

## 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> March 2014.

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

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

### **Item 1. 14/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. L. LeDune and Mrs. D. Prest.

### **Item 2. 14/25 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs. Forrester declared an interest in a matter relating to the ownership of land at Queensmere.

### **Item 3. 14/26 Report of the Police**

The Chairman welcomed PCSO's Amy Fleetham and Brian Donnelly to the meeting and invited them to give their report. PCSO Fleetham reported on the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). In addition, the Officers advised that, at present, there were extra patrols in the Lombard Drive area and that two arrests had been made in Park Road North for suspicious behaviour. PCSO Donnelly advised of a current telephone scam involving a false message that a relative was in distress. The Police Office in Newcastle Road was at present being re-furbished. The Chairman thanked the Officers for their report.

### **Item 4. 14/27 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). Re criminal activity, Cllr. Alderson suggested that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme could be re-vitalised. The Clerk will contact PCSO L. Hunter to propose this. Re capital works, the County Cllr. will enquire if the road surface at the east end of Lombard Drive is to be re-surfaced and if damaged sections of Picktree Lane will be attended to.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

### **Item 5. 14/28 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 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 6. 14/29 Chairman's Report**

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 14/14. Re the non-attendance of the Police at the February meeting, the Chairman had contacted Sgt. Paul Teare who had apologized for the omission.
- b) Re Minute 14/15. Re Park View Academy, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the Academy was considering how to accommodate meetings of local community groups.
- c) Re Minute 14/18 section a). The Clerk will contact the County Council to enquire when the recently installed seat at Merlin Drive play area will be re-sited.
- d) Re Minute 14/18 section b). Re the pond area at Drum Industrial Estate, there had been no further contact from the land agent. Councillors agreed, therefore, that Cllr. Mrs. Caygill should approach the Co-op to ask if they would tidy the path alongside its warehouse.
- e) Re Minute 14/21 section 1). Searches at the Land Registry had established that the land between Queensmere and North Road was owned by some residents of Queensmere. Councillors agreed to consider the appearance of the land in relation to other gardens throughout the Parish. County Cllr. May was concerned that one of the trees on the land might be dead or dying.

The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Re a raised bed for Barley Mow, Councillors agreed that it could be of the same design as the existing beds on North Road.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

## **Item 7. 14/30 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 recently installed seat awaited re-siting. For Low Flatts, the replacement swing had not yet been installed by the County Council. The Neighbourhood Wardens had still not yet installed a dog fouling warning sign. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and the Chairman were to attend a forthcoming County Council consultation meeting re fixed play provision.

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

**b) Highways and Website**

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

- 1) Streetlight no. 441 at Picktree Lodge was lit continuously. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council.
- 2) Re the roadworks at Northlands roundabout, no problems had been reported.
- 3) An overgrowing hedge at Lombard Drive had been attended to.
- 4) A collapsed pavement at Lombard Drive had been repaired.
- 5) Flower tubs in Merlin Drive had been moved back from the road edge.
- 6) The website was working well.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report 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 4).

Councillors discussed the planting of flower beds by the County Council and agreed that this should continue for this year with further consideration being given for the future. Re damage to daffodils, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had taken up the matter with Park View Academy.

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

**d) Publicity**

Cllr. Mrs. May advised Councillors that consideration should now be given to items for the Newsletter.

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

**e) Planning**

Cllr. Snaith advised that there were no matters to report.  
The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith.

