

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 17th November 2010.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. E. Forrester,
Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May, Mrs. D. Prest,
Mrs. C. Walton, C. Jukes.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 10/115 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Prof. V. McEwan and S. Tones, and from County Councillor P. May.

Item 2. 10/116 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO C. Taylor to the meeting and invited her to give the Police Report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1).

The Chairman thanked PCSO Taylor for presenting the report.

Item 3. 10/117 Reports of the County Councillors

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

Item 4. 10/118 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th October 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 5. 10/119 Matters Arising

a) Re Minute 10/106 section a). Re an improvement scheme for the entrance to the Parish and County at Barley Mow roundabout, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill gave a report on the recent site meeting held with the County Council. Matters discussed at the site meeting included the ownership of the site (Highways Agency), the requirement to allow a 4.5 metre gap between the road kerb and any structure except road signs, and the impending Transit 15 works in the area of the site. The County Council advised that the existing "Welcome" sign would be renovated and that they would organize the re-painting of the utility box there. Councillors agreed to give further consideration to this matter at the next Parish Council meeting.

b) Re Minute 10/108 section 5a). Re enforcement options for motorbike noise, the Police had advised that this would be a matter for the County Council and the Department for Transport.

c) Re Minute 10/109 section 6b). Re the possible use of quiet road surfacing at the new A693 / Drum Road roundabout, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had been advised personally by the County Council that due to cost this was unlikely to be used.

Item 6. 10/120 Correspondence

- 1) From Durham Rural Community Council
Invitation to "Meet the Funders" event.

- 2) From Chester-le-Street Police
email re noise from motorbikes.

- 3) From Durham Police Authority
 - a) Agenda for a meeting of the Chester-le-Street Police Community Consultative Group held on Wednesday 27th October 2010.
 - b) Agenda and papers for the Annual Forum of Police Community Consultative Groups held on Monday 15th November 2010.
 - c) Invitation to a Stakeholder Consultation event to be held on Wednesday 1st December 2010.
Cllr. Mrs. Forrester kindly agreed to represent the Council at this event.

- 4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) email re the Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme.
 - b) email re statement by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government following the Government Spending Review.
The Secretary asked that all parish and town councils exercise restraint when setting a precept for 2011 - 2012.
 - c) email providing background information re parish councils and their precepts.
 - d) email re Durham County Council budget consultation.
 - e) email re further Charter Review discussions to be held on Monday 22nd November 2010.
The Chairman kindly agreed to represent the Council at the "Consultation" Focus Group.
 - f) email re Durham County Council Service Delegation Scheme consultation.
 - g) email re double taxation.
 - h) email re Durham County Council Stray Dogs Review.
 - i) email re 2011 Census.

- 5) From Durham County Council
 - a) Letter re Civic Centre room bookings.
 - b) Letter and Leaflets re Warm Homes Campaign.
 - c) Invitation to Chairman's Civic Carol Service.
 - d) Board Papers for the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting held on Monday 25th October 2010.
 - e) Letter promoting the Chester-le-Street & District AAP Forum meeting held on Monday 15th November 2010.

- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for Listed Building Consent - demolition of existing garage and w.c.'s and repair / re-building of existing gate post, at Lambton Castle.
 - b) Application for Listed Building Consent - re-roofing of building with slate, replacement windows and demolition of existing lean-to, at Lambton Castle Chapel.
 - c) Approval for erection of two-storey extension at side of dwelling, porch and pitched roof to front, at 17 Low Flatts Road.
 - d) Approval for erection of two-storey extension at side of dwelling, at 47 Leander Avenue.
 - e) Approval for pruning of trees protected by Tree Preservation Order, at 12 North Lodge.

- f) Approval 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.
- g) Refusal for erection of 1 no. dwelling, adjoining existing dwelling to form a semi-detached property, at 45 Lombard Drive.

Item 7. 10/121 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) The County Council had quickly responded to vandalism damage to some of the play equipment although safety surfacing repairs cannot be carried out until the weather improves. 2) Re an additional set of swings, three quotes were now to hand. The County Council Leisure Services Technician had offered to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss these and Councillors agreed that the February meeting would be appropriate for this.

