

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 19th November 2013.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Dr. D. Hartley, Mrs. L. LeDune,
Mrs. M. May, Mrs. C. Walton, C. Noble-Nesbitt,
D. Snaith.
County Councillor: P. May
Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.
A Resident

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

Item 1. 13/108 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. Prest and N. Alderson.

Item 2. 13/109 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

Item 3. 13/110 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO L. Hunter to the meeting and invited the PCSO to give the Police report (Appendix 1, attached). The PCSO advised that an arrest had made been re the recent burglaries. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised the meeting of a further vehicle-related incident in Lyndhurst Avenue.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for presenting the Police report.

Item 4. 13/111 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor P. May to the meeting and invited him to give his report (Appendix 2, attached).

a) Re the County Durham Plan, Councillors agreed that a submission should be made welcoming the removal of the proposal for additional housing in Picktree Village.

b) Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that sections of the stone wall along the east side of North Road appeared to be in a poor condition. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report and the County Councillor wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Item 5. 13/112 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th October 2013, 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. 13/113 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 13/102 section a). Re the gaps at the top of the steps leading from North Road to Lyndhurst Avenue, County Cllr. May is to pursue this matter.

b) Re Minute 13/102 section d). The County Council had returned the new seats to the manufacturer due to a paint defect.

- c) Re Minute 13/102 section e). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had met on site the land agent for the empty warehouse near to the pond at Drum Industrial Estate. The fly-tipping there had been removed but not by the agents. The agent advised that there were no funds available towards the improvement of the pond area or the installation of a barrier to deter future fly-tipping. The agent was not certain as to the ownership of the pond area and would be asking solicitors to clarify this.
- d) Re Minute 13/103 section b). The goal posts at Low Flatts play area had not yet been painted. The Clerk was to pursue this with the contractor.
- e) Re Minute 13/104 section 4k). Councillors who had attended the recent Remembrance Sunday service felt that future processions into the Church would require more efficient organization including more consultation with Church officials. The Clerk is to forward these comments to the County Council.
- f) Re Minute 13/07 section a). Re the proposed Christmas Day working on the main railway line by Network Rail, the Clerk advised Councillors that the company had made arrangements to access the line away from any residential estate roads. Noise from the working would be kept to as little as possible but Network Rail had no other day available to them for the work which required no train running for a 24 hour period.

The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 13/114 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 Low Flatts, there was damage to a junior swing and to safety surfacing under the seesaw. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

At Merlin Drive, the County Council had advised that the cost of a replacement see-saw and safety surfacing would be £3K.

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

b) Horticulture Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4).

Cllr. Mrs. LeDune considered that the flower beds maintained by the County Council did not look attractive. Cllr. Mrs. Walton will discuss this with the County Council officer.

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

c) Planning

Cllr. Snaith advised that the County Council Planning team intended to hold training days for Parish and Town Councillors.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

d) Highways and Website Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report (Appendix 5).

In addition, there were two minor issues to resolve re the website.

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

e) Publicity

Cllr. Mrs. May advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. May.

f) Finance In the absence of a Portfolio Holder, no report was made.

Item 8. 13/115 Correspondence

- 1) From the War Memorials Trust
Newsletter - Number 59, November 2013.
- 2) From North Lodge Residents Association
Agenda for the meeting held on Monday 11th November 2013.
- 3) From the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
Letter re re-cycling of household waste.
- 4) From Durham Community Action
Invitation to launch event to be held on Thursday 28th November 2013.
- 5) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) email re Council Tax and Precept data.
 - b) Request for new members for the County Durham Local Access Forum.
 - c) Agenda for the inaugural meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 31st October 2013.
 - d) Notice of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting to be held on 28th Nov. 2013.
 - e) Agenda for the Smaller Local Councils Forum held on 15th November 2013.
 - f) email re the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.
 - g) email re Quality Status review.
 - h) Requests for contributions to the CDALC Newsletter November 2013.
 - i) email re Tom Toward.

It was with great regret that Councillors learned of the death of Tom Toward, the former Secretary of the County Association.

- 6) From Durham County Council
 - a) email re National Tree Week.
 - b) email re development of the BOC site, Vigo Lane.
 - c) Letter re review of the Statement of Licensing Act 2003 Policy.
 - d) Neighbourhood Protection Team Report - September 2013.
 - e) email re residential homes consultation.
 - f) Board Papers for the AAP Board meeting held on Monday 28th October 2013.
- 7) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for erection of conservatory at side of dwelling, at 3 Lombard Drive.
 - b) Application for construction of bay window to lounge at rear of dwelling, at 4 Lintfort.
 - c) Approval for erection of canopy to provide covered area for unloading and scanning of freight, at Unit 30, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
 - d) Approval for outline application for one dwelling with garage with some matters reserved, at Hollydene, North Lodge.

