

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 15th April 2014.

PRESENT: Chairman:	Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester
Councillors:	Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune, 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. 14/35 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Dr. D. Hartley and Mrs. D. Prest.

Item 2. 14/36 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 14/37 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Adrian Richards to the meeting and invited him to give the Police report. PCSO Richards reported on the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 1). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that there was still much evidence of anti-social behaviour at the wooded area between the A693 and Low Flatts play area. PCSO Richards offered to contact the Probation Service to carry out a clean-up although this would be dependent on the County Council thinning out the trees first which they had promised to do on several occasions in the past. The Clerk will again contact the County Council on this matter. The PCSO also advised that at present the Police contacts for the North Lodge area were PC Lynda Richardson and PCSO Christine Taylor.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for the report.

Item 4. 14/38 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). Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that some road surfaces at Merlin Drive and the east end of Lombard Drive were in the poorest condition of any in the Parish. The Clerk is to make a written request to the County Cllr. for repairs to be made. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill was concerned about the damage being done to plants during the Northlands roundabout works. The County Cllr. advised that there was an agreement in place between himself and the County Council to discuss restoration of the landscape after the completion of the works. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to request by way of compensation, funds to replace the plants taken away when the bus shelter was demolished as part of the Northlands works.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 14/39 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th March 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. 14/40 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 14/29 section b). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that Park View Academy hope to be able to offer facilities to community groups beginning within a month or so.
- b) Re Minute 14/29 section d). Re tidying of the path between Low Flatts play area and Drum Industrial Estate, there had been no reply to the request to Sustrans for help. The Clerk will again contact Sustrans.
- c) Re Minute 14/29 section e). Re the land between Queensmere and North Road, the Chairman kindly agreed to approach the various landowners there to ascertain if they were satisfied or not with the appearance of the land, and the Clerk will contact the Neighbourhood Wardens to seek their opinion.
- d) Re Minute 14/29. Re a raised bed for Barley Mow, the County Council had forwarded plans of the area showing that there were many utilities under the ground at the site. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to see if they can give any help in establishing if there is a suitable clear piece of ground.
- e) Re Minute 14/30 section a). The recently installed seat at Merlin Drive play area had now been moved by the County Council to its agreed position.
- f) Re Minute 14/30 section c). Re damage to daffodils, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had received a letter of apology from a student at Park View Academy. The student also stated that he would plant new bulbs in the autumn.
- g) Re Minute 14/34. Re flower tubs, the Chairman of the Residents' Association had advised that their application for funding had been turned down.

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

Item 7. 14/41 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.

1) For Merlin Drive, the replacement seesaw was still awaited. 2) For Low Flatts, the replacement swing had not yet been installed by the County Council, the safety surfacing had not yet been repaired by the County Council and the Neighbourhood Wardens had still not yet installed a dog fouling warning sign. The County Council had carried out an annual assessment of the play equipment which had shown that two pins were required on swings which the County Council had advised that they would attend to. 3) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and the Chairman had attended a County Council consultation meeting re fixed play provision. It appeared that the Parish was comparatively well provided for with play sites and equipment. Councillors discussed replies to questions on the consultation meeting feedback form.

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).

Re the entrance to North Lodge Lambton Park, County Cllr. May advised that he had been asked by several residents to pass on to the Parish Council compliments for the work done. Cllr. Mrs. May kindly agreed to ascertain whether residents would prefer grass seed or turf. Re the flower tubs throughout the Parish, Councillors agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Caygill that additional people (perhaps volunteers) should be sought to plant and maintain the tubs to enable the Gardener to concentrate on the increasing volume of other horticultural work in the Parish. County Cllr. May asked that a written proposal be drawn up by the Parish Council and the Residents' Association to be submitted to him for funding for the existing and additional tubs. Councillors agreed that a group consisting of three Councillors and three from the Residents' Association should be proposed to carry this forward. Re the small willow tree at the entrance to Lombard Drive, Councillors agreed to consider at the next Council meeting a more suitable site for the plant.

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 advised that a pile of material had been left by workers near to the entrance to Picktree Lodge. If it had not been removed over the next few days, the Clerk would be asked to contact the County Council to have the material taken away.

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 as the Newsletter was on the Agenda, there was nothing else to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. May.

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

Item 8. 14/42 Correspondence

- 1) From North Lodge Residents Association
email re grant for flowers and shrubs.
- 2) From 10 Downing Street
Letter re the new Employment Allowance.
- 3) From PCSO L. Hunter
email re Neighbourhood Watch.
- 4) From Grace House North East
Update re building work.
- 5) From the Rural Services Network
Invitation to join a rural sounding board.
- 6) From Community Lincs Insurance Services
Insurance renewal papers.

