

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

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

County Councillors: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

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

### **Item 1. 12/92 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. Brown and Mr. S. Tones, and from PCSO. L. Hunter.

### **Item 2. 12/93 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations made.

### **Item 3. 12/94 Report of the Police**

PCSO Lesley Hunter had provided a written report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk. Re a recent incident in the Parish involving two youths who appeared to be residing at the YMCA flats in the market place, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the youths had pleaded guilty to the offence. In view of the murders of two policewomen in Manchester today, Cllr. Mrs. Walton proposed that a letter of sympathy be sent to the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary. (**Resolved** - to write to the Chief Constable expressing sympathy at this incident).

### **Item 4. 12/95 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 matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 2).

- a) Re plants for the plinth at the entrance to Picktree Lodge, County Cllr. May will discuss this with Cllr. Mrs. Walton and the Gardener.
- b) Re the new speed visors, County Cllr. May will enquire if there is an operator's handbook.
- c) Councillors discussed the forthcoming consultation re the County Council's latest Northlands roundabout proposal, and discussed the recently issued County Plan Preferred Options papers.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

### **Item 5. 12/96 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

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

### **Item 6 (Part 1). 12/97 Chairman's Report**

- a) Re Minute 12/85 section b). Re new artwork for Drum Industrial Estate, County Cllr May advised that there were difficulties in establishing a power supply.
- b) Re Minute 12/85 section c). Kevan Jones MP had visited Merlin Drive play area and had been very impressed by the new artwork there.

### **Item 7. 12/98 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report which included the following matters.

**a) Play Areas** 1) At Merlin Drive, the play area was looking tidy and the recently planted trees were attractive. 2) The official launch of the new artwork at Merlin Drive had been re-arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> October. 3) At Low Flatts play area, everything appeared to be in order. Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that the Gardener had in hand to cut back the vegetation around the south and east edges.

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

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

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

**c) Horticulture** Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).

1) Re the bus shelters report, the Clerk will contact the County Council to request a quotation for the replacement of the concrete floors. 2) There was graffiti on the rear wall of the bus shelter outside BOC on North Road. The Clerk will advise this to the Police. 3) Re the water pipe at the entrance to Lombard Drive, the Clerk will contact Northumbrian Water. 4) Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that the County Council was again holding a bulb-planting challenge. Cllr. Mrs. Walton would register the Parish Council for the offer and Councillors were asked to consider sites for the planting of the bulbs. 5) County Cllr. May advised that he had provided funding for the next two years for the Christmas Tree on Northlands roundabout.

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

**d) Highways and Website** Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report contained the following matters.

1) Since the Newsletter had been delivered to residents, there had been an improvement in the situation re branches overhanging pavements. 2) The Chairman reported that a tree was hanging very low over a pavement in Kingsmere. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt recommended that residents should direct complaints on matters such as this to the Highways Action Line. 3) At Lombard Drive, the "No Waiting" signs were still to be corrected. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had contacted the County Council to pursue this matter. 4) The County Council was installing new lighting columns on North Lodge estate. 5) On the east side of North Road between Low Flatts Road and Northlands roundabout, grass was overgrowing the footpath. The Clerk will ask the County Council to cut and push back the grass and also inspect other paths in the parish for any similar problems. 6) Re the website, there was a problem to overcome regarding adding Minutes and Agenda.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

**e) Publicity** In the absence of Cllr. Mrs. Brown, no report was made.

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

### **Item 6 (Part 2). 12/99 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's report included the following matters.

1) Re the "red circle" warning sign at Merlin Drive play area, the County Council's Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services had advised that the sign was to be replaced and, due to the absence of bye laws, the new sign would not carry the warnings. Any problems at the play area should be reported to the Neighbourhood Wardens on 01207 693693. 2) The AAP's Activity Week in August had been a great success for older children. For some smaller children there had been a more limited opportunity for enjoyment. 3) Re damage to the Civic Heart Arch, the Chairman advised that the County Council was liaising with the designers. 4) The Portas Pilot Chester-le-

Street Town Team had been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government towards elements of the Town Centre Plan.  
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

**Item 8. 12/100 Correspondence**

- 1) From the Great North Air Ambulance  
Thank you for donation.
  - 2) From Finchale Training College  
Thank you for donation.
  - 3) From St John Ambulance  
Invitation to annual Curry/Buffer Lunch to be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
  - 4) From Chester-le-Street YMCA
    - a) Invitation to open day held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
    - b) Letter re supported accommodation.
  - 5) From Durham Rural Community Council  
Invitation to Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
  - 6) From Northern Powergrid  
email re unmetered supplies.
  - 7) From BDO LLP
    - a) Annual Audit Report.
- (**Resolved** - to approve and accept the annual return for 2011 / 2012).  
b) Letter re re-appointment of BDO LLP as auditors for five years from 2012 / 2013.
- 8) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
    - a) email re the new Standards Regime.
    - b) Invitation to Standards Information session to be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
    - c) email re applications for dispensation of disclosable pecuniary interests.
    - d) email re "Purdah Period" to run from 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.
    - e) email re bulb planting challenge 2012.
    - f) email re Council Tax base and funding for local precepting authorities.
    - g) email re Area Action Partnerships.

