

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 20th October 2015.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. David Snaith
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Elsie Forrester, Linda LeDune,
Jackie Martin, Carole Walton, Dennis Hall,
Colin Noble-Nesbitt, John Waugh.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm, following a presentation on behalf of Lambton Estates, with the Chairman welcoming everyone, in particular Councillor Jackie Martin attending her first meeting as a Councillor.

Item 1. 15/105 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Maureen May and County Councillor Peter May.

Item 2. 15/106 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 15/107 Report of the County Councillor

In the absence of the County Councillor, a written report (Appendix 1, attached) had been provided and this was read out by the Clerk.

Item 4. 15/108 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th September 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.

Item 5. 15/109 Chairman's Report

- a) Re Minute 15/99 section a). The replacement seat for Low Flatts play area had not yet been installed. The Clerk will again remind the County Council.
- b) Re Minute 15/99 section b). Re parking at Lombard Drive, it had been established that some cars belonged to residents. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to seek a response to the Parish Council's request for a possible solution to the problem.
- c) Re Minute 15/99 section d). Re the potential development of the Drum pond area, Cllr. Elsie Forrester kindly agreed to contact the Environment Agency for an up-date.
- d) Re Minute 15/100 section b3). Re trees blocking out light adjacent to 5 Caxton Way, Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised that the County Councillor had agreed to take up the matter.
- e) Re Minute 15/100 section b4). Re the poor road surface at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue, Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised that she remains in contact with the County Council.
- f) Re Minute 15/100 section e3). Re the Drum Lane Traveller's site, the Chairman advised that the Planning Department is to provide details of previous planning applications.

Item 6. 15/110 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. John Waugh to give his report which included the following matters.

a) Finance

Cllr. Waugh advised Councillors that some thought should now be given to projects to be considered for inclusion in the next financial forecasts.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Waugh and invited Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

b) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the following matters.

1) At the entrance to Lombard Drive, parked cars were causing considerable concern re access.

2) There were many instances of overhanging hedges or trees throughout the Parish.

3) Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt would welcome an opportunity to walk the Parish with the new Highways Inspector.

4) Cllr. Linda LeDune remarked on difficulties caused by queuing traffic at the traffic lights, and vehicles passing through red lights, at Northlands roundabout. The Clerk will ask the Highways Department and the Police to consider this and take action where possible.

5) Cllr. Linda LeDune had established that the Neighbourhood Wardens were willing to remove any unauthorised signs or posters.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and invited Cllr. Carole Walton to give her report.

c) Horticulture

Cllr. Walton's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Re the widened gap in the hedge at Low Flatts, Cllr. Margaret Caygill kindly agreed to inspect this.

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

d) Play Areas

Cllr. Caygill's report included the following matters.

1) At Low Flatts, all equipment was in good order.

2) "No Smoking" signs were expected to be installed, both here and at Merlin Drive, by the County Council in the next few weeks.

3) The dog waste sign appeared to be having an effect as there seemed to be less dog waste than previously.

4) At Merlin Drive, prices were being obtained for adult exercise equipment. The County Council had advised on some of the conditions for the installation of such equipment. Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt kindly agreed to take some measurements of the available land.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill and invited Cllr. Elsie Forrester to give her report.

e) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are to represent the Council at the forthcoming Remembrance Day Parade.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Forrester.

f) Planning

Cllr. David Snaith's report included the following matter.

Councillors discussed the Lambton Estate's presentation regarding the recent planning application submitted to the County Council and were unanimous that the Parish Council should support the application in principle. The Clerk is to write accordingly to the Planning Department and to thank the presentation team.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Snaith for his report.

Item 7. 15/111 Correspondence

- 1) From North Lodge Residents Association
Thank you to the Gardener for work done.

- 2) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Invitation to Police and Crime Commissioner community event to be held on 31st Oct. 2015.
 - b) Email re nominations to the NALC Smaller Councils' Committee.
 - c) Agenda for the CDALC AGM to be held on 24th October 2015.
 - d) Email re the County Durham Plan.

- 3) From Durham County Council
 - a) Quotation for attending to Christmas Tree lights 2015.
(Resolved - to accept the quote of £258.13 + vat).
 - b) Email re Remembrance Sunday Parade 2015.
 - c) Email re review of the County Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
 - d) Notification of Town Centre Meeting to be held on 20th October 2015.
 - e) Notification of AAP Board Meeting to be held on 26th October 2015.
 - f) Notification of County Council Pension Fund Annual Meeting to be held on 5th Nov. 2015.
 - g) Letter re winter vehicle health check and MOT services for residents.

- 4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following was within North Lodge Parish:-
Approval for works to trees, at Northgate, North Road.

