

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.  
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May,  
Prof. V. McEwan, Mrs. D. Prest, Mrs. C. Walton.

County Councillor: Mr. P. May

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell

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

County Councillor P. May was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. M. May declared an interest in a section of Agenda Item 7.

### **Item 1. 11/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E. Forrester and S. Tones, and from County Councillor P. May for his expected late arrival at the meeting.

Councillors agreed to take Item 3 next.

### **Item 3. 11/14 The Purchase of Play Equipment for Merlin Drive Play Area**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. B. Alderson, of Durham County Council, to the meeting. Mr. Alderson outlined the buying policy of the County Council re play equipment and he had obtained quotes from 3 companies for the supply and installation (including safety surfacing) of an additional set of swings for Merlin Drive Play Area. Councillors discussed these quotes and agreed to accept the quote from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd at a price of £5500 + VAT.

**(Resolved** - to purchase a set of swings from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd at a price of five thousand five hundred pounds plus VAT).

Mr. Alderson kindly agreed to make the necessary arrangements with Wicksteed for the purchase and installation of the swings.

Councillors were sorry to learn that Mr. Alderson's future employment with the County Council would take him away from the Chester-le-Street area. Councillors therefore thanked him for all the help he had given the Parish Council and wished him all the best for the future.

### **Item 2. 11/15 Report of the Police**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Paul Teare and Community Liaison Officer Tim Thompson to the meeting. The Community Liaison Officer outlined the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which the Police wished to revitalize. The Chairman then invited Sgt. Teare to give the Police Report which included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1).

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Teare for presenting the report.

In the absence of the County Councillors, Councillors agreed to take Item 5 next.

#### **Item 5. 11/16 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 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. 11/17 Matters Arising**

- a) Re Minute 11/05 section b). Re Area Action Partnership meetings, the Chairman advised that the AAP Chairman had stated that AAP Board meetings would continue to be held in the Civic Centre although they must finish by 8pm.
- b) Re Minute 11/05 section c). Re a proposed walk of the Parish boundaries, the Clerk will make a diary note for this to be discussed at the June Parish Council meeting.
- c) Re Minute 11/06 section 6. Re the Big Tree Plant campaign, Cllrs. Mrs. Caygill and Mrs. Walton, and the Clerk, had examined the scheme and had determined that the Parish Council was not eligible to apply for a grant.
- d) Re Minute 11/06 section 8a). Re the bus shelter opposite the Lambton Worm pub, Councillors discussed the level of difficulty in observing approaching buses, and the possible solutions proposed. Councillors agreed that, although there could be some discomfort for intending passengers in wet weather, the proposed solutions were not practical and therefore no action was to be taken at present.
- e) Re Minute 11/09. Re an improvement scheme for the Barley Mow area, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that there had still been no report from the County Council following the site meeting in December. Also, neither the utility service box nor the County Durham sign had yet been attended to by the County Council.
- f) Re Minute 11/10. Re the variation of Standing Orders, the Clerk advised Councillors to place a copy of Minute 11/10 with their own copies of the Standing Orders for future reference.

At this point, County Councillor P. May arrived at the meeting.

- g) Re Minute 11/12. Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that the Methodist Church clock was now working.
- h) Re the matter discussed with residents following the closure of the meeting. Re damage being caused to a verge in Kingsmere, County Cllr. May advised that he would discuss the situation with the County Council.

Following the arrival at the meeting of County Councillor P. May, Councillors agreed to take Item 4 next.

#### **Item 4. 11/18 Reports of the County Councillors**

The Chairman welcomed County Cllr. May to the meeting and invited him to give his report which included the following matters.

- a) The County Councillor was discussing with the County Council a horticultural improvement scheme for the Northlands roundabout area and this could perhaps be coordinated with the Parish Council's proposed Barley Mow improvement scheme, with schoolchildren being involved in the design process. However, various items of information re the Barley Mow scheme were still awaited from the County Council before the Parish Council could complete the application form for the previously agreed in principle £5000 grant towards the scheme from the County Councillor's allowance. The Chairman therefore proposed that, in order to advance the grant of funds within the current financial year, the County Councillor might instead provide a grant of £5000 towards the purchase of the additional swings for Merlin Drive Play Area, with the Parish Council then funding the Barley Mow improvement scheme from its own resources. Councillors and the County Councillor were in agreement with this. County Cllr. May and the Clerk will make the appropriate arrangements for the grant.

