

## NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

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

County Councillor: P. May  
A Resident

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone, in particular resident John Waugh who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor.

### **Item 1. 14/91 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Mrs. M. Caygill.

### **Item 2. 14/92 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

### **Item 3. 14/93 Report of the Police**

The Police were not present at the meeting but had provided two written reports (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk. PC Lynda Richardson had now left the Police and the role of Beat Officer was presently vacant.

### **Item 4. 14/94 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 Northlands roundabout, Cllr. Mrs. LeDune expressed concern regarding the road layout approaching the roundabout northwards on Newcastle Road. County Cllr. May advised that he expected the County Council to be monitoring the performance of the roundabout as soon as the works were fully completed. Re garden waste, Cllr. Alderson asked if the County Council received any income from the resulting compost. County Cllr. May will make enquiries about this. The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

### **Item 5. 14/95 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 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. 14/96 Chairman's Report**

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 14/86 section a). The Clerk will ask the County Council if litter bins are now in stock.
- b) Re Minute 14/86 section c). Re the Drum pond area, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and Cllr. Snaith had met two members of the Co-op Community Group who had agreed to clear weeds, vegetation and litter from the area. They would also repair a length of fencing if the Council would provide the wood for this. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had obtained a quote of £35 for the wood and Councillors agreed that this amount could be spent.
- c) Re Minute 14/87 section a) 5). County Cllr. May had advised the County Council of the failing footpath at 15-41 Picktree Lodge and he would follow this up as necessary.
- d) Re Minute 14/87 section b). Cllr. Mrs. Walton advised that vegetation at the Sustrans bridge entrance to Low Flatts play area had been cut back but required a further cut which the gardener would carry out soon. Cllr. Mrs. Walton was also to search her garage for the plaque for the millennium yew tree.
- e) Re Minute 14/87 section d). Cllr. Snaith advised that the recent pre-hearing meeting for the Public Examination of the County Durham Plan had set out the timetable for the Examination.
- f) Re Minute 14/90 section a). Cllr. Mrs. LeDune advised that the Leander Avenue sub-station had not yet been tidied. The Clerk will again request the utility company to carry out the work.

The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Re the play areas no smoking consultation, Councillors supported the proposed initiative, and Cllr. Mrs. Caygill and the Clerk are to complete the questionnaire accordingly.

## **Item 7. 14/97 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

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

### **a) Highways and Website**

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 4).

Re the utilities/communications pole at Northlands roundabout, the Clerk will advise the County Council.

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

### **b) Publicity**

Cllr. Mrs. May advised that there were no matters to report.

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

### **c) Planning**

Cllr. Snaith gave a report on the recent County Council Planning Department training session which had been informative.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith for his 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 5).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report.

### **e) Play Areas**

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had advised the Clerk that a new swing, to replace a damaged one, had been installed by the County Council at Merlin Drive play area.

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

## **Item 8. 14/98 Correspondence**

1) From Great North Air Ambulance  
Letter of thanks re donation.

2) From a resident  
Copy letter to Northumbrian Water re burst water main at 74/98 Kingsmere.

3) From a resident  
email re overhanging trees and hedges.

4) From Hamsterley & Upper Gaunless Action Group  
email re wind turbines at Windy Bank.

Councillors agreed that a message of support should be sent to the Group which was opposing an application for the installation of wind turbines.

5) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils  
a) email re proposal for a proportion of business rates for Parish Council purposes.  
b) email re Ministerial reshuffle.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government is now Kris Hopkins MP, replacing Brandon Lewis MP.

- c) Agenda for Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2014.
- d) email re consultation on cessation of smoking in playgrounds.
- e) email re community projects and the County Durham Youth Offending Service.
- f) email re recording of meetings.

Statutory Instrument 2014 no. 2095 brought into force on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 the provision for members of the public and press to be able to film, tweet and blog Council meetings.

- g) email re "Governance & Accountability for Local Councils - A Practitioners' Guide".
- h) email re election of Vice-Presidents for CDALC.
- i) email re the Police and Crime Commissioner Safety Fund.
- j) email re media release from NALC re fracking money for local councils.
- k) email re matters arising from the recent County Council planning session.
- l) email re "Up Front" neighbourhood planning newsletter.
- m) email re draft audit code for Councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000.
- n) email re governance procedures.
- o) email re training courses.
- p) email re changes to the County Council Pension Section.

6) From Durham County Council  
a) email re trees in Low Flatts Road.  
b) email re Christmas Lights 2014.

Councillors agreed to accept the quote of £246.68 + VAT for the dressing and undressing of the tree with the lights.

