

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 18th February 2014.

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

Two Residents

Business Development Officer, Park View
Academy

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

Item 1. 14/12 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence.

Item 2. 14/13 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs. Caygill declared an interest in a planning application relating to 132 Picktree Lodge.

Item 3. 14/14 Report of the Police

Councillors were disappointed that there was no representative of the Police at the meeting, particularly considering the recent spate of burglaries at Longdean Park which the two residents wished to discuss. The Chairman will contact the Police Inspector to express concern at the general low level of communication from the Police. Cllr. Mrs. Walton and the residents advised that there had been much more regular Police patrol cars in Longdean Park recently. The residents proposed that CCTV cameras should be installed throughout the Parish although it was recognized that the cost of these might be prohibitive. PCSO L. Hunter had provided a written report (Appendix 1, attached).

The Chairman thanked the residents for their input. At this point, the residents left the meeting.

Item 4. 14/15 Visit by the Business Development Officer, Park View Academy

The Chairman welcomed Jodie Graham, Park View Business Development Officer, to the meeting, and invited her to give an outline of her role. The Academy hoped to develop the usage of the North Lodge site, beginning with a new sports pitch with flood-lighting, to include the hiring of rooms and facilities to various groups which could include the Parish Council. Councillors welcomed this aim and would be very interested in holding Council meetings at the Academy when rooms became available. The Officer also advised of a new garden development initiative within the Academy grounds and Councillors agreed that this could be promoted in the Council's noticeboards and Newsletter.

The Chairman thanked the Business Development Officer and looked forward to a strong relationship between the Academy and the Parish Council.

At this point, the Development Officer left the meeting.

Item 5. 14/16 Report of the County Councillor

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).

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 6. 14/17 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2014, 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 7. 14/18 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 14/06 section b). Re the recently installed new seats, the County Council had now agreed to re-site the seat at Merlin Drive play area and to make good the minor damage to the seat at the Baffle Bank. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Alderson for his work on this matter.

b) Re Minute 14/06 section c). Re ownership of the pond area at Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that there had been no further contact from the land agent. The Clerk will again chase this up.

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

Re Neighbourhood Plans, Councillors agreed that the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. May and Cllr. Snaith should consider the starting points, including the possibility of a residents' questionnaire in the Newsletter, for a Plan for North Lodge.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 8. 14/19 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.

For Merlin Drive, the funding application for the replacement see-saw was well under way. For Low Flatts, the replacement swing had been ordered from the County Council. The Clerk was thanked for clearing dog mess from the playing field. There was dissatisfaction at the lack of attention given by the Neighbourhood Wardens to the play area. The Clerk is to write to request that the Wardens give more time to the play area.

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).

In addition, 1) the Clerk will contact the County Council re the plants and beds at the Northlands roundabout bus shelter which is soon to be moved, 2) Cllr. Mrs. Walton is to inspect a partially uprooted tree at Picktree Lodge, 3) Cllr. Mrs. Walton is to ask the Gardener to inspect tubs at Merlin Drive which are waterlogged and which require moving back slightly from the road, 4) Cllr. Mrs. Walton is to inspect the recently planted willow tree which appears to be too close to the road near to the entrance to Lombard Drive.

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

c) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

1) Streetlight no. 442 at Picktree Lodge was still lit continuously. The Clerk will again advise this to the County Council. 2) A footpath between Picktree Lodge and Caxton Way was regularly flooded. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt suggested that raising the level of the path might provide a solution to the problem. County Cllr. May kindly agreed to take this forward. 3) At Northlands roundabout, many people were of the opinion that traffic was moving more freely at present, even though major works were being carried out there. 4) In the Parish, a small number of residents were allowing their garden hedges to overgrow footpaths. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt suggested that the Neighbourhood Wardens should be given powers to enforce residents to cut back overgrown hedges, as is the case in some other parts of the country, and County Cllr. May kindly agreed to take this forward. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Snaith to give his report.

d) Planning

Cllr. Snaith advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith 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 9. 14/20 Planting of Flower Beds

Councillors discussed the quality of the planting of those flower beds which were maintained by the County Council at the cost of the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Walton should enquire if the Gardener would have time available in future to maintain the beds. This matter is then to be discussed again at the March Parish Council meeting.

Item 10. 14/21 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

email re Low Flatts play area and trees at Queensmere.

Re the trees, the Clerk is to make enquiries with the Land Registry to ascertain their ownership.

2) From Lloyds Bank

Letter re "Online for Business" service.

3) From Chester-le-Street & District Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on Friday 21st March 2014.

4) From County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Notice of consultation re responses to emergency incidents.

5) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Notice of consultation re the Durham County Council Customer First Strategy.

Councillors agreed that communicating with the County Council left a lot to be desired. The Clerk is to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) email re community rights under the Localism Act.

c) email re access to planning evidence.

d) email re Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

e) email re attendance at a Royal Garden Party.

f) email re possible capping of precepts for 2015/16.

g) Agenda for the Local Councils Working Group meeting held on Wed. 5th February 2014.

h) Agenda for the Smaller Local Councils Forum meeting held on Friday 14th February 2014.

6) From Durham County Council

a) email re bus shelter at Northlands roundabout.

b) Notification of the AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 24th February 2014.

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

Refusal for erection of first-floor extension to rear of dwelling, at 132 Picktree Lodge.

