

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 July 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. 14/81 Apologies for Absence

No Apologies for Absence were received.

Item 2. 14/82 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

Item 3. 14/83 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.

Item 4. 14/84 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 5. 14/85 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th June 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. 14/86 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 14/62. Re dog fouling, Councillors agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Caygill that a large sign should be bought for the post at the entrance to Low Flatts play area, and that the County Council should be asked to install litter bins at the Sustrans bridge entrance to the play area and at the Drum pond.
- b) Re Minute 14/64. The Chairman thanked the Residents' Association whose hard work in moving and planting the flower tubs was very much appreciated.

- c) Re Minute 14/67 section a). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill gave an up-date re the Drum pond area. The Cestria seats had not yet been installed, overgrowing vegetation along the path was to be cut back by the County Council and agents for the owners of the pond area land had advised that they hoped to make proposals for the land in a few months time. However, the Co-op had not responded to any requests for contact. The Clerk will write again to the Co-op.
- d) Re Minute 14/68 section a). Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that the flowers delivered to Mrs. Noble-Nesbitt by the Chairman had been greatly appreciated.
- e) Re Minute 14/68 section b). County Cllr. May considered that a dog waste bin was required at the parking area at the entrance to Picktree Lodge.
- f) Re Minute 14/78. Re bank account signatories, Councillors agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Forrester and Cllr. Snaith were to be added to the authorized signatories. The Clerk is to make the necessary arrangements.
- (Resolved** - to add Cllr. Mrs. Elsie Forrester and Cllr. David Snaith to the authorized signatories for the bank accounts).

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

Item 7. 14/87 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

a) Highways and Website

- 1) Re the forthcoming temporary closure to traffic of sections of Blind Lane and Park Road North as part of the Northlands roundabout works, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt wondered what consideration the County Council had given to peak time traffic flows as it appears that it may be very difficult for some traffic to make reasonable progress in waiting to enter Northlands roundabout from Blind Lane and particularly for entry to the roundabout at the bypass end of Park Road North. The use of temporary holding traffic lights on the east traffic flow down the A693 and on the northerly traffic flow of Park Road Central (near the petrol station) are worthy of consideration but the gradual use of alternative routes by individual motorists (via Vigo Lane, for example) may do enough without needing County Council intervention. 2) Re-surfacing of footpaths at Low Flatts Road and Wear Lodge has been completed by the County Council. 3) In the Queensmere area, gas mains replacement has progressed well. 4) In Merlin Drive, the northern section of the road has been patched to a good standard and continued for some way around into the east end of Leander Avenue but the southern part of Merlin Drive, the east end of Lombard Drive and most of Leander Avenue have not been touched. The Clerk will ask the County Council if further patching will be done, in line with its June forecast. 5) Between numbers 15 and 41 Picktree Lodge (along the gable ends), the footpath is uneven with long cracks which fail the 2cm safety test and therefore require attention. County Cllr. May will follow this up. 6) The renewed Durham County Council G.I.S. mapping reveals some very interesting County Council land ownership matters, including within Picktree Lodge and the grassed area between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge. 7) Copies of the Newsletter are available to Councillors for distribution. A copy of the Newsletter will be added to the website. 8) Some photographs and captions on the website are being up-dated. 9) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that several residents in Lyndhurst Avenue had reported flooding there to the County Council. County Cllr. May is to follow this up.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his 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 flower beds at Lombard Drive and Kingsmere, the Clerk is to thank the County Council and also to ask if the County Council intends to water the beds whenever necessary. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the entrance to Low Flatts play area near to the Sustrans bridge was overgrown. Cllr. Mrs. Walton will ask the gardener to cut back the vegetation. Cllr. Mrs. Walton will also try to locate the plaque for the millennium yew tree. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report and invited Cllr. Mrs. May to give her report.

c) Publicity

Cllr. Mrs. May gave a report on the recent meeting of the Chester-le-Street Area Committee of the County Durham Association of Local Councils which she had attended. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. May for her report and invited Cllr. Snaith to give his report.

d) Planning

Cllr. Snaith advised that the Public Examination of the County Durham Plan was to commence with a pre-hearing meeting on 31st July. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report.

e) Play Areas

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the replacement seesaw for Merlin Drive play area had not yet been installed. The Clerk will ask the County Council for an up-date. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report.