- c) email re the County Durham Plan examination in public.
- d) Notification of the AAP Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- e) Press release re contact number for Neighbourhood Wardens (03000 261 000).
- f) Letter re 2015/16 budget setting.
- g) Letter re Northlands roundabout resurfacing works.

At this point, the resident left the meeting.

- 7) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Outline application for erection of a detached bungalow with detached garage, including details of access and landscaping (all other matters reserved), at 7 Eastlands.
  - b) Application for demolition of porch and erection of sun room to front, at 7 Picktree Farm Cottages.
  - c) Application for installation of new synthetic sports pitch with associated floodlights and fence enclosure, at Park View Comprehensive School, Lombard Drive.
  - d) Application for erection of 12 no. town houses, at site of former Pelaw Grange Cottage, North Road.

Councillors discussed this application and agreed that objections should be raised re over-development of the site, and highways issues.

- e) Approval for retrospective application to change the use of the car park for a motor cycle training business 9am to 5pm Mon-Fri (inclusive) and for the erection of two steel containers and a temporary cabin, at Car Park at the Grange Club (Birtley) Ltd, Pelaw Grange Greyhound Stadium.
- f) Approval for outline application for erection of a detached bungalow with detached garage, including details of access and landscaping (all other matters reserved), at 7 Eastlands.

At this point, the resident returned to the meeting.

**Item 9. 14/99 Policies for the Local Government Pension Scheme**

Under the Pension Scheme regulations, the Council was required to have a written policy in relation to five specific discretions (Appendix 6, attached). Councillors agreed that the Council's policy for each of the discretions will be that "North Lodge Parish Council will not exercise this discretion".

**(Resolved** - that the policy for each of the five discretions will be that the Council will not exercise the discretion).

**Item 10. 14/100 Adoption of new Financial Regulations**

Cllr. Dr. Hartley offered to prepare a draft document for the November meeting of the Council. Councillors accepted her offer with thanks.

**Item 11. 14/101 Payment of Accounts**

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary Aug & Sept 2014	
D. Murrell		Expenses 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	£288.00	Horticulture - September	
Co. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils	£ 41.39	Purchase of Book	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Qtly Allowance	
HM Revenue & Customs	£212.80	PAYE	
Durham County Council	£3204.00	Purchase of six seats	£534.00

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

**Item 12. 14/102 Other Matters for Consideration**

The following matters were submitted for consideration.

a) County Cllr. May advised that there was a seat available, it having had to be removed due to the Northlands roundabout development. He would welcome suggestions for a new site for the seat.

b) The Chairman introduced John Waugh to Councilors who discussed with Mr. Waugh his interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

**(Resolved** - to co-opt Mr. John Waugh as a Parish Councillor).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm.

**North Lodge Parish Council**

**Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014.**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
D. Murrell		Salary Oct 2014	
D. Murrell		Expenses Oct 2014	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Oct 2014	
D. Murrell (via Archer Signs Ltd)	£ 53.10	No Dog Fouling Sign	£ 8.85
Pot-It-On		Horticulture	
BDO LLP	£240.00	Audit Fee	£ 40.00
Charleton Fencing Ltd	£ 33.00	Timber for Drum Project	

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

Balance b/f	£43051.92	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Aug/Sept 2014	<u>£ 5701.20</u>		Current £ 459.51
	£37350.72		30 Day <u>£36891.21</u>
			Total £37350.72
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£37350.72		£37350.72



**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> July to 31st July 2014**

<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>THEFT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ASB NUISANCE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VEHICLE NUISANCE</b>	<b>0</b>

# 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014

## **Burglary 1**

- 1) Drum Industrial Estate, Access gained into a metal container.

## **Theft 3**

- 1) South Pelaw garden furniture and trampoline, by a crap van.
- 2) North Lodge, theft of mail box.
- 3) Aldi Store, 1 arrested.

## **Criminal Damage 1**

- 1) Damaged caused to swimming pool.

## **Youth Nuisance 4**

- 1) Northlands, Youths shouting late at night.
- 2) Elmway, youths starting a fire near the play park. (No damage Caused)
- 3) Mitford Close Drunken Youths walking through the estate Shouting.
- 4) Picktree Lodge, Nuisance calls. (Now resolved)

## **Vehicle Nuisance 0**

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)**



## **CHESTER-LE-STREET BEAT TEAM**

### **NORTH LODGE** **PARISH**

**BEAT OFFICER – Vacant.**

**PCSO 6389 Christine Taylor**

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

<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>THEFT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ASB NUISANCE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VEHICLE NUISANCE</b>	<b>0</b>

# 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014

## Burglary 3

- 1) Angel Park, Drum Industrial Estate, a Rubble truck was stolen.
  - 2) Park Road North
  - 3) Camperdown Avenue.
- And an attempted Burglary Leander Avenue.