Senior Durham County Council officers had confirmed to CDALC that there were no proposals to restructure Area Action Partnerships.

- 9) From Durham County Council
    - a) Quotation for the Christmas Lights.
- (**Resolved** - to accept the quotation of £245 + vat).  
b) Letter re attachment of decorations to street lighting columns.  
c) email re unauthorised advertising.  
d) Letter re disclosable pecuniary interests.  
e) email re Picktree Lodge signage.  
f) Letter re A693 speed limits.  
g) email re Portas Pilot second round outcome.  
h) email re £10,000 grant award for Chester-le-Street.  
i) email re signage at Merlin Drive play area.

- j) email re official launch event for the Merlin Drive play area artwork to be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.
  - k) email re untidy areas.
  - l) email re markets and street traders consultation.
  - m) Board Papers for the AAP Board Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012.
  - n) Invitation to the inaugural meeting of the Chester-le-Street Health Action Group held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
  - o) Notification of the AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
  - p) email re the County Durham Plan Consultation - Preferred Options.
- 10) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for a single storey rear extension, pitched roof over existing garage / utility and render to front and rear facades, at 59 Longdean Park.
  - b) Application for demolition of existing conservatory to be replaced by single storey extension to the rear, at 5 Hampton Court.
  - c) Application for extension of time limit for the implementation of previously approved planning application 2/09/00120/FUL, at land to north and west of Batley's PLC, Drum Road.
  - d) Application for erection of single storey extension to side of house and installation of two dormer windows to front, at 54 Leander Avenue.
  - e) Application for demolition of existing conservatory and erection of sun lounge extension to rear, at Stobilee, Picktree Village.
  - f) Approval for erection of two storey side extension and single storey mono pitch extension, at 16 Merlin Drive.
  - g) Approval for proposed works to trees covered by TPO including the pruning of one beech tree and the crown lifting of two beech trees, the crown lifting of one sycamore and the felling of one sycamore and the felling of 9 pine trees, at 23 Blind Lane.
  - h) Approval for resubmission of planning approval 2/11/00298 for erection of single storey extension to north elevation, installation of dormer windows to front and rear, relocation of front door with canopy above, new bay window to front, alterations to garage, at 1 Blind Lane.
  - i) Approval for demolition of existing conservatory to be replaced by single storey extension to the rear, at 5 Hampton Court.
  - j) Approval for a single storey rear extension, pitched roof over existing garage / utility and render to front and rear facades, at 59 Longdean Park.
  - k) Refusal for alterations to existing vehicular access and new front boundary wall, at 4 North Lodge.

**Item 9. 12/101 An Amended Code of Conduct**

The Clerk advised the meeting that, following a revision of Appendix A of the new Code of Conduct, it was necessary to adopt the amended Code. Councillors discussed this and agreed an amended Code in the form attached (Appendix 4).

**(Resolved** - to adopt the amended Code of Conduct in the form presented to the Meeting).

**Item 10. 12/102 Payment of Accounts**

The following payments were submitted for approval.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug 2012	
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Sept 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Sept 2012	
Pot-It-On	£220.00	Horticulture	
BDO LLP	£162.00	Audit Fee	£27.00
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Chris Carr	£25.00	Repair to Noticeboard	
D. Murrell (via Printerinks.com)	£28.54	Printer Cartridge	£4.76
Pot-It-On	£154.00	Horticulture	
HM Revenue & Customs	£266.20	P.A.Y.E.	

(**Resolved** - the payments be approved as submitted).

**Item 11. 12/103 Other Matters for Consideration**

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Councillors further discussed the County Council County Plan Preferred Options and agreed to hold an additional meeting of Councillors to develop the Parish Council's response. The Clerk will arrange a meeting to be held at Arizona Chemical.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

**Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug 2012	
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Sept 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Sept 2012	
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**Balance to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012**

Balance b/f	£34996.87	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2012	<u>£ 2319.98</u>		
	£32676.89		
		Current	£10167.01
		30 Day	<u>£32129.86</u>
		Total	£42296.87
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 9619.98</u>
Balance c/f	£32676.89		£32676.89