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

Item 8. 14/88 Correspondence

- 1) From North Lodge Residents' Association
Agenda for meeting held on Monday 14th July 2014.
- 2) From JAK Publications
"Thank You" note.
- 3) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) email re Census data.
 - b) Notification of Smaller Local Councils Forum meeting to be held on 25th July 2014.
 - c) Notification of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting to be held on 12th Sept. 2014.
 - d) email re consultation on cessation of smoking in playgrounds.
 - e) email re County Durham Compact.
 - f) email re media coverage.
 - g) email re "Local Councils Explained" publication.
 - h) email re employer choices in the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- 4) From Durham County Council
 - a) Notice of review of polling districts and polling places.
 - b) email re Digital Inclusion event to be held on Tuesday September 9th 2014.
 - c) email re the County Durham Plan examination in public.
 - d) email re Temporary Prohibition of Driving Order, A693 Blind Lane & B6290 Park Road North.
 - e) email re road improvements at the A1(M) junction 63 and at Picktree Lane roundabout.
- 5) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following was within North Lodge Parish:-
Approval for porch and pitched roof over front room bay window, at 16 Wear Lodge.

Item 9. 14/89 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. July 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension July 2014	
Pot-It-On	£ 95.00	Painting Bus Shelters	
Pot-It-On	£305.49	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

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

Item 10. 14/90 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

- a) Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that the electricity sub-station at 1 Leander Avenue required tidying. The Clerk will advise the power company accordingly.
- b) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill gave an up-date regarding the plans of Park View School, Lombard Drive site, to be available to the public outside of school hours, including as a meeting place for the Parish Council. Councillors discussed this and decided that the facilities available at present were not to the standard required. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will ask the School what else could be done to provide a suitable meeting place there.
- c) Cllr. Dr. Hartley gave a presentation on the adoption of policies for the Local Government Pension Scheme. A document for agreement at the September Parish Council meeting will be circulated.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th September 2014.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug & Sept 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug & Sept 2014	
D. Murrell (via Sainsbury's)	£ 33.48	Postage Stamps	
Pot-It-On	£408.45	Horticulture - August	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture - September	
Co. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£ 41.39	Purchase of Book	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Qtly Allowance	
HM Revenue & Customs		PAYE	

Balance to 31st July 2014

Balance b/f	£44607.85	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2014	<u>£ 1555.93</u>		
	£43051.92		
		Current	£ 700.71
		30 Day	<u>£42391.21</u>
		Total	£43091.92
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 40.00</u>
Balance c/f	£43051.92		£43051.92



CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM

NORTH LODGE **PARISH**

BEAT OFFICER – PC 2128 Lynda Richardson

PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor

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REPORTING PERIOD 1st June to 30th June 2014

CRIMINAL DAMAGE	3
THEFT	1
ASB NUISANCE	6
BURGLARY	5
VEHICLE NUISANCE	0

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

3) Garage in Northlands, Simpson Brothers damage to wagon curtains, Police Station Damage to front doors.

THEFT

1) South Pelaw garden furniture.

ASB NUISANCE

6) Springfield Gardens, loud music. Elm Way, off road bikes. Picktree, neighbour dispute. Chalmers View, Noisy party. Pelaw Grange, off road bikes. Northlands, noisy party.

BURGLARY

5) Drum Industrial Estate, 5 units broken into.

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

lynda.richardson@durham.pnn.police.uk

North Lodge Parish Council Report
County Councillor Peter May
July 2014 Report

Refuse Collection (Household non Recyclable)

Due to the recent industrial action - Bins that were due to be emptied on Thursday 10th July were not emptied. Unfortunately unless there is an emergency, households will have to wait until 24th July for the waste to be collected. I have been assured by Terry Collins Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services that extra refuse will be collected if left with the bin.

Rickleton Avenue closed Wednesday/Thursday 16/17th July to repair a collapsed drain. Residents will still have access.

North Lodge Flooding

On Thursday 3 July the water main burst in North Lodge flooding the road and residents gardens. The sand has blocked the gullies and the surface tarmac of the road has lifted due to water undermining the surface. NWL are looking at repairing the road and have instigated a clear up of properties affected.