- 7) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
- Agenda for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting held on Friday 11th April 2014.
 - email re Police and Crime Commissioner Community Safety Fund.
 - Notification of the CDALC Smaller Councils Forum to be held on Thursday 15th May 2014.
 - email re a new audit framework for councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000.
 - email re electronic summons.
 - email re selection of new Vice-President for CDALC.
 - email re new model financial regulations.
- 8) From Durham County Council
- Press release re Green Pledge for Pelton Fell.
 - Grounds Maintenance Contract for signature.
 - Notification of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 24th April 2014.
 - Letter re community resilience drop-in session on Wednesday 30th April 2014.
 - Notification of the AAP "Have Your Say" event to be held on Monday 28th April 2014.
 - Annual play equipment inspection report for Low Flatts Play Area.
- 9) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following was within North Lodge Parish:-
Application for single storey extension to side and rear of property, at 79 Picktree Lodge.

Item 9. 14/43 The Newsletter

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that his wife would again be able to assist in the formulation of the Newsletter. Councillors expressed their thanks to Mrs. Noble-Nesbitt for her valuable help. Councillors discussed various items for consideration and Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt asked that all items be finalised by the May Parish Council meeting.

Item 10. 14/44 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. April 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension April 2014	
Pot-It-On	£281.78	Horticulture	
Co. DhM Assn of Local Councils	£304.58	Annual Subscription	
Durham County Council	£310.80	Christmas Lights	£51.80
D. Murrell (via Tesco)	£ 16.88	Envelopes and Stamps	£ 2.81

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 14/45 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

- Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that even though there had been only 5 volunteers for the Big Spring Clean, a total of 16 bags of litter had been collected as well as car parts, fencing and other debris. The Clerk is to send a thank you to the volunteers.
- The Chairman advised that she, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill, Cllr. Mrs. May and Cllr. Snaith had attended the recent CDALC Neighbourhood Plans Working Group meeting. Councillors agreed that an additional meeting should be held, following the next Working Group meeting, to discuss the way forward in North Lodge.

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 20th May 2014.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. May 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 2014	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
Comm Lincs Insurance Services	£780.01	Annual Insurance Premium	
St. Cuthbert's Hospice	£ 50.00	Donation	
D. Murrell (via Tesco)		Photocopy Paper	
<u>Balance to 30th April 2014</u>			
Balance b/f	£28215.67	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - April 2014	<u>£ 1595.68</u>		Current £ 913.77
	£26619.99		30 Day <u>£43889.45</u>
Add Precept + LCTSS Grant	<u>£18044.90</u>		Total £44803.22
	£44664.89		
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 1.23</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 137.10</u>
Balance c/f	£44666.12		£44666.12



CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM

NORTH LODGE
PARISH

BEAT OFFICER – PC 2128 Lynda Richardson

PCSO Adrian Richards
PCSO Christine Taylor

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REPORTING PERIOD 1st March to 31st March 2014

CRIMINAL DAMAGE	0
THEFT	7
YOUTH NUISANCE	1
BURGLARY	0
VEHICLE NUISANCE	0

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Nothing reported.

THEFT

Lambton Worm, unpaid food bill, enquiries ongoing
Blind lane, 2 large plant pots taken
North road, 2 planters taken with trees
Blind lane, 4 large plant pots taken
Blind lane, 2 box planters taken
Blind lane, 2 bay trees taken
Blind lane, 2 plant pots taken
All approximately on the 10th March, during or over night

YOUTH NUISANCE

Wheatsheaf Public house, children collecting wood opposite and believed to be ready to start a fire

BURGLARY

Nothing reported

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 Navigation systems if stuck on windows etc. Also check that your vehicle is locked and the keys are not visible through a window or door. **Up to 70% 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 a 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,

**Police officer Lynda Richardson
PCSO's Adrian Richards & Christine Taylor**

Telephone the police on 101

Adrian.richards@durham.pnn.police.uk

Christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk

Lynda.richardson@durham.pnn.police.uk

North Lodge Parish Council Report April 2014

From County Councillor Peter May

Security Cameras

Continuing to discuss with the Police options for security cameras.

Latest option is to have one camera strategically situated and integrated with the whole of Chester Le Street system and monitored 24 hours per day.

Cost £10150 + vat.

Not happy with this option as I think it unwarrented for our area. Would prefer several cameras placed around the area to be monitored if there was a specific reason /incident in the area.

Police Community Safety Fund £2000 available. – Needs application process from either the Parish Council or Residents Association.

Still in discussions.

Pavements

An order has been placed to repair pavements at the top of Park Road North suffering tree route damage. (my request 10 March)

Horticulture

Have agreed to fund the North Lodge Residents Association for plants which will be worked upon with the Parish Council (awaiting official request for monies)

Hedge at Cherry Banks.

Funding second cut for the hedge in September £144.00