

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 19th January 2016.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. David Snaith.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Elsie Forrester, Jackie Martin, Maureen May, Dennis Hall, Colin Noble-Nesbitt, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

Two Residents

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone, in particular the two residents.

Item 1. 16/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Linda LeDune and Carole Walton.

Item 2. 16/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School. Cllr. Jackie Martin declared an interest as Chairman of North Lodge Residents Association.

Item 3. 16/03 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor Peter May to give his report which included matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 1).

The County Councillor gave a presentation re planning application 2/13/00135/FPA which was then discussed.

Cllr. Margaret Caygill reminded the meeting that the light on lamp standard 2378, at the Northlands bus shelter, was still not working. The County Councillor will chase this up.

The Chairman advised that residents had again complained of intrusive noise from the Coveris factory at Drum Industrial Estate. The Chairman invited the residents to comment on this and they informed the Council that the MP had agreed to take up this matter with the County Council Environmental Health Department. The County Councillor will also take this up again with Environmental Health.

At this point, the residents left the meeting.

Item 4. 16/04 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th November 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. 16/05 Approval and Adoption of Notes from the Additional Meeting on 01/12/2015

The Notes of the Additional Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st December 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 6. 16/06 Chairman's Report

- a) Re Minute 15/119 section a). Cllr. Margaret Caygill advised that the County Council had not yet installed the refurbished seat for Low Flatts play area. The Clerk will chase this up.
- b) Re Minute 15/119 section b). Re parking at Lombard Drive, the County Council had agreed to extend the yellow lines and this would be put on their works programme in due course.
- c) Re Minute 15/119 section c). Re the potential development of the Drum pond area, Cllr. Elsie Forrester advised that no further contact had been made with the anglers' group. The Clerk is to contact the landowners again to ask them to tidy the area. The County Councillor will seek to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Drum Industrial Estate Business Community.
- d) Re Minute 15/119 section d). Re trees blocking out light adjacent to 5 Caxton Way, the Clerk is to search at the Land Registry for the owners of the land.
- e) Re Minute 15/119 section e). Re the poor road surface at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue, the County Councillor will ask the County Council for a road works report for North Lodge.
- f) Re Minute 15/119 section g). Re the traffic flow at Northlands roundabout, Councillors discussed continuing difficulties. The Clerk is to forward these to the County Council.
- g) Re Minute 15/119 section h). Cllr. Maureen May advised that hawthorn plants for the hedge gap at Low Flatts play area had not yet been purchased.
- h) Re Minute 15/120 section a2). Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt advised that the footpath at Picktree Lodge/Caxton Way had now been cleared to a good standard.
- i) Re Minute 15/120 section a5). The Clerk advised that the County Council Highways Department had confirmed that they would investigate any reports of overhanging trees and shrubs. Re overhanging trees on the footpath between North Road and Lyndhurst Avenue, the Clerk is to ask the Highways Department to carry out an inspection.

Item 7. 16/07 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Jackie Martin to give her report.

a) Crime and Community Safety

Cllr. Jackie Martin's first report for this newly created Portfolio included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 2).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for her report and invited Cllr. John Waugh to give his report.

b) Finance

Cllr. John Waugh advised Councillors of the present bank balance and asked Councillors to particularly note the funds still available for unallocated expenditure.

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

c) Highways and Website

Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 3).

Re the damaged seat near lamp standard 472, the Clerk will chase this up.

Re a new dog waste bin for Picktree lodge, Councillors agreed that the cost of purchase and installation is to be borne by the Parish Council.

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

d) Horticulture

Cllr. Maureen May's report included the matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 4).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. M. May for her report.

e) Planning

Cllr. David Snaith advised that he would draft a response for planning application 2/13/00135/FPA. Councillors thanked Cllr. Snaith.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Margaret Caygill to give her report.

f) Play Areas

Cllr. Margaret Caygill's report included the following matters.

At Merlin Drive play area, there were numerous molehills. The Clerk is to ask the County Council to take action. Councillors considered that if the County Council were not willing to take action then the County Council's permission should be sought for the Parish Council to do so.

The County Council had not yet installed "No Smoking" signs at either play area.

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

g) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester's report included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 5).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Forrester for her report.

Item 8. 16/08 Correspondence

1) From Great North Air Ambulance

Thank you for donation.

2) From Durham Cathedral

Thank you for donation.

3) From a Resident

Copy letter re power cuts at Picktree Lodge.

4) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re registration and declaration of interests.

b) Email re Neighbourhood Plans.

c) Email re referendum principles.

d) Invitation to regional training event to be held on 9th March 2016.