Northumbrian Water/ Kingsmere issue.

There are no immediate plans for road closures to do with NWL. However there is a meeting in August with the DCC Network Manager Roger Culpin and the utility companies to discuss their long term plans and I have asked for a report re any North Lodge issues

Durham County Council's tree policy

The tree management policy

The policy brings all tree management procedures together into one document and explains:

- how our 'highways tree inspection programme' will work (from January 2013)
- how we will deal with complaints and reports about our trees
- how we prioritise work and the reasons why work will or won't be done
- how and why we manage our tree stock
- what powers we have over trees on private land
- how the policy will affect planning and development control
- how we make decisions and what affects the decisions

It will also encourage others people who are responsible for trees to take a positive approach to the management of the trees in their care.

Risk We will work to a risk-based approach to tree management: a programme of inspection identifying and prioritising potential hazards. The cycle of inspection for trees will be set according to their location and area of risk. Highway trees are considered the highest priority.

Equality and Diversity An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached at Appendix 3. Where issues arise relating to the needs of disabled, infirm or elderly people the presumption in favour of tree protection will be weighted against those needs on a case by case basis. This approach recognises the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to advance equality of opportunity for

disabled people, as well as other people with protected characteristics specified in the Act.

Trees on Council Land and action required by Council.

Priority 1 - A tree could warrant immediate attention if, for example

- it has snapped or blown over;
- it is rocking (roots are damaged);
- it is uprooted but held up by another tree or building;
- a large branch has broken off or is hanging off the tree;
- it or its branch is blocking the road or footway / public right of way;
- it or its branch is blocking access to property;
- it has fallen on to a structure, such as a building or car.

Shading and Loss of Light

9.6.1 Trees are often perceived to block light to nearby properties.

However, pruning or removal of trees will often have a negligible Corporate Tree Management Policy

impact on the amount of light reaching a house or garden.

Therefore, tree works to improve light levels will not normally be considered. However we will consider taking action (pruning or felling) in the following circumstances:

if the height of the tree is more than 12metres and the distance between the base of the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than 5metres;

if the height of the tree if less than 12 metres and the distance between the base of the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than half the height of the tree (where the separation between the edge of the tree canopy and a vertical line through that window is less than 2metres).

9.6.2 A 'habitable room' is a dining room, lounge, kitchen, study or bedroom but not a WC, bathrooms, utility room, landing or and hallway.

9.6.3 Where elderly, infirm or disabled persons who spend a significant amount of time within their home are affected there will be flexibility to look at some intervention. Where it can be established that the presence of trees is detrimental to the health of such residents, further consideration will be given to the management approach to trees. This consideration will also take into account the quality and importance of the tree in question, as well as the benefits to the wider community.

9.6.4 If natural light is being blocked by the growth of a high hedge then action may be taken under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (see Anti-social Behaviour – High Hedges).

9.7 Loss

Damage to walls and fences

If a tree on County Council owned land is found to be causing damage to a neighbouring property we will investigate and take action as appropriate.

It is often possible to rebuild or repair garden walls and fences to take account of adjacent trees. This can be achieved in a number of ways (for example installing a section of railing or bridging foundations around the base of a tree). **Therefore where trees are considered to be causing**

damage to walls or fences, we will normally only consider tree removal if the walls or fence is irreplaceable and of exceptional importance e.g. a retaining wall or of historical interest, or if there is a risk to public health in leaving the tree which cannot otherwise be mitigated. If a damaged wall or fence was constructed after planting of the tree, it may mean that the design or construction has failed to take the presence of nearby trees into account.

Northlands roundabout/ Blind Lane/ Park Road North traffic measures which are supposed to be in place from the 19th July.

Following consultation with the Network Manager and Police the only way the works can be safely completed is to close Park Road North and Blind Lane in one direction. In order to minimise the disruption this will cause the work is planned to coincide with the school summer holidays.

Not allowing for adverse weather or unforeseen conditions, the works are currently programmed to be complete by 8th September.

Riverside Paddling Pool Reopening

All tests have now been carried out and risk assessments and operating procedures reviewed. The pool will open on Saturday 19th July as planned; it will open daily from 10:00am until 6:00pm and will close on the 31st August.