

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 21st April 2015.

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

County Councillor: P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

Two Residents.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Councillor Mrs. M. May and County Councillor P. May were not present at the start of the meeting.

Item 1. 15/42 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Dr. D. Hartley, N. Alderson and J. Waugh. Cllr. Alderson had indicated his intention to deliver a letter of resignation at the end of the month.

Item 2. 15/43 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School.

Item 3. 15/44 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.

As the County Councillor was not present at this point, Agenda item 4 was deferred.

Item 5. 15/45 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March 2015, 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.

At this point, Cllr. Mrs. M. May arrived at the meeting.

Item 6. 15/46 Chairman's Report

- a) Re Minute 15/35 section b1). Re fly-tipping on the Sustrans cyclepath, the Clerk advised that the County Council would consider use of a covert camera if the problem persisted.
- b) Re Minute 15/35 section c). Re molehills at Merlin Drive play area, the Clerk will again contact the County Council.
- c) Re Minute 15/35 section f). Councillors thanked Cllr. Snaith for the informative written report he had provided to the March meeting of the Council.
- d) Re Minute 15/41. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the recently planted trees in Low Flatts Road had now been re-sited with the agreement of residents there. The Clerk advised that the County Council did not have a protocol for consultations with residents for small projects. The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

At this point, County Councillor P. May arrived at the meeting.

Item 4. 15/47 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor P. May to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3).

County Cllr. May will also follow up with the County Council the request for additional dog bins and attention to signage at Picktree Lodge.

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt asked the County Cllr. to request that the Neighbourhood Wardens give attention to properties in the Parish that had overhanging hedges.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 7. 15/48 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Horticulture

Cllr. Mrs. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 4). Cllr. Mrs. May then presented a Flower Beds summary (Appendix 5, attached). Councillors discussed this proposal and agreed that it should be implemented as presented. The Clerk will advise the County Council who will maintain the beds on behalf of the Parish Council. (**Resolved** - to implement the flower beds proposal, as presented).

The Clerk will also carry out a Land Registry search re the land between the two fences at the former BOC site at Barley Mow.

Cllr. Mrs. May advised that the Lambton Park Property Owners Association had £24 remaining from a horticulture project at the entrance to Lambton Park, and wished to donate this to the Parish Council. Councillors accepted this donation with thanks and agreed that the money should be spent on additional plants for the Lambton Park entrance.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Mrs. Walton and Mrs. May, and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

b) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that the website was satisfactory. The only highways matter (dog bins and signage) had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report which included the following matters.

c) Play Areas

At Low Flatts, there were weeds needing to be cut back at the small gap in the hedge. Cllr. Mrs. Walton is to consult the Gardener re filling the gap with cuttings. At Merlin Drive, a faulty piece of equipment had been reported to the County Council who were taking appropriate action.

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

d) Publicity

Cllr. Mrs. May advised that, as preparation of the Newsletter was on the Agenda, there was nothing further to report at this point.

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

e) Planning

Cllr. Snaith reported on a recent Neighbourhood Plans meeting attended by the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. May and himself. Councillors discussed the need for a Plan for the Parish and agreed that it would be necessary to hold a supplementary meeting to move this forward.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report.

f) Finance In the absence of Cllr. Waugh, no report was made.

Item 8. 15/49 Correspondence

1) From North Lodge Residents Association

- a) Email re funding of sculptures.
- b) Email re theft of plants.

2) From Bell Munro Consulting

Quotation for inspection of bus shelters.

The Clerk is to approach the County Council for an alternative quote.

3) From Durham Constabulary

- a) Email re fly-tipping at Picktree Lodge Bridge.
- b) Email re Police and Crime Plan 2015 - 2017.

4) From Community Lincs Insurance Services

Insurance renewal documents.

(Resolved - to take up the offer of fixing the renewal premium for the next 3 years).

5) From BDO LLP

Audit Briefing.

6) From the National Association of Local Councils

Discussion paper on devolution.

7) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) Notification of the Smaller Local Councils Forum meeting to be held on 29th May 2015.
- b) Key points arising from the Local Council Working Group meeting held on 27th Feb 2015.
- c) Email re Human Resource Training June / July 2015.
- d) Email re consultation on introducing the Local Government Ombudsman's jurisdiction to larger parish and town councils.
- e) Email re VE Day 70th Anniversary.
- f) Email re Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

8) From Durham County Council

- a) Email re road works on Milburngate Bridge.
- b) Invitation to training event - Council Tax Base and Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant to be held on Wednesday 24th June 2015.

- 9) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- Application for erection of rear extension and front ramp, and alterations to roof and internal layout (some works retrospective), at 15 Lombard Drive.
 - Approval for new dwelling situated on land to the rear, at 1 Park View.
 - Approval for conversion of existing garage into habitable room and extension to front of existing garage to create a new garage, at 158 Picktree Lodge.