Item 8. 15/112 Welcome Signs

Councillors agreed to carry this item over to the next meeting.

Item 9. 15/113 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries October 2015	
Expenses	£80.00	Expenses October 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions October 2015	
Pot-It-On	£594.98	Horticulture October 2015	
E. Forrester	£5.00	Flowers	£0.83
Poppy Appeal	£50.00	Wreath and Donation	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 15/114 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters raised.

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 17th November 2015.

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£	Salaries November 2015	
Expenses		£80.00	Expenses November 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		£	Pensions November 2015	
Pot-It-On		£	Horticulture November 2015	

Balance to 31st October 2015

Balance b/f	£34601.63	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - October 2015	<u>£ 1351.04</u>		Current	£ 1348.71
	£33250.59		30 Day	<u>£31906.88</u>
			Total	£33255.59
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 5.00</u>
Balance c/f	£33250.59			£33250.59

North Lodge Parish Council Report October 2015 County Councillor Peter May

Please accept my apologies for missing the last Parish Council meeting - this was due as you know to a family bereavement.

Unfortunately, I will also be missing for this meeting as my holiday dates had to be rearranged due to having to cancel last month's holiday – please accept my apologies once again.

Dog Bins

At a recent Environment and Sustainable Scrutiny Committee I commented that dog bins were not easy to obtain. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that Neighbourhood Wardens do a survey and a walkabout to determine as to whether a bin is necessary. If it was necessary they would look at installing a bin but it was about balance.

May I suggest that the Parish Council contacts the Wardens to ask them about placing a bin where Councillor Noble Nesbitt has suggested?

Refuse and Recycling. In the 12 months ending May 15.

97% of the Councils municipal waste was diverted from landfill.

6,000 fewer tonnes of garden waste has been collected since the introduction of charges. (*What's happened to the 6,000 tonnes?*)

1/3 of eligible households (64,327) have joined the garden waste collection scheme.

Litter

In the year ending June 15 the Council issues 1,227 fixed penalty notices for littering. Up by 2%

Dog Chipping

April 2016. New legislation states that all dogs must be microchipped and registered.

Fly tipping is reducing

In the 12 months ending June 15 there were 7674 incidents (down 21% over previous year)

Since November 2014 cameras have been deployed to 81 locations.

A total of £14,000 has now been awarded in fines

Sustainable Drainage Schemes

Residents will be charged an annual fee on new housing developments to help pay for the cost and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems that must be part of the development to help avoid flooding etc. The larger the property the higher the fee.

Chief Executive Appointment Update

In June, Durham County Council confirmed that the current Chief Executive, George Garlick, would retire as planned following his 60th birthday in January 2016.

The announcement was necessary to allow for the recruitment for a replacement to get underway. Given the strength and skills held by a number of very senior officers within the council – this has been an internal recruitment process by a cross-party Chief Officer Appointments Committee (COAC).

The committee has now identified a preferred candidate and will ask County Council to consider its recommendation on October 28.

The COAC's recommendation for this role is Terry Collins.

Terry Collins is the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services at Durham County Council. He joined the council in 2009 when it became a new unitary council. Terry was educated at the Sacred Heart School in Redcar before moving on to study Sport and Recreational Management at Longlands College, Middlesbrough. He later completed a Master's degree in Business Administration at the University of Teesside. Prior to moving to Durham County Council, he was Director of Neighbourhood Services and

Assistant Chief Executive at City of York Council.

Neighbourhood Services covers a wide range of services including streetscene, highways, refuse and recycling, culture and leisure, environmental health and consumer protection, customer services and direct services.

“Reflecting the continued financial pressures facing the public sector as a whole, as part of this recruitment we have also reduced the salary for this post by £15,000.

“The cross-party committee’s recommendation will now go before full council later this month where a decision on the appointment will be made.”

Paths plan to be discussed

A three-year plan to improve public rights of way in County Durham is to be discussed by councillors. Durham County Council, in conjunction with the County Durham Local Access Forum, has drawn up a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), entitled Walk, Cycle, and Ride.

The plan, which builds on previous plans and covers 2015 to 2018, is designed to improve path networks, enable people to be active, increase opportunities to use sustainable travel methods and benefit the environment.

Members of Durham County Council’s Cabinet are recommended to approve the plan when they meet next week (Weds 21 Oct) at The Witham, Barnard Castle.

Parking in streets by members of the public who leave cars to go to work

Initial discussions are not very positive. As long as the road is a public highway and the vehicles are not parked incorrectly. The owners are entitled to park there. I am asking if the double yellow lines in Lombard Drive can be extended – However it must be remembered that this is a residential area and any changes may affect residents or their visitors parking.