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

**Item 8. 14/31 Correspondence**

- 1) From North Lodge Residents Association  
Agenda for meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- 2) From Arizona Chemical  
email re procedures at meetings.
- 3) From the North East War Memorials Project  
Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- 4) From the Campaign to Protect Rural England  
North East Newsletter - Spring 2014.
- 5) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
  - a) Notice of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting to be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
  - b) email re Digital Durham project.
  - c) Questionnaire re training for Councillors.
- 6) From Durham County Council
  - a) Press release re Beautiful Durham competition.
  - b) Notification of the AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
  - c) email re flood reduction works at the entrance to Lambton Park.
  - d) email re Chester-le-Street conservation area.
  - e) Letter re signalisation progress at Northlands Roundabout.
  - f) Letter re changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme.
  - g) Letter re fixed play provision consultation.
  - h) Press release - Durham County Council named Council of the Year.
- 7) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
  - a) Application for the erection of detached bungalow and garage, at 27 Blind Lane.
  - b) Approval for the erection of single storey extension to side of dwelling including construction of pitched roof across front of dwelling, at 106 Kingsmere.

**Item 9. 14/32 The Annual Risk Assessment**

The Clerk had prepared a draft Risk Assessment, copies of which had been previously circulated, and this was discussed and agreed by Councillors (Appendix 5, attached). Re a bus shelter survey, the Clerk will investigate when the next one is due. Re inspections of play equipment, the Clerk will ask the County Council if they can provide written copies.

**(Resolved** - to approve the annual Risk Assessment, as provided).

**Item 10. 14/33 Payment of Accounts**

	<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell			Salary/Exps. March 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund			Clerk's Pension March 2014	
Pot-It-On		£321.00	Horticulture	
D. Murrell (via HM Land Registry)		£ 6.00	Title Plan Searches	
E. Forrester		£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
HM Revenue & Customs		£220.00	PAYE	

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

**Item 11. 14/34 Other Matters for Consideration**

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Councillors discussed an offer from North Lodge Residents' Association to raise funds towards additional planting throughout the Parish. The Chairman is to contact the Chairman of the Association to obtain further details.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

**Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014.**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. April 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension April 2014	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
Co. Dhm Assn of Local Councils	£304.58	Annual Subscription	
Durham County Council	£310.80	Christmas Lights	£51.80

**Balance to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

Balance b/f	£29577.75	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2014	<u>£ 1376.04</u>		Current £ 872.35
	£28201.71		30 Day <u>£27343.32</u>
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 13.96</u>		Total £28215.67
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£28215.67		£28215.67



**CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM**

**NORTH LODGE**  
**PARISH**

**BEAT OFFICER – PC 2128 Lynda RICHARDSON**

**PCSO 6533 Lesley HUNTER**

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**REPORTING PERIOD 01/02/2014 to 28/02/2014**

<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>THEFT</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>YOUTH NUISANCE</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>VEHICLE NUISANCE</b>	<b>0</b>

## **CRIMINAL DAMAGE**

**Nothing reported.**

## **THEFT**

**Nothing reported.**

## **YOUTH NUISANCE**

**No reports.**

## **BURGLARY**

**An empty property on Lombard Drive was broken into, 1 property on North lodge whilst the owners were away and BOC had cable taken from the site.**

## **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. **Over 54% of all car crime in Chester le Street in the last 12 months is because the vehicles have 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](mailto:Lesley.hunter@durham.pnn.police.uk)**

**[Lynda.richardson@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lynda.richardson@durham.pnn.police.uk)**



# **North Lodge Parish Council Report March 2014**

## **From County Councillor Peter May**

### **Council Tax increase**

County Council 1.99% Police 1.99% Fire 1.98% Parish 2%

### **Steps to North Road**

Completed and looks good

### **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.

### **Railway Station**

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 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**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.

### **Cameras**

I have been in touch with Police Sgt Paul Teare (Chester le Street) who has sent me information about a rapid deployment and redeployable streetscene system

VIPA £2795 + VAT includes laptop. £2595 without Laptop - plug and play. Will need power supply and am in touch with County Council re implications.

1 Laptop will control up to 99 cameras.

### **Garden Waste collections**

The existing scheme will continue in 2014 and collections recommenced from Tuesday 18 March. There will be no charge for collections in 2014.

