even better service for the village and all of our community.

Durham Light Infantry Museum to Reopen

Durham County Council have put forward a plan to reopen the DLI museum. The package will provide funding to refurbish the museum and provide it with a wider offering to the County.

The aim is to make it an even better visitor attraction than what it was previously. One of the three floors of the building will be dedicated to a rotating display of the DLI collection. Previously only 5% of the collection was on display and it rarely changed.

The top floor will be to display art. It has long been noted that the County has next to no public art facilities. While the ground floor will have much improved cafe offer.

A peace garden will be created around the building. Over the years members of the community have used the DLI's grounds to scatter the ashes of loved ones and as a place of reflection. There was a real fear that this land would be absorbed by the Aykley Heads development. Which has a high sentimental importance to many.

The Durham History Centre, being built at Mount Oswald, will continue as planned. It will store the DLI collection not on display, in suitable facilities that will protect it for future generations. While also displaying parts of the collection.

Levelling Up Fund Bid for North Durham

Durham County Council have begun the process to bid for the Government's £20 million per constituency leveling up fund. I've been encouraging the bid to include improving the flow of traffic through Chester-le-Street, particularly improving the Picktree roundabout. Our MP is supporting a bid to improve Stanley town centre.

The Leveling Up Fund is a Government initiative that allows local authorities, with the support of the MP, bid for up £20 million per constituency. The money is to be used for infrastructure projects but they need to be shovel ready in the following year, very tight timescales. The bid can include multiple projects but they all have to be linked. The Council have prepared two initial schemes for the North Durham constituency, which will be narrowed down to one final submission.

I'm backing the bid set to improve the flow of traffic through Chester-le-Street. It also aims to use money to improve leisure and sport facilities. While preparing land to be developed around Stella Gill industrial estate.

The bid centred around Stanley town centre is backed by the MP. It is to compulsory purchase a set derelict buildings, knock them down, and open up the town centre. While also improving the bus station and road networks around Stanley.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 21/95 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st September 2021, 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. 21/96 Chairman's Report

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

A Business Items: Forward Plan:

See items under C below

B Planned Activities:

Further discussions with Park View School and Community Association

C Items for Discussion/Agreement:

Co options: increasing representation in the Parish:

- Update:
- Next Steps: Second Exercise? Preceded by Publicity Programme/ leafleting ; The Barley Mow Issue - no representation or engagement is a concern

Improving Community Engagement:

- Update
- Issues: Capacity to organise; Member engagement.
- Little Community activity
- Member Portfolio Initiatives: Update; Need to agree ideas before investigating feasibility

Options:

- No action
- Set up a Community Fund and invite applications
- S137 donations only
- Approaches to Park View School and Community Association: Platinum Jubilee Tree-planting Scheme and Arts Initiative: Meeting with Jodie Graham: Park View Community Association: 4 October 2021

Social Media/ Communications:

- Need for material
- Support offered

D Other Matters:

Attendance at CDALC Online Planning Course: 7 October 2021

- Slides circulated

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

Item 6. 21/97 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Crime and Community Safety

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

Crime

C2C route

North Lodge area of C2C track. Male on mobility scooter exposing himself to female. Police aware of incident and patrolling the area.

The C2C Bridge, North Road

Photographs of graffiti on bridge have been sent to police who, have judged the writing/signs not to be offensive.

Wild life killings around the Parish

Residents have found many dead pigeons and rabbits around the area. It appears that some have been shot. Police informed and are patrolling the area. Residents are advised if they see a person/s using a firearm, not to approach the individual/s. Residents should call the police, using telephone number 999.

Residents are also advised to use the App, 'What Three Words', to notify police of the location of any animal which looks to have been shot, to leave the animal where found, as this could be evidence of a criminal offence.

Community Safety

Co Durham Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed visit to talk with Councillors on Tuesday, 21st June 2022 at 6pm

(I have liaised with David, Clerk of North Lodge Parish Council re the date of meeting)

Neighbourhood Wardens are to be invited to talk with councillors - awaiting confirmation telephone call.

Re graffiti on the Sustrans bridge, the Clerk will ask Sustrans to clean it off. Re a possible visit by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cllr Gregory will seek further information. Councillors also discussed the possibility of CCTV in the Parish. The County Cllr will approach the Neighbourhood Wardens for information.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gregory for her report and invited Cllr Waugh to give his Finance report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

b) Finance

I have studied the financial information supplied to me by the clerk and can confirm that everything appears in order.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh for his report and invited Cllr Driscoll to give the Horticulture report which included the matters contained in Cllr May's written report below -

c) Horticulture

Summary

I met with Ian Harland (Team Leader, Durham County Council) and discussed schedule of work required.

Items of priority discussed:

1. Jubilee Tree in Lombard Drive

Durham County Council have been reminded about Jubilee Tree in Lombard Drive.

2. Two Shrub Beds at North Road

Durham County Council are still awaiting price from bricklayers regarding stone walls

3. Picktree Lodge Entrance

Still ongoing as stated in last month's horticulture report.

Durham County Council has informed me that they may not be able to carry on with the extra commitment of work from North lodge Parish Council after March 2022 - due to staff shortage.

