

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at the Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street on Wednesday 15th September 2010.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. E. Forrester,
Prof. V. McEwan, Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. C. Walton.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone back after the summer recess. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1. 10/93 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May and C. Jukes, and from County Councillor P. May.

At this point, Councillor Mrs. S. Brown arrived at the meeting.

Item 2. 10/94 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited the PCSO to give her report. The PCSO reported on the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill enquired if there was any requirement in law for a bicycle to be fitted with a bell and the PCSO advised that there was no requirement although bicycles used in the dark must have lights. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised of concerns re noise from motorbikes on the A693 and the PCSO will ascertain noise limits and enforcement options. The PCSO requested volunteers to assist the Police in the Community Speed Watch scheme. Several Councillors had previously indicated to County Cllr. P. May their willingness to assist and the Clerk will liaise with the County Cllr. to have the names forwarded to the PCSO.

The Chairman thanked the PCSO for her report.

At this point, the Chairman read out a Thank You card from Cllr. Mrs. Forrester following the sad death of her husband, and Councillors again expressed their deepest sympathy.

Item 3. 10/95 Discussion with the County Council Street Scene Manager, North Durham

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Martin Briscoe to the meeting. In a wide-ranging discussion, matters raised included an overview of the County Council Clean & Green Department (Mr. Briscoe will supply contact details), path edging (Mr. Briscoe proposed the use of the Probation Service to carry out work needed), overhanging trees and branches (Mr. Briscoe will inspect trees on the west side of North Road just north of Northlands roundabout to ascertain if some cutting back is required), weeds in gutters, litter / litter picking, fallen leaves and the role of the County Council Enforcement Team. Mr. Briscoe advised that any incidents of graffiti, dog fouling, litter etc should be reported to the County Council Customer Service Team in order that the incident can be properly logged and investigated. Mr. Briscoe advised that the County Council will attend to the rabbit holes at Low Flatts play area and the faulty gate at Merlin Drive play area. He will also enquire if it is possible to provide a larger restriction sign at Merlin Drive play area. Re the damaged boom gate at Low Flatts play area, the County Council provided a quote of £300 for the

repair of it and this was accepted by the Parish Council. The Clerk will examine the insurance policy to ascertain if a damage claim could be made.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Briscoe for the very helpful and informative discussion.

Item 4. 10/96 Reports of the County Councillors

In the absence of the County Councillors, no reports were made.

Item 5. 10/97 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st July 2010, 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 6. 10/98 Matters Arising

- a) Re Minute 10/78. Re the matter raised by the residents, the proposed No Waiting and No Loading restrictions in Lombard Drive, the Clerk will contact the County Council for an up-date.
- b) Re Minute 10/80 section 5). Re the installation of dropped kerbs along North Road, Councillors had observed that the work was well under way. A resident had advised Cllr. Mrs. Caygill of her delight at the project which would be of great assistance to herself and her husband who was wheelchair bound.
- c) Re Minute 10/82 section d). Re the draft County Durham Compact, Cllr. Prof. McEwan had examined the document and reported that although there was no direct reference in it to Parish Councils it was important that formal processes were carried out whenever necessary.
- d) Re Minute 10/86. Re the draft County Durham Development Plan, the Chairman advised that the Area Action Partnership Board had considered the document a difficult one to understand and appraise.
- e) Re Minute 10/89. Re the Boundary Commission Review, the Chairman advised that the delay caused by the need to up-date information had much to do with the student population of Durham City.
- f) Re Minute 10/88. Re a website for the Parish Council, Cllr. Prof. McEwan advised that she was attempting to make contact with the County Council officer responsible for website training.

Item 7. 10/99 Correspondence

- 1) From Butterwick House Children's Hospice
Thank you for donation.
- 2) From Sunderland and North Durham Royal Society For The Blind
Thank you for donation.
- 3) From Chester-le-Street & District Voluntary Welfare Committee
Thank you for donation.
- 4) From Great North Air Ambulance
Thank you for donation.
- 5) From McInerney Homes
Letter and brochure - "Building Better Communities".

6) From BDO LLP

Audit report for the year to 31/03/10.

The Clerk advised that the auditors had raised no issues. Councillors thanked the Clerk for his work in achieving this good report.

7) From Durham Police Authority

Notice of Police Community Consultative Group meetings for Autumn 2010.

8) From Chester-le-Street & District Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau

a) Newsletter - CVS News, Edition 53, July 2010.

b) Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2009 - 2010.

9) From the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

email re providing an article for the Parish Council newsletter.

10) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re payments made by local councils.

b) email re Keep Britain Tidy Clever Bins.

c) email re Community Right to Build proposals.

d) email re consultation on holding a referendum to control council tax / precept increases.

e) email re Private Sector Housing Strategy consultation.

f) email re Christmas celebrations.

g) email re electoral boundary review.

h) Agenda for the meeting of the Chester-le-Street & District CDALC Sub Committee to be held on Saturday 25th September 2010.

11) From Durham County Council

a) Letter re Transit 15.

b) Documents re Taxi Licensing Policy public consultation.

c) email re draft Library Strategy consultation.

d) Notice of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting to be held on Monday 27th September 2010.

e) Documents re draft Statement of Licensing Policy.

Cllr. Prof. McEwan kindly agreed to inspect the draft on behalf of the Council.

f) Invitation to Local Council Training Session re Section 106 Agreements.

Cllr. Mrs. Forrester and Cllr. Tones (by email) expressed interest in attending this training session.

g) Quotation for dressing and undressing the Christmas Tree.