Item 11. 14/22 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Feb 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Feb 2014	
Pot-It-On	£555.38	Horticulture	
D. Murrell (via printerinks.com)	£ 93.37	Printer & Copier Ink Cartridges	£15.56
Information Commissioner	£ 35.00	Data Protection Act Registration	
DSJ Property Services	£140.00	Refurbishment of Noticeboards	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 14/23 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

a) Cllr. Alderson advised that a stone wall at Pelaw Grange was failing. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

b) Cllr. Dr. Hartley and Cllr. Snaith advised that coping stones were coming off a wall at Picktree Village. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.17pm.



CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM

NORTH LODGE
PARISH

BEAT OFFICER – PC 2128 Lynda RICHARDSON

PCSO 6533 Lesley HUNTER

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REPORTING PERIOD 01/01/2014 to 31/01/2014

CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1
THEFT	1
YOUTH NUISANCE	0
BURGLARY	3
VEHICLE NUISANCE	0

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

1 incident reported of damage to tyres on a vehicle on North Road.

THEFT

A spare tyre was taken from a van on Low Flatts Road.

YOUTH NUISANCE

No reports.

BURGLARY

2 houses on Longdean Park and a shed on Blind Lane. Nothing was taken from the shed. A safe and its contents were taken from 1 property at Longdean Park.

VEHICLE RELATED NUISANCE

Nothing reported.

INFORMATION

During the long dark nights please try to leave a light on when going out to deter potential burglars as there have been several incidents locally recently.

Please remember to lock all valuables away if leaving in your vehicles and remove all traces of Sat Navs if stuck on windows etc. Also check that your vehicle is locked and the keys are not visible through a window or door as over 54% of all car crime in Chester le Street of the last 12 months is because the vehicle has been left unlocked.

Regular patrols have been made around Picktree Lodge by Officers, PCSO's and wardens. Northumbria officers have been involved.

If you get a phone call asking you to call an 0809 number back, don't. It will cost you over £1000.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any Police matters.

Thank You,

PCSO 6533 Lesley Hunter

Telephone 101

Lesley.hunter@durham.pnn.police.uk

Lynda.richardson@durham.pnn.police.uk

North Lodge Parish Council February Report
From County Councillor Peter May

Steps to North Road

Have put the project in Phil Smiths hands and will finance it from my LAMA budget

Drainage works to reduce flooding on North Road.

This will involve a little diversion works downstream at the junction of Lombard Drive and an overflow chamber opposite North Lodge.

The entrance to North Lodge will be lifted by just under 100mm to stop water flowing down road.

Works will be carried out after April.

The Community Economic Development Team (Central and East) in partnership with the Local Transport Plan Team has successfully secured funds to undertake a number of improvements aimed at revitalising the routes into Chester-Le-Street from the Railway Station into the Town Centre. I have attached for your perusal the design drawings detailing the proposed works to create a more positive impression for visitors leaving the Railway Station and encourage them to go into the Town Centre; by enhancing the visual appearance of the approach down from the Station into Front Street .

The works are due to **commence on 17th February 2014** starting with the entrance adjacent to St John Ambulance building and will be finishing with works to the Railway Station car park. While the car park works are being undertaken customers will not be able to leave their vehicle at the Station itself and will have to park elsewhere within Chester-Le-Street.

The proposed works that will be undertaken around the Railway Station are:

1. Station Road entrance adjacent St John Ambulance building
 - a. Installation of two new bollards,
 - b. Replace grassed area with new foot path and
 - c. Replace flags and resurface existing foot path.

2. Under the bridge in Station road/Avondale Terrace
 - a. Install new bollards with reflective banding.
 - b. New finger post and signs directing pedestrians into the Railway Station and the Town Centre.
 - c. Install two new gullies to improve drainage.
 - d. Replace the foot path under the bridge with new herringbone pattern bricks.

3. Railway Station car park
 - a. Resurface the car park and mark out parking bays on DCC owned land.
 - b. Differentiation between DCC owned land and Network Rails land will be made within the car park area (as per the request of Network Rail).
 - c. Installation of bollard.
 - d. Installation of cycle rack and new finger post.
 - e. Repairs to existing foot path.

4. Station Road leading away from the Railway Station
 - a. Replace the existing fence and handrail with a new black powder coated fence (refer to examples images below).
 - b. Replace existing foot path with a new bituminous foot path.
 - c. At mini round about install a pedestrian guard rail.

5. New finger post and sign to be installed in Osborne Road directing pedestrians either into the Town Centre or into the Railway Station.

Disabled Access Ramps

I am looking to see where these are needed around the area – please advise

New Play equipment for Merlin Drive

Agreed and awaiting my signature

Criminal Activity around North Lodge

House break-ins appear to be on the increase. I am looking for suggestions to see if I can help finance local anti crime initiatives

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th February 2014.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Feb 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Feb 2014	
Pot-It-On	£555.38	Horticulture	
D. Murrell (via printerinks.com)	£ 93.37	Printer & Copier Ink Cartridges	£15.56
Information Commissioner	£ 35.00	Data Protection Act Registration	
DSJ Property Services	£140.00	Refurbishment of Noticeboards	

Balance to 31st January 2014

Balance b/f	£34119.32	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - Jan 2014	<u>£ 3038.58</u>		Current	£ 890.74
	£31080.74		30 Day	<u>£30329.36</u>
			Total	£31220.10
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 139.36</u>
Balance c/f	£31080.74			£31080.74