Cllr. Jackie Martin is to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

e) Notification of Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on 12th February 2016.

f) Email re the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons event on 21st April 2016.

g) Email re Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 24th May 2016.

Councillors agreed to submit the names of Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt and his wife.

h) Email re County Durham Poverty Action Plan.

i) Invitation to Safer Communities Event to be held from 19th January to 29th January 2016.

j) Email re Big Spring Clean 2016.

The Clerk is to publicise this event on the noticeboards.

5) From Durham County Council

a) Email re overhanging trees and shrubs.

b) Email re parking at Lombard Drive.

c) Email re designation of new Public Rights of Way.

d) Email re Welcome signs.

e) Notification of AAP Improved Environment Meeting to be held on 21st January 2016.

f) Notification of AAP Board Meeting to be held on 25th January 2016.

g) Notification of Tax Base and Request for Precept 2016/17.

- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- Application for gable end extension, at Unit 2, Angel Park, Drum Industrial Estate.
 - Application for 2 no. single storey extensions, at Castle View Private Day Nursery, Blind Lane
 - Application for removal of condition 1 (temporary consent) of planning permission 2/13/00135/FPA to allow the permanent use of the land as a residential caravan site for travellers, at Drum Lane Traveller Site.
 - Approval for gable end extension, at Unit 2, Angel Park, Drum Industrial Estate.

Item 9. 16/09 Changes to Website Support

Cllr. Colin Noble-Nesbitt outlined the changes being made to website support being offered by the County Council from 1st April 2016. Councillors discussed the options available and agreed that a Service Level Agreement should be purchased from the County Council.

(Resolved - to purchase a Service Level Agreement from the County Council).

Item 10. 16/10 Changes to Audit Arrangements

The Clerk outlined the changes being made to audit arrangements from 1st April 2017, including the establishment of Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAAL) to appoint auditors and manage audit contracts. Councillors discussed the options available and agreed to opt in to the SAAAL arrangements.

(Resolved - to opt in to the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd arrangements).

Councillor Dennis Hall was not in attendance for the remainder of the meeting. Councillors Linda LeDune and Carole Walton were now in attendance

Item 11. 16/11 The Precept for 2016 / 2017

Councillors discussed the Precept, having regard for the forecasts and information provided by, and previously circulated by, the Clerk.

(Resolved on a show of hands by 5 votes to 4 - to set a precept of £21.48 per Band D equivalent property for the financial year 2016 / 2017).

Item 12. 16/12 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries December 2015	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses December 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions December 2015	
Pot-It-On	£452.98	Horticulture December 2015	
D. Snaith	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
D. Murrell (via Comwales Ltd)	£ 59.24	Purchase of Printer/Copier/Scanner	£11.85
HM Revenue & Customs	£198.60	PAYE	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£118.00	Annual Subscription	
Durham Cathedral	£ 50.00	Donation	
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 50.00	Donation	
Salaries	£480.95	Salaries January 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses January 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£140.11	Pensions January 2016	
Pot-It-On	£305.00	Horticulture January 2016	
Durham County Council	£356.64	Horticulture	£59.44

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 13. 16/13 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th February 2016.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		Salaries February 2016	
Expenses		Expenses February 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund		Pensions February 2016	
Pot-It-On		Horticulture February 2016	
D. Murrell (via Morrisons)	£ 22.68	Postage Stamps	
D. Murrell	£ 12.00	HM Land Registry Searches	
E. Forrester (via Aldi Stores)	£ 12.84	Flowers and Gift	£ 2.14

Balance to 31st January 2016

Balance b/f	£32236.55	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Dec.15/Jan.16	<u>£ 3154.43</u>		Current £ 521.24
	£29082.12		30 Day <u>£28906.88</u>
			Total £29428.12
Add Grant Received	<u>£ 346.00</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£29428.12		£29428.12

North Lodge Parish Council Report January 2016

County Councillor Peter May

Residents to have their say on police funding

RESIDENTS have the opportunity to give their views on the police budget for 2016-17, thanks to a public consultation launched this week.

Between 11th and 27th (25th at AAP) January, members of the public can have their say in the annual consultation, either online or at a number of public events across County Durham and Darlington.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington, Ron Hogg, proposes an increase of 1.98% to the amount of Council Tax which goes to the police service. This increase equates to just £3.22 over the year, or 6p a week for the average house in Band D.

