

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 15th November 2022.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 1. 22/103 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Chris Veitch.

Item 2. 22/104 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 22/105 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 -

Defibrillator at Wheatsheaf

I've funded the installation of a defib at the Wheatsheaf. This is being done through the North Lodge Remembrance Group.

Those running the Wheatsheaf have kindly agreed to have the device attached to the pub. They will also fund the electricity required to keep the defib heated.

Both pubs now have a public defib that can be accessed 24 hours a day by calling 999. I look forward to working with the parish council to see how I can assist in installing more of these devices across the area.

North East Devolution Deal

Durham County Council are seeking to form a devolution deal with Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, and Sunderland. The deal will provide additional funding from government, which will be spent through an elected mayor.

I personally believe that the devolution process that the government are setting out is flawed. But have approached this decision wanting the most democratically accountable option and one that gives us the most funding. There are two offers on the table, North East region or a County Durham deal.

The North East deal will have zero effect on council services. The combined authority will sit above local authorities controlled by an elected mayor that exists to hand out funding for additional projects. The leaders of all the local authorities will form a cabinet with the mayor, who will have powers to block proposals in their own local authorities. So there is a mandate everyone to work together and form a consensus on projects. This deal is set to have highest amount of funding, per

head of population, than any other devolution deal in the country.

A county deal would see the devolution powers and funding given directly to Durham County Council. Absolutely all of it would be spent within County Durham, but the amount (and the powers given) is considerably less per head of population than a regional deal. An elected mayor would control this funding along with control of all council services.

The reason I'm very much against a county deal is handing all this power to an individual to run all the services is not very democratic. At least with the current system, having a leader of the council, if they start doing ridiculous things councillors can remove them from power. The North East deal is still currently being negotiated with government and a final decision is yet to be made.

Nitrous Oxide Motion

I assisted in a motion to increase restrictions on the sale of Nitrous Oxide (NO) by seconding it.

The motion was originally created by the Conservatives and was supported by the council.

Those silver canisters of NO can be bought online and delivered to anyone's door, no questions asked. So I was particularly calling for age restrictions on who it could be sold for.

I spoke in particular about the need to take a health based approach in trying to solve this problem.

How the war in drugs is just leading users to just turn to other highs as one source is being cut off.

Highlighting the fantastic work County Durham Drugs service does in rehabilitating users and educating everyone about the dangers of drug use.

In addition, the County Cllr, in response to a request from Cllr Gregory, will obtain recent pollution data for the Northlands roundabout area.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 22/106 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th October 2022, 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. 22/107 Chairman's Report

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

A Business Items: Forward Plan:

The Forthcoming Year:

I am keen for the Council to develop new projects and initiatives. The budget exercise provides an opportunity for members to put forward ideas and proposals and for the necessary supportive preparatory work to be undertaken to enable decisions to be taken

B Attendances During the Month:

North Road Remembrance Service: Friday 11 November 2022

Once again, I was delighted to be invited to attend this event this year. The service was conducted with appropriate solemnity. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Veitch and his group for everything that they do in connection with this commemoration. Minute requested accordingly.

Remembrance Sunday: Chester le Street Market Place: Sunday 13 November 2022

I attended the Remembrance Sunday service in the Market Place, accompanied by Councillor Elsie Forrester. On behalf of the Parish Council. I laid a wreath during the course of the service. I would like to thank Councillor Forrester for all her support in connection with Remembrance Sunday. I was delighted to be accompanied by her. Minute requested accordingly.

Item: 6 Reports: Policy and Governance Portfolio

LGA: Handling online abuse and intimidation, 27 October:

Download the presentation from this event.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/handling-online-abuse-and-intimidation-27-october-2022>

LGA responds to NAO air quality report: (27 October):

"For their part councils are doing what they can to address this issue. This includes creating more clean air zones, installing clean air monitors in pollution hotspots, encouraging more cycling and walking in their communities and electric vehicle charging infrastructure to make air cleaner for our children and grandchildren."

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-nao-air-quality-report>

In addition, the Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Veitch and the North Lodge Remembrance Group for their organisation of the service on 11th November 2022, and to Cllr Forrester for her support in connection with Remembrance Sunday on 13th November 2022.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 22/97. Re the wood alongside the A693, Cllr Caygill advised that a successful site meeting had now taken place.

b) Re Minute 22/97 section h). Cllr Gregory, in her capacity as a Parish resident, advised that she would be contacting the MP re outstanding Sustrans matters.

Item 6. 22/108 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Communications and Media Development

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

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

b) Crime and Community Safety

Crime

No crimes reported for North Lodge between Oct 19th /Nov 15th.

Community Safety

Operation Sceptre----Bin the knife

From 14th November, knife bins for disposal of knives and other large bladed items will be installed at the following police stations :

Durham

Darlington

Peterlee

Bishop Auckland

A bin has been available at Chester-le-Street police station for some time.

Rural Crime

Nine police forces including Durham Constabulary have joined together in one of the biggest rural crime crackdown of its kind in the UK.