Re Minute 21/88, section d), review of public seating, Cllr Driscoll advised that the County Council had provided a quote for the work required at a cost of £2371.85 + vat. Councillors agreed to accept the quote.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Driscoll for the report and invited Cllr Waugh to give his Planning report which included the following matters -

d) Planning

Cllr Waugh outlined current planning application DM/21/02710/FPA. Councillors discussed this application and agreed that the Council should object to it on the grounds of loss of a heritage structure. Cllr Waugh outlined current planning application DM/21/03346/FPA. Councillors discussed this application and agreed that the Planning Department should be advised that the Parish Council had no comments to make.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh for his report and invited Cllr Caygill to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -

e) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

I have inspected the equipment and it appears to be in good order. I understand a part has been ordered for the fault reported.

The details have now gone out for procurements for the refurbishing of this area and I am to be kept informed of. Developments.

LOW FLATTS

I have inspected the equipment and it appears to be in good order..

I have reported that the waste bins are again overflowing.

On reviewing this area with James Young, it is felt whilst it is OK. there are two pieces of equipment which could do with updating to meet current standards.

I will discuss this fully at the meeting.

Re the two pieces of equipment at Low Flatts, Cllr Caygill is to discuss this further with James Young.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

f) Policy and Governance

Cllr Hall advised that there were no matters to report.

Councillors thanked the Chairman and he invited Cllr Forrester to give her report which included the following matters -

g) Publicity

Cllr Forrester reported on several matters of community interest from the recent meetings of the AAP, the Chester-le-Street CDALC Sub-Committee and the CDALC AGM.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Forrester for her report.

h) Website

Cllr Hall advised that the website was being kept up-to-date.

Councillors thanked Cllr Hall for his report.

i) Highways

Cllr Gregory reminded Councillors that all Councillors should be monitoring highways as the Highways Portfolio was currently without a portfolio holder. Cllr Brown kindly agree to consider accepting the Portfolio.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gregory and Cllr Brown.

Item 7. 21/98 Correspondence

1) From Park View School

Thank you for donation.

2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

Notification of the Smaller Councils meeting to be held on 18th November 2021.

3) From Durham County Council

Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Development Plan.

- 4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for raising, enlarging and recovering of main roof including the replacement of existing dormer with inverted dormer to form roof terrace, a one and a half storey front extension, alterations to the rear elevation, a rear dormer extension, formation of first floor rear terrace and associated alterations, at 1 North Lodge.
 - b) Retrospective application to install a 1.8m fence along the boundary of the garden of the property, at 24 Leander Avenue.
 - c) Application for extension to detached garage to create living accommodation, at 2 North Lodge.

Item 8. 21/99 Proposals, Reports and Requests for Consideration

a) Appointment of a Gardener / Environment Contractor

The Chairman outlined a possible action plan to procure a Gardener and an Environment Contractor. Councillors agreed that it would be necessary to ascertain what, if anything, the County Council might withdraw from the horticultural services they currently undertake on behalf of the Parish Council. At that point, expressions of interest could be sought.

b) Budget: Forward Planning

Councillors had identified a number of possible projects. This item is to be included on the November Agenda for further consideration.

Item 9. 21/100 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 518.62	Salaries October 2021	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses October 2021	
Salaries	£ 51.42	Backdated Additional Hours (Sept)	
D. Murrell (via Zoom inc)	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription - Oct 2021	£ 2.40
UKFast	£ 28.99	Monthly Subscription - Oct 2021	£ 4.83
D. Murrell (via Currys PC World)	£ 22.97	Computer Mouse + Memory Stick	£ 3.83
D. Murrell (via John Lewis)	£ 799.99	Laptop Computer	£133.33
DSJ Property Services	£ 150.00	Strimming Weeds at Low Flatts	
Poppy Appeal	£ 250.00	Donation	
Total Payments	£1926.38		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 21/101 Other Matters for Information

- a) Cllr Gregory advised that the Camperdown Pocket Park had received a silver gilt award from RHS in Bloom.
- b) Cllr Brown enquired if any further tree planting was planned. The Chairman advised that there was a proposal for a joint project between the Council and Park View School.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.51pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th November 2021.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries November 2021	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses November 2021	
D. Murrell (via JAQ HQ Ltd)	£ 108.00	Design & Printing of Leaflets	£ 8.00
D. Murrell (via Zoom inc)	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription - Nov 2021	£ 2.40
D. Murrell (via Cartridge Shop Ltd)	£ 35.00	Printer Ink	£ 5.99
UKFast	£ 28.99	Monthly Subscription - Nov 2021	£ 4.83
Cty DhM Assn of Local Councils	£ 20.00	Training Fees	
Total Payments	£		

Balance to 31st October 2021

Balance b/f	£60511.99	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - October 2021	<u>£ 1926.38</u>	Treasurers Account	£ 1215.07
	£58585.61	Instant Account	<u>£57621.08</u>
		Total	£58836.15
Add Bank Interest Received	£ <u>.54</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	£ 250.00
Balance c/f	£58586.15		£58586.15

One cheque not yet presented -
£250.00 cheque number 1469 dated 19/10/21 for a donation payable to Poppy Appeal.