**Dangerous Pavements.**

I have requested that the County Council inspects the pavement between Northlands Roundabout and Camperdown Avenue. (Along Park Road North) Tree roots are raising the tarmac in many places causing a danger to pedestrians.

Inspection cover North Road.

On North Road on the pavement near pedestrian refuge Longdene park junction area. What looks like along inspection hatch is standing proud of the pavement.

Pedestrians are at risk of tripping and so please can you arrange for it to be repaired. Will be repaired within next week

**Roadworks update**

Northlands Roundabout – ahead of schedule and targeted to finish August (weather permitting)

**Capital Works Programme 2013/14 – North Lodge**

Please find below the list of highway works which are programmed to be carried out within your division this financial year. I would like to point out that this list may be subject to change throughout the year without notice.

Scheme Type	Road No	Location	Contractor	Status
Footways	Unc	Wear Lodge, North Lodge	Highway Services	Committed
Footways	A167	North Road (44 to 50), North Lodge	Highway Services	Committed
Carriageway Works	Unc	Lombard Drive, Chester Le Street	Highway Services	Committed
Carriageway Works	A693	Northlands Rbt, Chester Le Street (Contribution Only - S31 Funded)	Highway Services	Committed
Footway Surface Treatment	Unc	Picktree Lane, Chester-le-Street	Kiely Bros.	Committed
Footway Surface Treatment	Unc	Broadway, Chester-le-Street	Kiely Bros.	Committed
Micro Asphalt	Unc	Appledore Gardens, Chester-le-Street	Kiely Bros.	Committed
Surface Dressing	C8	Vigo Lane, Barley Mow, Ch-le-St	Kiely Bros.	Committed

1



10.03.14

**Extra £140m to help councils repair ‘most damaged’ roads**

Crisis funding to help councils deal with potholes and damaged roads following this winter’s extreme weather will be distributed “by

the end of this week”, the government says.

The new money is being allocated on condition that local authorities publish information on their websites by the end of August 2014 showing where the money has been spent.

Don't as yet know how much DCC will get - but will let you know.

#### AAP IMPROVEMENTS.

Along with many other residents I am concerned that the AAP is losing its focus and is not reporting at its Board Meetings, subjects that interest local residents. This is due to be discussed at a special meeting 31 March but unfortunately I cannot attend. I have therefor sent this memo to Andrew Megginson for consideration:

As you are aware I will be on holiday and regrettably will be unable to attend the meeting.

May I say from the outset that I appreciate the amount of hard work and preparation that you and your team applies to our AAP activities and the following comments are not a criticism of anyone - but situations evolve and change is often needed in order to survive.

During the last Board meeting I was supportive of the member of the public (Peter Usher) who gave constructive criticism of the way that Board meetings were held (content wise). I have for some while now held similar views and it is noticeable that public attendance at Board Meetings appears to be decreasing.

I would like to make the following comments in the hope that they might feature in the discussions at the Board Development Session:

- What exactly is the purpose of having an AAP? I believe that it should represent the views and aspirations of the local community and provide **meaningful and interesting feedback** to its community.
- Whilst I appreciate that currently Board Meetings are supposed to be for “The Board” to make decisions on AAP direction etc. we are now in danger of these meetings becoming BORD MEETINGS for members of the public and Board Members alike. Similar issues appear to be discussed time after time often with no specific reference to Chester Le Street and District.
- Most of the interesting topics for residents are discussed at the smaller committee meetings such as Environment or Town and Villages etc. but hardly any time is given to updating either The Board or public at a Board Meeting.
- I would like to see on the agenda a time allocated to the Chairs of each committee to enable them to give a brief report of their activities.
- The public also should be allowed time to ask questions of The Board or to make comments relating to Committee activities.
- We should also ensure that the public is informed about County Council initiatives and how to access them if applicable e.g. ongoing consultations – **how will they affect our area specifically**

Generally we need to be more user friendly and local. Perhaps the term Board Meetings should be renamed as Community Update Meetings

