

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View Community School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.  
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. E. Forrester,  
Mrs. L. LeDune, Prof. V. McEwan, Mrs. C. Walton,  
C. Jukes, S. Tones.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell

Two Residents

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone and wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Councillors Mrs. S. Brown and C. Jukes were not present at the beginning of the meeting.

### **Item 1. 11/01 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Mrs. D. Prest, and from PCSO L. Hunter. Cllr. Mrs. Brown had given apologies for her expected late arrival at the meeting.

### **Item 2. 11/02 Report of the Police**

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Ted Archer to the meeting and invited him to give the Police Report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). The Inspector also reported on annual crime figures for the Chester-le-Street area which had shown some notable improvements in 2010 compared with 2009. The detection rate for thefts from vehicles (93%) was the best in England and Wales. For South Pelaw and North Lodge together, there had been 220 reported crimes in 2010 with a detection rate of 50%. Councillors warmly congratulated the Police on their excellent achievements.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Archer for presenting the report.

At this point, Councillor Jukes arrived at the meeting.

### **Item 3. 11/03 Reports of the County Councillors**

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

### **Item 4. 11/04 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 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.

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

### **Item 5. 11/05 Matters Arising**

a) Re Minute 10/119 section c). Re road surfacing on the A693 between Northlands roundabout and the new roundabout being installed at the junction of the A693 and Drum Lane, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that several residents had expressed a wish for quiet surfacing to reduce the intrusion into their homes by road noise. The Clerk will contact the County Council to request that consideration be given to this.

- b) Re Minute 10/120 section 5a). Re Area Action Partnership meetings in the Civic Centre, it was understood that the AAP had confirmed to the Police that the Centre would soon become unavailable for any meetings after 5pm on cost grounds.
- c) Re Minute 10/120 section 6a). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill proposed that a walk of the Parish boundaries, including Lambton Park, was now due. Councillors agreed that this should be kept in mind for later in the year.
- d) Re Minute 10/121 section d). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that Park View School had now trimmed back overhanging trees at their North Lodge site.
- e) Re Minute 10/129 section b). Re the recurring problem caused by a street sign at Queensmere, Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that a resident was now pursuing this with County Cllr. P. May.

**Item 6. 11/06 Correspondence**

1) From P. McNaught

email re difficulties caused by snow and ice.

Councillors discussed problems caused on the roads by the recent bad weather. The Chairman advised that the County Council had a declared policy for gritting roads and therefore residents should voice concerns to County Councillors.

2) From Chester-le-Street Police

email introducing Sgt. 1083 Paul Teare.

3) From the Royal British Legion

a) Thanks for donation.

b) Letter and booklet re the Great Poppy Party Weekend.

4) From County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Letter and documents re the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan public consultation.

5) From the Office for National Statistics

2011 Census: Councillor Handbook.

6) From Defra and the Forestry Commission

email re the Big Tree Plant.

7) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re electorate numbers.

The County Council had revised the electorate numbers throughout the County. For North Lodge Parish there were now 1962 electors as at December 2010, an increase of 27 over December 2009.

b) email re double taxation.

c) email re service provision by parish councils.

d) email re Durham County Council budget consultation.

e) email re public consultation on a draft policy for entertainment venue licensing.

f) email re democracy and citizenship in schools.

g) Agenda for a meeting of the Chester-le-Street and District Local Councils Committee to be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

This meeting had been cancelled due to bad weather.

8) From Durham County Council

a) email from County Councillor P. May re the bus shelter opposite the Lambton Worm pub. Councillors agreed with County Cllr. May that the view of approaching buses was restricted at this shelter by the bend in the road. Three possible solutions were suggested - a mirror on the opposite side of the road, a cantilever roof extension to the existing shelter so that intending bus passengers could stand further forwards under cover, or a real time information display. The Clerk is to ask the County Councillor to approach the County Council for their thoughts on the feasibility of these suggestions.

b) Letter re Parish and Town Councils sub-committee of the Standards Committee. Councillors agreed to keep in view the offer by the Committee to provide training on Standards matters, particularly on the matter of declaring interests.

c) Letter re school admission arrangements September 2012/13.

d) Press Release re "Knock Next Door - Be a Good Neighbour" campaign.

e) Notification of the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

f) Letter re Precept 2011/12.

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

a) Approval for Listed Building Consent - demolition of existing garage and w.c.'s and repair / re-building of existing gate post, at Lambton Castle.

b) Approval 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 first floor extension over existing games room and new portico to rear of dwelling and erection of porch to front, at 47 Longdean Park.

