

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester  
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Dr. D. Hartley, Mrs. L. LeDune,  
Mrs. M. May, Mrs. C. Walton, N. Alderson,  
C. Noble-Nesbitt, D. Snaith.

County Councillor: P. May

Two Residents

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

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

### **Item 1. 14/60 Apologies for Absence**

No Apologies for Absence were received.

### **Item 2. 14/61 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made. The Clerk reminded all Councillors that they were required to advise to him any changes in their Register of Disclosable Personal Interests.

Councillors agreed to take Item 5 next.

### **Item 5. 14/62 Visit by the Neighbourhood Wardens**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Hoynes (Team Leader) and Tom Watson from the County Council Neighbourhood Wardens. Councillors expressed concern re the difficulties previously experienced in contacting the Wardens who, in reply, stated that the telephone number for contact was 03000 261000, or 101 after 6pm for anti-social behaviour reports. Re a dog fouling sign for Low Flatts play area, the Wardens advised that they did not have a suitable metal sign. However, the Wardens advised that to help reduce instances of dog fouling in the Parish, they would introduce the Civic Pride scheme to local schools and would initiate the Green Dog Walker scheme in the area. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that new lampposts did not yet have dog fouling stickers applied. The Wardens agreed to follow this up. The Wardens also advised that complaints re overhanging hedges were the responsibility of the Planning Enforcement Team.

The Chairman thanked the Wardens for their advice.

### **Item 3. 14/63 Report of the Police**

The Police were not present at the meeting but had provided a written report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk.

Councillors agreed to take part of the Horticulture report next.

#### **Item 8 (part). 14/64 Horticulture**

The Chairman invited the representatives of North Lodge Residents' Association to give an up-date re funding for proposed additional flower tubs for the Parish. The Association advised that funding could be obtained for the purchase and installation, including two plantings, of the tubs in the first year. However, this funding would be dependant on funding of £1000 being available from elsewhere for planting of the tubs after that. The Association, therefore, requested that the Parish Council provide this funding. Councillors discussed this request and agreed to provide £1000 for the second year.

**(Resolved** - to provide funding of £1000 for planting the flower tubs in year 2 of the project).

The Chairman then took the opportunity to apologise to the Association re Minute 14/40 section g, which had incorrectly stated that the Association had been unsuccessful in a funding application for the tubs whereas in fact the Association had not at that time submitted any application. This apology was accepted by the Association.

At this point, the residents left the meeting.

#### **Item 4. 14/65 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. 14/66 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 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. 14/67 Chairman's Report**

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 14/55 section a). Re seats for the Drum pond area, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that she had met on site a representative of Cestria Housing and the positions for the two new seats had been agreed.

b) Re Minute 14/55 section b). Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that a spike had now been welded to the plaque.

The Chairman advised that she had no matters to report.

#### **Item 8 (part). 14/68 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. May to give her report.

**a) Publicity** Cllr. Mrs. May advised that the Newsletter was progressing well. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that the draft was now with the printers. The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and his wife for all their work in preparing the Newsletter. The Chairman will buy flowers for Mrs. Noble-Nesbitt.

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

#### **b) Highways and Website**

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3). The Clerk is to action sections c and d of the report. County Cllr. May advised that he might be able to assist with funding for dog bins. The website was working well.

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

**c) Play Areas** Cllr. Mrs. Caygill's report included the following matters.

The damaged seat of the junior swings at Low Flatts had now been replaced. There was graffiti on the climbing frame at Merlin Drive. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council. A report re the Drum pond and path will be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

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

Re weeding of beds, an item will be included in the Newsletter reminding residents that their involvement will be very welcome but that they must first contact either Cllr. Mrs. Walton or the Gardener. The two flower beds on North Road had now been planted by the County Council. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report and invited Cllr. Snaith to give his report.

**e) Planning**

Cllr. Snaith advised that he and Cllr. Mrs. May had attended the recent Neighbourhood Planning Group meeting and he outlined the matters that had been discussed there.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report.

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

### **Item 9. 14/69 Correspondence**

1) From North Lodge Residents' Association  
email re April Minutes.

2) From Bullion Community Resource Centre  
Invitation to AGM to be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

3) From the Campaign to Protect Rural England  
North East Newsletter - Summer 2014.

4) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Invitation to planning system information event to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

The Chairman and Cllr. Snaith are to attend this event.

b) email re appointment of Vice Presidents and proposed arrangements following withdrawal of the County Council's financial support on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

c) Notification of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014..

d) email re County Durham Environment Awards 2014.

e) email re employer choices in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

f) email re deficits in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

5) From Durham County Council

a) Notification of the AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014.

b) email re employer choices in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

c) email re Durham County Council Pension Fund draft Funding Strategy Statement and Statement of Investment Principles.

d) Notification of the AAP Improved Environment group meeting to be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

e) email re sale of Windlestone Hall.

f) Notification of the Durham Community Action Volunteering Awards 2014.

g) email re Civil Contingencies Officers.

h) email re Registers of Interests.

i) email re vacancy for an AAP Board Public Representative.

- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for advertisement consent for 46 sponsorship signs on 13 roundabouts, at various roundabouts in the former District of Chester-le-Street.
  - b) Approval for retrospective advertisement consent for one banner sign on fencing and one fascia sign on hoarding, at car park at Pelaw Grange Greyhound Stadium.
  - c) Approval for erection of two storey side extension, at 44 Lyndhurst Avenue.

**Item 10. 14/70 Approval of the Accounting Statements**

Councillors discussed the Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statements.

(**Resolved** - to approve the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014).

**Item 11. 14/71 Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit**

Councillors discussed the system and agreed that it was robust and effective.

**Item 12. 14/72 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement**

Councillors discussed the Annual Governance Statement for 2013 / 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statement.

(**Resolved** - to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2013 / 2014).

**Item 13. 14/73 An Overall Amount for Donations**

Councillors discussed an overall amount for donations during the financial year 2014 / 2015 and agreed an amount of £200.

(**Resolved** - to set an overall amount of £200 for donations during the financial year 2014 / 2015).

**Item 14. 14/74 Requests for Donations**

Councillors discussed the outstanding requests for donations and agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Great North Air Ambulance.

**Item 15. 14/75 Review of Chairman's Allowance, Salaries, Wages and Expenses**

Councillors discussed these payments and agreed that no changes should be made except for the Clerk's salary which is subject to the national agreement.

**Item 16. 14/76 Adoption of New Financial Regulations**

Councillors discussed the draft regulations, copies of which had been previously circulated, which had been provided by the National Association of Local Councils and agreed that Cllr. Dr. Hartley should prepare a presentation to be given before the September Parish Council meeting.

**Item 17. 14/77 Adoption of Policies for the Local Government Pension Scheme**

Councillors discussed the draft policies, copies of which had been previously circulated, which had been provided by Durham County Council and agreed that the Chairman and Cllr. Dr. Hartley are to request further information and guidance from the County Council.

**Item 18. 14/78 Review of Bank Account Signatories**

The Clerk advised that, as at present there were only three signatories to the bank account, it would be preferable to have additional signatories. Councillors discussed this and agreed that a decision should be taken after the adoption of new financial regulations.

**Item 19. 14/79 Payment of Accounts**

	<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell			Salary/Exps. June 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund			Clerk's Pension June 2014	
Pot-It-On		£397.99	Horticulture	
E. Forrester		£150.00	Chair's Qtly. Allowance	
HM Revenue & Customs		£212.60	PAYE	
I. Herberson		£ 40.00	Internal Audit Fee	

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

**Item 20. 14/80 Other Matters for Consideration**

There were no matters submitted for consideration.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

**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> July 2014.**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. July 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension July 2014	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 50.00	Donation	
Ian Norwood	£ 40.00	Erect Tree Guard Plaque	
JAK Print & Design	£384.00	Printing of Newsletters	£64.00

**Balance to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Balance b/f	£46090.08	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - June 2014	<u>£ 1482.23</u>		Current £ 2216.64
	£44607.85		30 Day <u>£42391.21</u>
			Total £44607.85
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	£ <u>    </u> Nil
Balance c/f	£44607.85		£44607.85



**CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM**

**NORTH LODGE**  
**PARISH**

**BEAT OFFICER – PC 2128 Lynda Richardson**

**PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor**

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**REPORTING PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>THEFT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ASB NUISANCE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>VEHICLE NUISANCE</b>	<b>0</b>

## CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Nothing reported.

## THEFT

Money Stolen, Newcastle Road.

Theft of Machinery, North Lands Round about.

## ASB NUISANCE

2 reports of Off Road Bikes.

Youths causing a nuisance, Ambleside Court.

## BURGLARY

Nothing reported.

## VEHICLE RELATED NUISANCE

Nothing reported.