For more information please refer to Durham Constabulary's website and Facebook account.

Crime Prevention

From the 1st December, please visit North Lodge Parish Council's website and social media accounts for details of crime prevention ideas.

All emergency telephone calls, use telephone number 999

All non-emergency telephone calls to police, use telephone number 101

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 -

c) Finance

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh for his Finance report and invited Cllr Driscoll to give his Highways and Community Assets report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

d) Highways and Community Assets

The monthly bus shelters inspection was carried out on Monday 7th of November. All appeared in good working order, with leaf clearance, and litter and glass removal, being the main supplementary tasks.

The south bound bus shelter on North Road, near the Lombard Drive entrance, has had the back wall painted to cover the sprayed lettering, and is awaiting another coat of paint to improve the appearance. The bus shelter in North Road, south bound, past the Barley Mow roundabout, has the new glass cabinet installed, with the final commended school art poster displayed.

In addition, Cllr Driscoll advised that the bus shelter near Lombard Drive has now had the back wall re-painted. Cllr Caygill advised that new posters were expected from the School to display in the noticeboards and display boards.

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

e) Horticulture

1. Durham County Issues

- a. Ian Harland has informed us that the work on the two large shrub beds in North Road will commence probably at end of November.
- b. Large flower beds have now all been planted up with winter bedding.
- c. Still no further decisions have been made regarding entrance to Picktree Lodge

2. Horticulture Sub Group

- a. Tree Planting in Honour of Queen's Canopy
Councillors will meet shortly with Durham County Council Officers - re this subject.
- b. Daffodils have been planted around North Lodge Parish:
Merlin Drive play area: by Park View School Student and teacher Melanie, Councillor Caygill, Councillor May, Resident Peter May and assisted by our Parish Gardener Stephen Makepeace.
Also planted at east side of North Road and Northlands Shrub Bed
More areas may be planted in 2023 following the completion of Avant Homes on Vigo Lane.
- c. Bio-Diversity
This subject was discussed briefly. The Group are aware that Bio-Diversity should be considered when planting takes place.
- d. Barrels
Four unsafe barrels have been removed by Parish Gardener:
One from Northlands roundabout area and three from Lombard Drive near to Park View School.
Ten Barrels remain - Two close to Northlands Roundabout, two at entrance of North Lodge, Lambton Park and six on west side of North Road.
- e. Wheatsheaf Wasteground Area

Sub Group have decided upon a design suggested by Stephen Makepeace which is to clear the area and grass over. This is in keeping with Horticulture on North Road.

3. Report from Parish Gardener Makepeace Landscapes

Please find report November 2022. All areas and bus stops have been kept clean various visits have been carried out to maintain the areas and keep them looking sharp. Bedding plants have now been supplied and fitted giving an array of colour and life to the bed areas. These have been maintained with weeding and hoeing and a watchful eye. Bulb planting was carried out using our bespoke bulb planters which take exactly the right amount of soil from the ground so a bulb can be planted. Then the soil plug fits perfectly over top giving the bulb the best chance and environment to flourish. We carried out some work at the play park taking plugs out for the children to plant bulbs afterwards we returned to make good the areas and keep the play park tidy. We've been calling collecting the many leaves and will keep at it ensuring the areas are kept clear as much as possible. We planted the tubs up alongside the areas to make sure everything is tidy and fresh a few tubs were removed as these were failing and we called recently and removed some metal straps form one tub were they had snapped with rust to remove the risk of anyone hurting or cutting themselves. I hope all is in good order we want only the best and take great pride in our work any feedback is greatly appreciated. Stephen

In addition, Cllr May advised that a price had now been received verbally from Durham County Council for the planting of the flower beds. Councillors agreed that a comparative quote should be sought from Makepeace Landscapes. Cllr Martin suggested that consideration should be given to planting shrubs rather than bedding plants.

The Chairman thanked Cllr May for her report and invited Cllr Forrester to give her report which included the matters below -

f) Meetings of Partnership Organisations

Cllr Forrester provided a report of the AAP meeting held on 14th November 2022. Topics had included budget presentations and proposals, and "Going for Gold" and "Fun and Food" projects. The Chairman thanked Cllr Forrester for her report and invited Cllr Waugh to give his Planning report which included the following matters -

g) Planning

Cllr Waugh advised that he continued to inform Councillors on a weekly basis of any new planning applications in the Parish and also to highlight any concerns. There were no recent contentious applications to report.

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 -

h) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

All equipment seems to be in good working order except for a mangled chain on one of the new swings. I have reported it.

Most of this area has been planted with daffodils by Park View pupils, assisted by Coun. May, Mr. May and myself. We were unable to complete the planting due to an under estimation of bulbs in each sack. We will complete next year.

LOW FLATTS

All equipment seems to be in good working order.

No news yet of the refurbishment.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

i) Policy and Governance

Cllr Hall's report was contained in his Chairman's Report (Minute 22/107, above). Re online abuse, Councillors agreed that it was necessary to remain careful and vigilant.

Councillors thanked Cllr Hall.