There were no matters to report for Low Flatts play area.

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). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she was seeking to make contact with the Pest Controller re molehills at the entrance to Lombard Drive. Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that a resident of Blind Lane had expressed thanks for the planting of daffodil bulbs there. Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that she and Cllr. Mrs. Prest would keep under review the position of the Gardener. Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that trees, which might be subject to Tree Preservation Orders, at a property on North Road had recently had work done to them. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill agreed to examine the area to determine in which property the trees stood.

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

c) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Forrester reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester for her report.

d) Highways Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 4, part 1). Re item 1, the incorrect "No Stopping" signs in Lombard Drive, the Clerk will again contact the County Council. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that Park View School had agreed to attend to some overhanging trees at Lombard Drive site.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

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

The Chairman invited Cllr. Jukes to give his report.

f) Finance Cllr. Jukes advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Jukes.

Item 8. 10/122 The Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 4, part 2).

Councillors suggested that, in view of the large number of matters now being raised at Council meetings, consideration should be given to time keeping for agenda items. The Chairman agreed to consider a trial period for this.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

Item 9. 10/123 Transit 15 Proposals

The Chairman outlined recently received amended proposals from the County Council. Councillors agreed that, to formulate an appropriate response, an additional meeting of Councillors should be held to consider the proposals in depth. The Clerk is to make arrangements for the meeting.

Item 10. 10/124 A Date and Venue for the January 2011 Meeting of the Council

Following the withdrawal by the County Council of the Civic Centre as a venue for meetings, Councillors agreed that the January 2011 meeting of the Parish Council should be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Park View School Lombard Drive site at the usual time of 6.30pm. The Clerk will make appropriate arrangements.

(Resolved - that the January 2011 meeting of the Council be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Park View School Lombard Drive site, beginning at 6.30pm).

Item 11. 10/125 Variation of Standing Orders

The Chairman advised that to implement a change of date and venue for all future Council meetings after January 2011, it would be necessary to vary Standing Orders 1(a), 2, 3 and 4. These variations were proposed and seconded. A discussion on the proposal will take place at the January 2011 meeting at which a resolution will be required.

(Proposed and Seconded - In Standing Orders Item 1(a) - replace the words "The Civic Centre, Chester-le-Street" with the words "Park View School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street".

Throughout Standing Orders Items 2, 3 and 4 - replace the word "Wednesday" with the word "Tuesday").

Item 12. 10/126 Requests for Donations

The Clerk advised that the only outstanding matter was the payment for the Poppy Wreath which in previous years had been made together with a donation. Councillors discussed this and agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Poppy Appeal.

Item 13. 10/127 The Precept for 2011 / 2012

The Clerk had prepared budget forecasts which had been previously circulated. Councillors discussed these and, mindful of the present economic circumstances, agreed that no change should be made to the level of the precept.

(Resolved - to set a precept of £18,000 - Eighteen Thousand Pounds - for the financial year 2011 / 2012).

Item 14. 10/128 Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Nov 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Nov 2010	
Poppy Appeal	£50.00	Donation	
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. Aug - Nov 2010	

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

Item 15. 10/129 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

a) Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised of temporary road signs remaining in place on North Road some time after the completion of the roadworks. The Clerk will advise the County Council.

b) Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised of a recurring problem being caused to residents by a street sign at Queensmere. The Chairman advised that residents should, in the first instance, report this direct to the County Council. The Parish Council would be willing to follow this up should residents not be satisfied with the response of the County Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm wishing everyone an enjoyable Christmas break.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council on Tuesday 18th January 2011.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Dec 2010	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Dec 2010	
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Jan 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Jan 2011	
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire (November)	
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire (January)	
C. Noble-Nesbitt	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£18.72	Postage Stamps	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£95.00	Annual Subscription	
 <u>Balance to 30th November 2010</u>			
Balance b/f	£30383.51	Bank:-	
			Current £ 1404.04
Deduct Payments - Nov 2010	<u>£ 1047.82</u>		30 Day <u>£27931.65</u>
	£29335.69		Total £29335.69
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£29335.69		£29335.69