The quote of £233 + VAT was accepted by the Council.

h) email re matters raised at July Parish Council meeting.

i) Invitation to a charity golf day to be held on Friday 1st October 2010.

j) Letter re Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

The Clerk will advise the County Council of the contact person at St Mary and St Cuthbert Church.

k) Invitation to Charter Review Event to be held on Saturday 2nd October 2010.

l) Leaflet re Tidy Business Standards scheme.

m) Annual Report of Overview & Scrutiny.

n) Quotation re play equipment for Merlin Drive play area.

o) Local Councils Information Handbook.

The Chairman and Clerk had examined the handbook and considered that it would be a useful reference manual for accessing County Council services. The Clerk is to enquire if a second copy could be provided.

- 12) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for increase in height of existing ridge line to provide additional bedrooms, including erection of kitchen and lobby extension and erection of new access gates, at Pad Panache, Picktree Village.
 - b) Application for erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling, at 5 Longdean Park.
 - c) Application for erection of conservatory at rear of dwelling, at 15 Napier Close.
 - d) Application for erection of single storey extension at side/rear of dwelling to replace existing detached garage (revised application of previously approved application 2/10/00010/FUL), at 45 Leander Avenue.
 - e) Application to extend time limit for the implementation of previously approved planning application 07/00191/FUL for the erection of 11 no. commercial units (B1) and 5 no. self contained units (B2/B8) together with associated landscaping, roads and infrastructure, at land west of Drum Road.
 - f) Application for Section 73 application for variation of conditions 3 and 4 of planning application 05/00439/LBC to allow staging of details submitted in accordance with submitted phasing plan, at Byers Cottage / Lambton Stables, Lambton Park.
 - g) Application for Section 73 application for variation of conditions 3, 5, 8 and 9 of planning application 05/00437/FUL to allow staging of details submitted in accordance with submitted phasing plan, at Byers Cottage / Lambton Stables, Lambton Park.
 - h) Application for pruning of trees protected by Tree Preservation Order, at 12 North Lodge.
 - i) Approval for demolition of dwelling house and erection of two storey detached dwelling, detached garage and combination of a brick boundary wall and metal railings to the front of the property, at 7 Blind Lane.
 - j) Approval for canopy to front elevation, at 53 Longdean Park.
 - k) Approval for erection of single storey extension at side/rear of dwelling to replace existing detached garage (revised application of previously approved application 2/10/00010/FUL), at 45 Leander Avenue.
 - l) Approval for erection of conservatory at rear of dwelling, at 15 Napier Close.

Item 8. 10/100 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report.

a) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters. At Merlin Drive play area, 1) There had been a noticeable improvement in appearance of the play area following the removal of weeds by the gardener. Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that the gardener had also sprayed the weed bed with weed killer. 2) The Chairman agreed to inspect the swings to ascertain if repair work had been carried out. 3) Re an additional set of swings, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will contact the County Council Leisure Services Technician with a view to obtaining 3 up-to-date quotes for consideration by the Parish Council.

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

b) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Re the Millennium Yew tree, Councillors had observed it putting on some good growth. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, therefore, proposed that the commemoration plaque should be re-installed and that consideration should be given to re-using elsewhere the tree guard. Councillors agree with these proposals and Cllrs. Mrs. Caygill and Mrs. Walton are to liaise re the plaque. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Forrester to give her report.

c) **Publicity** Cllr. Mrs. Forrester's report included the following matters. 1) A recent AAP Health and Well-Being Task Group had discussed matters including the problems of obesity, child pregnancy and alcoholism in the area. 2) Primary Care Trusts were to be disbanded in 2012. 3) "Chesterfest" had been attended by approx. 980 people and there had been no problems for the Police. 4) A committee of young people was looking into the possibility of further events. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her report.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. Forrester left the meeting.

d) **Highways** Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3). Re item 2, the Transit 15 proposals, in the light of the information recently received suggesting a modified scheme would be put forward by the County Council, the Chairman detailed a proposal, mainly relating to the cycleway on the west side of North Road, to submit to the County Council for inclusion in the modification. This was discussed by Councillors and it was agreed that the Chairman, in consultation with the Clerk, should draw up and submit the proposal. (**Resolved** - that the Chairman, in consultation with the Clerk, is to submit a proposal for inclusion in the modified County Council Transit 15 scheme). Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

e) **Planning** In the absence of Cllr. Tones, no report was made.

f) **Finance** In the absence of Cllr. Jukes, no report was made.

Item 9. 10/101 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 4). Re item 2, it was understood that County Cllr. May still had funds available from his County Council allowance and Councillors should, therefore, be giving consideration to projects which might benefit from this. Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

Item 10. 10/102 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug 2010	
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Sept 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Sept 2010	
C. Noble-Nesbitt	£150.00	Chair's Qtly Allowance	
BDO LLP	£334.88	Audit Fee	£49.88
Durham County Council	£526.40	Flower Beds	£78.40
Country Care Pest Control	£125.00	Pest Control	
M.S. Caygill (via Tesco)	£17.00	Card and Flowers	

(**Resolved** - the accounts rendered be approved for payment).

Item 11. 10/103 Other Matters for Consideration

There were no matters submitted for consideration.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.24pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th September 2010.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug 2010	
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Sept 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Sept 2010	
C. Noble-Nesbitt	£150.00	Chair's Qtly Allowance	
BDO LLP	£334.88	Audit Fee	£49.88
Durham County Council	£526.40	Flower Beds	£78.40
Country Care Pest Control	£125.00	Pest Control	
M.S. Caygill (via Tesco)	£17.00	Card and Flowers	
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. Sept 2010	
 <u>Balance to 31st July 2010</u>			
Balance b/f	£35006.01	Bank:-	
			Current £ 1304.02
Deduct Payments - July 2010	<u>£ 1540.58</u>		30 Day <u>£32431.65</u>
	£35006.01		Total <u>£33735.67</u>
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£270.24</u>
Balance c/f	£33465.43		£33465.43