The Chairman invited Cllr Martin to give his report.

j) Project Development, Business and External Relations

Cllr Martin advised that he had no matters to report at present.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Martin.

Item 7. 22/109 Correspondence

1) From the James Etherington Award

Notice of Annual Award Competition to be held on Saturday 11th February 2023.

Councillors agreed that this item should be posted on the Council's social media pages.

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

Application for erection of single storey extension to front, at 40 Longdean Park.

Item 8. 22/110 Proposals, Reports and Requests for Consideration

a) Chester-le-Street Masterplan and Deprivation

The Chairman introduced this matter and gave his assessment of the Masterplan. A substantial discussion by Councillors was held and this established that there was a need for further information regarding specific and tangible actions to implement the written plans for the improvement of the retail, marketplace, history and tourism aspects of the town. The County Councillor kindly agreed to take this forward and to report back at the next meeting of the Council.

b) Production of Crime Prevention Leaflets

Cllr Gregory advised that, in conjunction with the Clerk and the Police re appropriate wording, it was expected that a leaflet would be ready for distribution to all households in the Parish at the beginning of December. Councillors gave their agreement to the project.

c) A Commemoration for the Forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III

Cllr Caygill advised that the School would base the next Civic Arts project on the Coronation. Councillors agreed with Cllr Gregory in the hope that Cllr Veitch would again provide silhouettes of a crown in the flower beds and elsewhere. Cllr Waugh reminded Councillors that the Jubilee Badge project had been well received and therefore a similar project could be considered for the Coronation. Other suggestions included a designed seat, a plaque, a paving stone and renaming a play area. Agreed that residents should be asked by social media for their ideas.

d) Budget: Forward Planning

Portfolio Holders were reminded to provide by mid-December, costed proposals for consideration for the 2023/24 budget. Various potential projects were discussed. Cllr Martin advised that there were two projects in development, the Drum Artwork project and the Remembrance Artwork project, that the Council would be asked to contribute to financially although there were no costings available yet.

Item 9. 22/111 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 570.72	Salaries November 2022	
Expenses	£ 100.00	Expenses November 2022	
Salaries	£ 324.82	Back-dated Salary Rise Apr-Oct inc	
Zoom inc	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription - Nov 2022	£ 2.40
ANS Group Ltd	£ 39.86	Monthly Subscription - Nov 2022	£ 6.64
DSJ Property Services	£ 150.00	Noticeboard and Removing Graffiti	
Your Web Services Ltd	£ 90.00	Hosting of Domain Name	£ 15.00
Makepeace Landscapes	£1670.40	Horticulture	£278.40
Total of Above Payments	£2960.19		

Payments Made by Debit Card

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Pity Me Nursery	£ 45.00	Daffodil Bulbs	
Ryman	£ 10.00	Printer Paper	£ 1.67
Total Card Payments	£ 55.00		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 22/112 Other Matters for Information

a) Cllr Gregory advised that former professional rugby league player Kevin Sinfield OBE had been running through the Parish today as part of his Ultra Marathon challenge to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease.

b) The Chairman advised that the Parish Church had a Warm Space Initiative and would welcome warm clothing and blankets, to be donated at the Parish Centre.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.07pm, wishing everyone a happy and healthy Christmas season.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2023.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 570.54	Salaries December 2022	
Salaries	£	Salaries January 2023	
Expenses	£ 100.00	Expenses December 2022	
Expenses	£ 100.00	Expenses January 2023	
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 654.16	P.A.Y.E. & N.I.C.	
Zoom inc	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription - Dec 2022	£ 2.40
Zoom inc	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription - Jan 2023	£ 2.40
ANS Group Ltd	£ 39.86	Monthly Subscription - Dec 2022	£ 6.64
ANS Group Ltd	£ 39.86	Monthly Subscription - Jan 2023	£ 6.64
D. Hall	£ 180.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 146.00	Annual Subscription	
Assn. of Local Council Clerks	£ 50.00	Annual Subscription	
Makepeace Landscapes	£1022.40	Horticulture - December 2022	£170.40
Makepeace Landscapes	£	Horticulture - January 2023	£
S E Harrison & Sons	£ 156.00	Christmas Tree for Picktree Village	£ 26.00
Down To Earth Landscapes	£ 144.00	Erect Tree and Lights, Picktree Vill	£ 24.00
Total of Above Payments	£		

Payments Made by Debit Card

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Amazon	£ 8.25	Printer Ink	£ 1.38
Morrison's Ltd	£ 10.75	Batteries for Tree Lights	£ 1.79
Total Card Payments	£ 19.00		

Balance to 30th November 2022

Balance b/f	£61284.16	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Nov 2022	<u>£ 2960.19</u>	Treasurers Account	£ 2150.62
	£58323.97	Instant Account	<u>£56160.69</u>
Deduct Card Payments for month	<u>£ 19.00</u>	Total	£58311.31
	£58304.97		
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 6.34</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	£ Nil
	£58311.31		
Balance c/f	£58311.31		£58311.31