Item 9. 15/50 Financing of Projects

Councillors discussed several projects, in addition to the Flower Beds project discussed earlier, that had been presented for funding consideration.

a) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill gave an up-date re the proposed community room at Park View School. The Parish Council was being asked to contribute £3987.78 + vat towards the conversion work to create a room which would be available to community groups for hire out of school hours. However, in recognition of the Council's financial contribution, the Council would receive use of the room for free, up to 12 times per year. Concerns re asbestos in the building had now been answered satisfactorily.

(Resolved on a unanimous show of hands - to contribute £3987.78 to the community room project at Park View School).

Thanks were due to Cllrs. Hall and Waugh for their work on specific matters of the project.

b) Cllr. Mrs. Caygill outlined a Park View School project to create 4 pieces of sculpture. Councillors discussed this and agreed that, in view of the funding requirements of other current projects, no contribution could be made to the sculpture project.

c) Councillors again discussed the possibility of welcome signs at the Parish entrances of Barley Mow and Northlands. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to ascertain if any types of signs would be acceptable.

Item 10. 15/51 The Newsletter

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that he and his wife would again be willing to help in the production of the Newsletter. Councillors expressed their gratitude for his offer. Various items were suggested for inclusion in the Newsletter for forwarding to, and consideration by, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt.

Item 11. 15/52 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary April 2015	
D. Murrell		Expenses April 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension April 2015	
Durham County Council	£296.02	Attending to Tree Lights	£49.34
Pot-It-On	£498.90	Horticulture	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 15/53 Other Matters for Information

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the next meeting of the Council would be the Annual Meeting at which time elections would be made for Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.14pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2015.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary May 2015	
D. Murrell		Expenses May 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension May 2015	
Comm. Lincs. Insurance Services	£747.15	Annual Insurance Premium	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture	
Park View Academy	£4785.34	Donation re Community Room	£797.56
<u>Balance to 30th April 2015</u>			
Balance b/f	£29880.65	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - April 2015	<u>£ 1495.98</u>		
	£28384.67		
		Current	£ 642.46
		30 Day	<u>£45906.88</u>
		Total	<u>£46549.34</u>
Add Donation Received	<u>£ 24.00</u>		
	£28408.67	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 140.11</u>
Add Precept & Grant Received	<u>£17999.30</u>		
	£46407.97		
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 1.26</u>		
Balance c/f	£46409.23		£46409.23

County Councillor Peter May North Lodge Parish Council Report April 2015

Stolen Plants from Northlands Bus Stop – I have asked if the covert camera can be used to spot the thieves. – Council will let me know

Capital Works Programme 2015/16 – 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
Carriageway	Unc	Drum lane Ind Est, Chester-le-Street	Highway Services	Committed
Carriageway	A167	Picktree Rbt to Junc 63 NB	Highway Services	Committed
Footway	Unc	Drum Road, Chester-le-Street	Highway Services	Committed
Street Lighting	Unc	Kingsmere, North Lodge	Highway Services	Committed

New seat for bus stop at Northlands Roundabout

Original disappeared during construction works and Tony Hicks has promised a new green one

Bollard at entrance to Picktree Lodge

Toppled bollard fixed after being reported to me by resident Jackie Proud

Verge removal

Met with Paul Anderson and Alan Ramsey in Camperdown Ave to discuss removing the grass verges .No Council budget is available for verge workings and the cost is prohibitive re my budget capability will cost at least £11,000 for 100mt length (£110 per linear mtr)

Parliamentary Candidates for the 2015 General Elections in North Lodge

Malcolm Bint UKIP

Laetitia Glossop Conservative Party

Kevan Jones Labour Party

Peter Maughan Liberal Democrats

Vicki Nolan Green Party

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School Parking issues Kingsmere/Queensmere.

Meeting with Lee Mowbray from DCC Traffic department Wed 29 April to discuss situation

Lights out in Longdene Park numbers 238 239 on small pathway

I have spoken to the maintenance team and unfortunately we have a fault on the underground distribution cables at this location, this has been causing intermittent power supply failure, we are arranging an excavation team to identify and carry out repairs to the cables this may involve NPG however we will not know until the extent of the fault is identified, test results indicate the problem is been cause by water ingress. Work is planned to start early next week (wc 28 April)

Watermain Bursts in Kingsmere area

DCC have now received the Streetworks Notice for works in Kingsmere, Queensmere and Wear Lodge , Chester le Street

Start date 30 June duration 25 working days

DCC County Plan

Until further notice most decisions will be made using the old District plans. This does not mean that Developers cannot submit planning applications for any other sites as they will be individually considered

Chester Le Street Air Quality Management Area update.

AQMA Boundary has been reduced to Menceforth Cottages Pelton Fell Road