- b) The County Council was monitoring air quality in areas including Pelaw Grange, outside 3 North Road and at Blind Lane. This might be extended to a wider area in Chester-le-Street. Results of the exercise would be analysed to see if there were any issues needing to be addressed.
- c) The County Council was considering removing weekend car park charges at the Civic Centre car park.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

#### **Item 7. 11/19 Correspondence**

- 1) From the Campaign to Protect Rural England  
Letter re "LitterFree Durham's Big Spring Clean".  
Councillors agreed to give further consideration to this matter at the March meeting of the Council.
- 2) From Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council  
Letter re One Core Strategy and Area Action Plan for the Urban Core.
- 3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
  - a) email re the Royal Garden Party 2011.  
As previously agreed, the name of Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, accompanied by his wife, is to be submitted as the Parish Council's nomination to attend the Royal Garden Party.
  - b) email re Accounts & Audit Regulations.
  - c) Summary of outstanding Section 106 funds for the Chester-le-Street area.  
The Clerk will contact the County Council for clarification as to the amount of £70,000 still shown as available from the Orchards, Vigo Lane, development.
- 4) From Durham County Council
  - a) email re road surfacing on the A693 road.  
The County Council advised that the use of a noise reducing surface would not be considered as it deteriorates very quickly. However, other measures to reduce noise intrusion were under consideration.
  - b) email re Parish Paths Partnership, including grant application form.
  - c) email including maps of Tree Preservation Orders in North Lodge parish.
  - d) Letter and leaflet promoting solar panels.
  - e) Board Papers for the Chester-le-Street and District Area Action Partnership Board meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
  - f) County Durham Settlement Study questionnaire.
  - g) Letter re Area Action Partnership Interactive Roadshows.

Before consideration of section 5a, below, Cllr. Mrs. May, having previously declared an interest, and County Cllr. P. May, left the meeting.

- 5) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
  - a) Application to extend time limit for implementation of previously approved scheme 08/00207/OUT for the erection of 1 no. detached dwelling (Outline), at Hollydene, North Lodge.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. M. May and County Cllr. P. May returned to the meeting.

- b) Application for single storey extension to side and rear of factory and provision of 3 no. above ground gas tanks, at Unit 29, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.

Councillors agreed to take Item 10 next.

#### **Item 10. 11/20 Development of the Parish Council's Website**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Prof. McEwan to give an up-date re the Council's website. Cllr. Prof. McEwan advised that she had been in regular contact with the County Council officer involved in the development and Cllr. Prof. McEwan would shortly be receiving some training from the officer. Cllr. Prof. McEwan displayed various mock-ups produced to date, and outlined matters to be discussed and resolved, urging Councillors to give some input as soon as possible. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Prof. McEwan for her report and for all her work to date on the project.

#### **Item 8. 11/21 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) Schoolchildren were being involved in the County Council's art project for the play area. At Low Flatts play area, 2) Hedges were overgrown. Cllr. Mrs. Walton kindly agreed to obtain an estimate from the County Council for the flailing of the hedges, 3) there were many instances of dog fouling. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill kindly agreed to obtain a quote for a warning sign.

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 Sustrans steps, the Clerk will contact Sustrans.

In addition to the report, Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that the Gardener had contacted the Clerk to request, in view of rapidly rising diesel fuel costs, an increase in his expenses from £6 to £10 per week worked. Councillors discussed this request and agreed that an increase to £8 per week worked was appropriate.

**(Resolved** - that the Gardener's expenses be increased with immediate effect to eight pounds per week worked).

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

**c) Publicity** In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Forrester, no report was made.

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

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

**f) Highways** Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt reported on matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3, part 2). Re item 2, the Clerk will contact the Highways Action Line.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

#### **Item 9. 11/22 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 11. 11/23 Payment of Accounts**

The following accounts were submitted for payment.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
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
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. Feb 2011	
Shaw & Sons Ltd	£67.78	Receipts & Payments Book	£11.30

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

**Item 12. 11/24 Other Matters for Consideration**

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Cllr. Mrs. Mrs. Caygill advised of a car regularly parking on grass at Low Flatts Road, causing damage to a tree there. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill kindly agreed to liaise with PCSO L. Hunter on this matter.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

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

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. March 2011	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension March 2011	
Park View Community Association	£20.00	Room Hire	
Cty. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£258.79	Annual Subscription	
D. Carins		Gardener's Wages/Exps. Mar 2011	
D. Murrell (via PC World)	£45.99	Purchase of Shredder	£7.66
D. Murrell (via PC World)	£27.99	Printer Cartridge	£4.67
D. Murrell (via Printerinks.com)	£12.85	Printer Cartridge	£2.24
The Information Commissioner	£35.00	Annual Registration Fee	

**Balance to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Balance b/f	£27752.33	Bank:-	
			Current £ 650.94
Deduct Payments - Feb 2011	<u>£ 1142.48</u>		30 Day <u>£26431.65</u>
	£26609.85		Total <u>£27082.59</u>
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 472.74</u>
Balance c/f	£26609.85		£26609.85