## **INFORMATION**

**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.****

**In the Hot weather please lock your doors and windows when you out in the garden to prevent sneak in burglars.**

**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 Christine Taylor**

**Telephone the police on 101**

**[christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christine.taylor@durham.pnn.police.uk)**

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

## **County Councillor Peter May**

### **Report - North Lodge Parish Council Meeting June 2014**

#### **Giving cold callers the cold shoulder**

Residents are getting help to give cold callers the cold shoulder as trading standards officers join forces with Durham Constabulary.

People in Hamsterley Mill, and West Auckland, will be getting stickers to warn unwanted callers to stay away and signs are going up on lampposts to warn them that they are not welcome. Residents will also get handy booklets detailing useful tips on dealing with rogue callers.

Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection, Durham County Council, said: "Residents need to be on their guard against bogus callers and aggressive salesmen who won't take no for an answer. These schemes will help to reassure householders and send out a clear message that cold callers are not welcome.

"Working in partnership with the Police we are keen to help residents take control of dealing with unwanted callers at the door. Where traders are found to be breaking the law, this will be taken up with them."

A cold caller awareness zone was launched in Ouston, Chester-le-Street, at the start of June as part of an on-going rolling programme throughout County Durham.

The booklet is available by contacting trading standards at Durham County Council on 03000 261 016.

For further information on consumer rights please contact the Consumer Helpline on 03454 040 506

I have asked how I can instigate a scheme for North Lodge and am awaiting a call from

Awaiting Alison Jude to contact me this week regarding cold calling awareness zones.

Alison leads on the roll out of the zones across the county where there is evidence to support the need for a zone and community consultation is in favour of a zone being established.

#### **Park View Academy North Lodge** – Mugga (In response to Cllr Caygill request for support)

Planning has not received any application as yet – however the mugga may not require planning permission dependent upon its position. Lighting also may be ok but this may depend upon height of posts. Planning department advises that the school contacts them to discuss their plans before submission. – spoke to Graham Blakey – Planning Officer

#### **War Memorial**

Just had some bad news. 5 of the panels for the memorial have

been broken they have immediately been reordered. This will delay the launch of the memorial which was to be 27th July.

#### **Northlands Roundabout update road closures 19 July to end of August**

**I asked how the residents of Blind Lane, Park Road North and Newcastle Road would be made aware of the proposed temporary closures.**

Dear Cllr May,

In response to your email below, I can confirm that advance publicity will be put in place as follows;

Advance signs will be erected 2 weeks before the closure to warn motorists of potential delays.

Our Variable Message Signs will be erected approx. one week before the closure to reinforce the message.

A press release will be issued in the run up to the closure.

A progress update letter will be issued to residents in the vicinity of the roundabout. This will be circulated to the same properties as the previous update letter.

A separate letter will be sent to those residents that are directly affected by the works during the closure.

There will also be one-to-one contact between the site team and residents when we are working directly in front of properties to ensure access can be maintained when required. Some disruption will be unavoidable however we will do all we can to keep it to a minimum.

This final phase of the work has been programmed to coincide with the summer school holidays in order to minimise disruption.

The nature of the work to be undertaken during this period has dictated that it cannot be done without closing half of the road.

When the road re-opens, traffic will be using the new road layout to travel between Park Road North, Newcastle Road and Northlands Roundabout.

I should also clarify that the eastbound closure on Blind Lane will not be in place for the full six week period. We will be working on this section over the forthcoming weeks and hope to complete most of the work before the closure. An application has been made for this closure as a "safety net" should we not be able to safely complete the work with the road open.

I will forward you copies of the letters and press release when prepared. If you would like to discuss this matter further please give me a ring.

Regards

Tony Hicks

Highway Services

Tel 03000 265288



*Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

**To Report**

- A.** In **Wear Lodge** the County Council's replacement of flagstones continues, with tree roots appearing to be dealt with – the probable cause of flagstone uplifting.
- B. Northlands Roundabout project:** The DCC TRO for the school summer holiday period (Blind Lane westward flow only, Park Road southward flow only) seems very likely to cause considerable traffic problems for some of this period, although the County Council will make every effort to minimise the actual time periods that the TRO will be used.

**For Action**

- C. Picktree Lodge footpaths:** On the footpath between numbers 65 and 67, there are two large metal covers that may fall foul of the 2 cm ridge criteria. The path surface at the side of number 67, very much used, adjacent to the earth works carried out for baffle bank drainage, is the worst in Picktree Lodge and should be considered for renewal.
- D. Dog Bins:** Given the number of dog walkers using Picktree Lodge, there is a case to be made for placing a bin in at least one, or better two, locations near or on the three grassed areas linking the east side of the estate with the motorway baffle bank. There are cul-de-sacs for easy vehicle access to these areas.

*C N-N*

*17/06/2014*