## Theft 3

- 1) Elmway theft of solar lights.
- 2) Conyers Road Mobile Phone Stolen during a Party.

## Criminal Damage 1

- 1) Damaged caused to Vehicle by ex-partner.

## Nuisance 4

- 1) Pelaw Road Loud party.
- 2) Elmway youths spoken too after playing on the Old Factory unit.
- 3) Ambleside Court.
- 4) Ambleside Court.

## Vehicle Nuisance 0

Nothing reported.

## INFORMATION

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

**Thank You,**

**Your Police officer Lynda Richardson has retired from the force; I will inform you when a replacement is put in post.**

**PCSO Christine Taylor**

**Telephone the police on 101**

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

**County Councillor Peter May**  
**North Lodge Parish Council Report**  
**September 2014**

**There were no main County Council meetings in August.**

- It is with great sadness that I write to advise you that County Councillor Pauline Charlton passed away August 26th. Pauline was a previous Chair of the County Council and raised several thousands of pounds for charity.
- The Market Activity week was held in Chester-le-Street for its seventh year on the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014. The event went extremely well and the weather was good with an estimated visitor count over the week of somewhere near to 25,000 visitors it was obvious that there were more in attendance than in previous years.
- Northlands Roundabout traffic lights are planned to be working by the end of this week 19<sup>th</sup> September. Works were held up as the lights needed more cowlings on the actual lights to only enable the correct drivers to view them. Also due to the gas main problems on Shields road and the ensuing traffic diversions most of the work on the roundabout was delayed.
- Personally I am disappointed that the new roundabout has the appearance of a city style construction and is no longer in keeping with the traditional look of North Lodge. I intend to monitor the amount of lighting and the impact on surrounding residences and to ask the Council that if possible can the street lighting be reduced in intensity later in the evening.
- The A167 and J63 roadworks have now begun with engineers trying to work outside of the peak period hours. Most of the work is hoped to be completed by the end of January weather permitting.
- Have had some residents complaining about the County Councils charge for collecting garden refuse starting March 2015. Most folk do not realise that it is not a statutory requirement for the council to collect garden rubbish.

I think its good value:

Collections every 2 weeks between March and October

16 collections cost £20 = £1.25 per collection

48 collections cost £50 = £1.04 per collection

*Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014*

**For Information**

- A. Northlands Roundabout project:** Having endured the weeks of disruption due to the temporary closures of sections of Blind Lane and Park Road North [without any apparent County Council attempt to alleviate matters] and the ensuing fractured gas main, road users can now get used to the spacious roundabout layout and the correct use of the new lane markings. Pedestrians will look forward to the switching-on of the traffic lights after which the whole project can be evaluated. [There is a major safety issue for pedestrians on the present layout around the bend leading from North Road to Blind Lane where a major utilities/communications pole has been left in the centre of the footpath, giving only around 22 inches (=56 cm) of space on each side of it, and adjacent to the off-road cycle lane which itself comes to an abrupt halt a few metres to the south. The County Council may already have plans to change this, of course.]
- B. Overhanging trees:** On the more northerly of the two footpaths between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge, across the grassed area largely in its ownership, the County Council has carried out major work on lime and other trees following representations made using the FixMyStreet website – further proof that this is an effective way for anyone to alert the County Council to matters in which it has a primary responsibility.

**For Action**

- A. Dog Bins – reiteration given that dog bins were expected to be available again after August:**  
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*

*16/09/2014*

<b>DISCRETION &amp; REGULATION</b>	<b>POLICY</b>
Whether to grant additional pension to a member (up to £6,500 a year) [R31]	North Lodge Parish Council will not exercise this discretion
Whether to it make either a regular or lump sum Additional Pension Contribution (APC) to a member's account (part or whole funding this) [R16(2)e & R16(4)d]	North Lodge Parish Council will not exercise this discretion
Whether all or some pension benefits can be paid if an member aged 55 or over reduces their hours/grade and continues to work ("flexible retirement"), and whether to waive some or all of any actuarial reduction that applies on flexible retirement. [R30(6) & R30(8)]	North Lodge Parish Council will not exercise this discretion
Whether to allow the rule of 85 to be "switched on" for members who would normally meet the rule but who will not if they draw the benefits age 55-59 [TPSch2, para 1(1)(c)]	North Lodge Parish Council will not exercise this discretion
Waiving actuarial reduction on early retirement (age 55+) – for both active, deferred members & suspended tier 3 ill health pensions [R30(8)]	North Lodge Parish Council will not exercise this discretion