

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 17th April 2012.

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

County Councillor: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Councillors Mrs. S. Brown and Mr. C. Jukes were not in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1. 12/36 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor S. Tones.

Item 2. 12/37 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Item 3. 12/38 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter 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 Hunter for the report.

Item 4. 12/39 Reports of the County Councillors

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

- 1). The speed visors were now on order.
- 2). The County Council had circulated to residents a questionnaire re the new recycling regime. Replies received had indicated that, in general, people were happy with the system although some specific points raised by residents were being taken up by the County Council. A further questionnaire will be issued in a few weeks time to see if opinions remained the same.
- 3). The County Council had now agreed to cut the Picktree Lodge baffle bank at least twice per year.
- 4). The status of a car on a driveway in Merlin Drive had been discussed at a recent AAP meeting. The Neighbourhood Warden was to investigate the car.
- 5). Councillors agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Walton that the County Council had made a very good job of the road improvements at Barley Mow.
- 6). County Cllr. May thanked all those who had submitted responses re the County Council's proposal to close Hett Hills household waste centre. It now seemed likely that the County Council Cabinet would decide to leave open this facility although on reduced hours.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 12/40 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th March 2012, 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.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. Brown arrived at the meeting.

Item 6. 12/41 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). 1) Re Neighbourhood Plans, the Chairman outlined the benefits of these and Councillors agreed that a representative of the County Council Planning Department should be invited to an additional meeting to give a presentation. 2) Re the CDALC meeting, Councillors congratulated Cllr. Mrs. Forrester on her appointment as representative of CDALC, for two years, on the Area Action Partnership. 3) The Chairman and the Clerk were concerned at the lack of responses being received, in some instances, from the County Council. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact the County Council Deputy Chief Executive on this matter. 4) Regarding the annual election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Councillors discussed the possible benefits of a Chairman retaining the position for two years and will consider this matter in preparation for the Annual Meeting in May. Councillors agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Caygill that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had given excellent service to the Parish over the last year. The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk for the support she had received. Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 12/42 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

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

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

At this point, Cllr. Jukes arrived at the meeting.

b) Play Areas Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters. 1) At Low Flatts, a permanent fixing for the "No Dogs" sign was still awaited. 2) There had been no response yet from the County Council re provision of a secure fixing for the wheelie bin. 3) There were a few rabbit holes on the football field. Cllr. Mrs. Walton agreed to ask the gardener to fill these. At Merlin Drive, 4) The County Council had been unable to find any fault with a swing mechanism reported as needing attention although a repair was needed to the see-saw. 5) A celebration for the new artwork to be installed shortly will be held on Wednesday 11th July. The County Council had requested a nomination for a speaker at this event.

(Resolved - County Cllr. P. May is to be nominated as speaker at the Merlin Drive artwork celebration).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

c) Highways and Website Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Walton to give her report.

d) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4). Re the circular bed at Picktree Lodge, Councillors agreed that it was essential to do everything possible to prevent the gardener being faced with a similar situation in future. The County Council had confirmed that they had responsibility for the bed and the Clerk is to ask the County Council to take over its maintenance.

(Resolved - to ask the County Council to take over maintenance of the circular bed at Picktree Lodge).

Re the tree guard, Cllrs. Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Caygill are to discuss with the County Council its future use.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her 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. 12/43 Correspondence

1) From North Lodge Residents' Association
Agenda for Meeting held April 2012.

2) From Northern Powergrid
email re reinstatement of ground at substation, Lyndhurst Avenue.

3) From LitterFree Durham CPRE
Booking Form re Big Spring Clean.

4) From Community Consultation Ltd
Insurance renewal papers.

5) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
email re windfarm lobby at Parliament.

6) From Durham County Council
a) email re new proposals for household waste recycling centres.
b) email re harassment of Gardener.
c) email re Section 106 agreement, planning application CMA/2/15, warehouse at Drum Industrial Estate.

The County Council had advised that it was not possible to include the pond in the Section 106 agreement.

d) Letter re hanging baskets on lighting columns.

e) Board papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 26th March 2012.

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

Application for renewal of 2/09/00083/FL for erection of single storey rear extension, at 48 Longdean Park.

Item 9. 12/44 The Newsletter

Councillors held discussions regarding the content of this year's Newsletter. Several suggestions were made and Cllr. Mrs. Forrester was collating items.

Item 10. 12/45 Neighbourhood Plans

This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item 11. 12/46 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. April 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension April 2012	
Npower	£43.20	Administration Fees	£7.20
Pot-It-On	£211.00	Horticulture	
C. Walton	£94.50	Rose Plants	£15.75
D. Murrell (via Staples)	£31.13	Stationery	£5.19
Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 12/47 Other Matters for Consideration

Cllr. Mrs. LeDune considered that the yellow arrow signs at the road crossing point on North Road, near to Low Flatts Road, did not give a sufficiently effective warning to motorists. Councillors will examine this before the next Council meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.52pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council on Tuesday 17th April 2012.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. April 2012	
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Balance to 31st March 2012

Balance b/f	£31379.69	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2012	<u>£10874.51</u>	Current	£10501.90
	£20505.18	30 Day	<u>£20044.68</u>
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 15.73</u>	Total	£30546.58
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£10025.67</u>
Balance c/f	£20520.91		£20520.91