**Item 7. 11/07 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) Better weather was awaited for safety surfacing repairs to be carried out. 2) Re an additional set of swings, the County Council Leisure Services Technician would attend the February Parish Council meeting to discuss the quotes to hand, 3) The entrance gate had now been repaired and was working well, 4) The pest controller could not attend to the mole problem as the ground was frozen at present. At Low Flatts play area, 5) there was much litter and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had contacted the County Council to ask if they could provide help in clearing this.

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). Councillors agreed with Cllr. Mrs. LeDune that the Christmas lights had looked particularly good this Christmas and Cllr. Mrs. Walton confirmed that she had thanked the County Council for this. Re Tree Preservation Orders, the Clerk will contact the County Council to request a list of trees subject to Orders in North Lodge, a map of such trees and details of any ownership rights acquired through the age of trees. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that Park View School was to shortly celebrate its centenary and the School was considering the planting of a commemorative tree. The Parish Council's tree guard remained unused and Councillors agreed in principle with Cllr. Mrs. Caygill that the guard could be provided for the School tree. Cllrs. Mrs. Caygill and Mrs. Walton kindly agreed to investigate suitable sites for the tree and guard.

**(Resolved** - that, in principle, the tree guard be provided for Park View School's commemorative tree).

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

c) **Publicity** Cllr. Mrs. Forrester advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Forrester and invited Cllr. Tones to give his report.

d) **Planning** Cllr. Tones advised that he continued to monitor for a formal application relating to the proposed young people's Foyer development in the Market Place. Cllr. Tones also outlined a possible development for housing at land between Waldrige Farm and Waldrige Village in which he is involved at an early planning stage through his employment.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Tones and invited Cllr. Jukes to give his report.

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Jukes.

f) **Highways** Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3, part 2). Re item 1, the incorrect "No Stopping" signs in Lombard Drive, no response had been received from the County Council and the Clerk will now ask County Cllr. P. May to intervene.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

### **Item 8. 11/08 The Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3, part 1).

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

### **Item 9. 11/09 An Improvement Scheme for the Barley Mow Area**

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that, following the site meeting held with the County Council, a report was awaited from County Cllr. P. May. The Chairman reminded Councillors that County Cllr. May had kindly offered £5000 from his allowance towards the project but should the project not proceed the County Councillor would be seeking an alternative project requiring financial assistance.

Councillors should, therefore, give urgent consideration to other possible projects.

### **Item 10. 11/10 Variation of Standing Orders**

Following the withdrawal by the County Council of the Civic Centre as a venue for meetings, it was necessary to vary Standing Orders to permit a revised venue and revised dates for future meetings. This had been proposed and seconded at the November 2010 meeting of the Parish Council and the Clerk advised that it was now allowable under Standing Orders to hold a discussion on this matter, if required by Councillors, following which a Resolution was required. Councillors were in agreement that future meetings of the Council should be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except for August and December when no meetings would be held, and meetings were to be held at Park View School, Lombard Drive site.

**(Resolved** - 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 11. 11/11 Payment of Accounts**

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

| 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                  |     |
| D. Carins                        |         | Gardener's Wages/Exps. Nov 2010 |     |
| Society of Local Council Clerks  | £95.00  | Annual Subscription             |     |

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

**Item 12. 11/12 Other Matters for Consideration**

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that the County Council were attending to the clock at the Methodist Church in the Market Place as the clock had stopped.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.56pm, following which Councillors held a brief discussion with the two residents in attendance regarding a matter in Kingsmere.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

**Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011.**

| <b>TO</b>                       | <b>AMOUNT</b> | <b>REASON</b>            | <b>VAT</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| D. Murrell                      |               | Salary/Exps. Feb 2011    |            |
| Durham County Pension Fund      |               | Clerk's Pension Feb 2011 |            |
| Park View Community Association | £20.00        | Room Hire                |            |
| Durham County Council           | £352.50       | Bulb Planting            | £52.50     |
| Shaw & Sons Ltd                 | £67.78        | Receipts & Payments Book | £11.30     |

**Balance to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011**

|                            |                  |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Balance b/f                | £29335.69        | Bank:-                           |                         |
|                            |                  |                                  | Current £ 1460.92       |
| Deduct Payments - Jan 2011 | <u>£ 1583.36</u> |                                  | 30 Day <u>£26431.65</u> |
|                            | £27752.33        |                                  | Total <u>£27892.57</u>  |
|                            |                  | Deduct cheques not yet presented | <u>£ 140.24</u>         |
| Balance c/f                | £27752.33        |                                  | £27752.33               |