Item 9. 13/116 The County Durham Plan (Pre-submission Draft Stage)

Councillors discussed the Plan with particular reference to how the proposed housing and industrial developments in the Plan would increase vehicle traffic in the area of the Parish. The Clerk is to make a submission welcoming the additional jobs created by the proposed industrial development at the south of Drum Industrial Estate but expressing concern re the additional pressure on the road infrastructure created by the housing and industrial developments, including the proposal in the Plan to install a link road between the A693 and Pelton Lane.

Item 10. 13/117 Requests for Donations

Councillors considered outstanding requests for donations and agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Item 11. 13/118 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Nov 2013	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Nov 2013	
Pot-It-On	£338.00	Horticulture	
Royal British Legion	£ 50.00	Wreath and Donation	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 13/119 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

- a) Cllr. Mrs. LeDune reminded the meeting that the utility box at Barley Mow remained in an untidy condition. The Clerk will again make enquiries as to the ownership of the box.
- b) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that bushes were still overhanging part of the footpath on the A693 west of Northlands roundabout. The Clerk reported that the County Council had advised that the cutting-back of the bushes was on its work list.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm, wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th November 2013.

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
	D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Nov 2013	
	Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Nov 2013	
	Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
 <u>Balance to 31st October 2013</u>				
	Balance b/f	£36258.59	Balances at Bank:-	
	Deduct Payments - Oct 2013	<u>£ 1072.03</u>		Current £ 357.20
		£35186.56		30 Day <u>£34829.36</u>
				Total <u>£35186.56</u>
			Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
	Balance c/f	£35186.56		£35186.56

APPENDIX 5

Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 19 November 2013

To Report

C2C Pathway

The hedges and overgrown vegetation along the sides of the cycle track have been comprehensively cut back, presumably by Sustrans.

Picktree Village Community Speed Watch

185 cars passed in the one hour of observation on Picktree Lane and 8 warning letters were issued for those doing over 35 mph (the speed at which tickets would normally be issued).

For Action

Picktree Lodge Lighting

One redundant old concrete lamp post (Old number 466, situated between the new numbered lamp posts 478 & 479) is not working and **needs removal**.

One redundant old metal lamp post (Old number 444, and within ~3 metres of the new numbered lamp post 444) is not working and **needs removal**.

Important update not yet received

DCC Northlands Roundabout Project

More detailed Project drawing for consideration and possible further comment regarding roundabout lane exits.

See also, separately:

“Some major points derived from the DCC response to County Councillor May’s request for lowered speed limits.”

C N-N 19/11/2013

Part of Highways Report for NLPC meeting of 19 November 2013

Some major points derived from the Durham County Council (DCC) response to County Councillor May's request for lowered speed limits:

Lombard Drive

- Whilst there are a few vehicles which exceed the 30 mph speed limit, they are not during the periods of 'drop off' and 'pick up' associated with the school.
- During these periods the average speed of traffic is up to 19 mph; no speeds above 30 mph were recorded; over 94% of vehicles travelled below 25 mph.
- The congestion caused by parents parking in the vicinity of the school is almost certainly the reason for the low speeds.
- From the data it can be seen that excessive speeds are not an issue during the school drop off / pick up periods on Lombard Drive.
- Motorists have demonstrated very good compliance with the existing 30 mph speed limit throughout the day.
- The highest average speeds (21 to 23 mph) are recorded between 4 to 6 pm and 6 to 9 am (weekday commuter periods). At weekends these are more generally spread across the day.
- There has been no record of any injury accident during the past 10 year history.

Based on the DCC findings, a 20 mph speed limit would not comply with the DCC Policy and it would not demonstrate a return for the investment. Such a speed limit is highly unlikely to make any difference to the existing traffic on Lombard Drive.

A167 North Road

- The section of 40 mph speed limit has no direct frontage development, wide verges, properties set well back or obscured by vegetation or walls, good footway provision and advisory cycle lanes. All these elements are conducive to a credible 40 mph speed limit, even though a school is located nearby.
- As is often the case, surveys show that a speed limit which lacks credibility results in a significant proportion of motorists ignoring the limit and potentially driving at even higher speeds and can also lead to greater risk taking.
- Park View School is not exceptional in having a 40 mph (or higher) speed limit near to it.
- Survey results show that at school peak periods, with higher traffic volumes and the greater congestion, the average 27 mph speed of vehicles is lower than at other times of the day and almost 100% of traffic complies with the 40 mph speed limit
- A formalised signal controlled pedestrian crossing near to the school provides a safe means to cross North Road, adjacent to the Lombard Drive junction.
- A pedestrian refuge is provided further south, just beyond Low Flatts Road.
- Outside of school peak periods, surveys show less than 0.3% of vehicles travelling at speeds where the police would consider enforcement and almost all of these in the verbal warning bracket.
- Inappropriate speed was not identified as a contributory factor in the only two personal injury traffic accidents recorded in the past 10 years, along the length of North Road, either side of Lombard Drive.

Given the accident details, speed survey results and previous considerations as part of the Speed Limit Review, the current 40 mph speed limit is considered to be the appropriate speed limit for this road.

For fuller detail, reference needs to be made to the original three A4 pages DCC report.