Ron Hoggs Report

1

Consultation on proposed increase to the Police Precept 2016/17

1 Introduction

1.1 As Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington, it is my responsibility to secure an efficient and effective police force for the area. This includes setting the budget for the police force. The Government only provides around 75% of the funding necessary to run the force, and the rest is raised through part of Council Tax, known as the Policing Precept. I am responsible for setting the level of the precept each year, after consulting you. Like the rest of Council Tax, how much you pay depends upon the value of your home.

1.2 This is your money, and we must be careful how we spend it. Durham Constabulary has carried out excellent work to increase value for money and improve its service within constricting budgets. It has improved efficiency and continuously looks at innovative ways to generate income. In 2015 Durham Constabulary were the only force in the country to be graded as 'Outstanding' by HMIC for all three questions of the PEEL Efficiency Inspection. The HMIC said that Durham has a track record of strong financial management and has a clear plan to manage future reductions in its budget.

1.3 In the recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), the Government stated that they will protect the overall policing budget in line with inflation. However the amount of funding coming to local policing from Government is still reducing year on year. This is because the Government is choosing to allocate additional money to national priorities like counter terrorism, increased firearms capability, and funds to which forces have to bid for a share. The total provisional grant received by Durham in 2016-17 will be £85,782,390 which is £457,127 less than in 2015-16.

1.4 In 2010 Durham Constabulary had 1507 police officers, and now this has fallen to 1149. In 2010 we had 174 PCSOs and we now have 150. In 2010 we had 131 Special Police Constables and we now have 99. In 2010 we had 930 police staff and in 2015 we have 911 (current data accurate as of 31st December 2015).

1.5 Despite these reductions I remain committed to neighbourhood policing and my responsibility to secure an effective and efficient service to the people of County Durham and Darlington. In 2015 we have undertaken successful recruitment campaigns for Police Constables, PCSOs and the Special Constabulary. An intake of officers came into post in September 2015 and with more starting in January 2016.

1.6 Durham Constabulary are leaders in innovation and despite the reductions in staff numbers was the only force in the county to be graded as outstanding at investigating crime by HMIC in 2014.

Durham Constabulary was also rated by HMIC as outstanding in how it tackles anti-social behaviour and good at reducing crime. The types of innovative initiatives used by the constabulary include:

- The first force to issue body worn cameras to all response/neighbourhood officers and PCSOs;
- Introduction of Checkpoint – which reduces crime and the number of victims by

addressing the causes of someone's offending;

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- Use of voluntary severance for police officers;
- The development of bespoke IT systems for crime management, foreign nationals, firearms licensing, case and custody, all of which are designed to save officer and staff time and money;
- An improved understanding of future demand upon the Constabulary;
- Solving problems and using restorative justice;
- A reduction in size of building estate by 23% which has saved approximately £0.8m per annum;
- Increased collaboration with neighbouring Police Forces and the Fire and Rescue Service;
- Increased income generation in respect of training and ICT.

1.7 These initiatives, together, mean that we are spending your money wisely and are in an excellent position to cope with future pressures on the force.

1.8 The Government also only allows me to increase the precept by a certain level each year, without seeking an expensive referendum. This means if our area's precept did not increase one year, the baseline (and therefore the budget) would be lower for every subsequent year. If I did not increase the precept I would be permanently reducing the income that the precept can generate. This would make the force less resilient to future budget reductions, which ultimately impacts on the number of officers the police force can provide.

1.9 After assuming a 1.98% precept increase, the estimated budget for 2016-17 is approximately £113.5 million, which is £0.9m more than the 2015-16 budget. This is the first increase in total resources for over 5 years, which still means a real terms cut after taking into account the costs of extra employers' national insurance, the nationally agreed pay award, and other inflationary pressures such as those relating to national ICT contracts. This means the Council Tax contribution to policing is a vital contribution.

2 My Proposal

2.1 The table below sets out the current level of policing precept for each band of property, along with what the proposed increases equate to on a weekly or yearly basis.

Precept 2015/16

£108.49

£126.57

£144.65

£162.73

£198.89

£235.05

£271.22

£325.46

Proposed Precept

2016/17 £110.64 £129.08 £147.51 £165.95 £202.83 £239.70 £276.59 £331.90

Increase Per year £2.15 £2.51 £2.86 £3.22 £3.94 £4.65 £5.37 £6.44

Increase per week £0.04 £0.05 £0.06 £0.06 £0.08 £0.09 £0.10 £0.12

2.2 Properties fall within eight category 'bands' for Council Tax ranging from A to H. Nationally, a typical Property in is classed as 'Band D'. However across County Durham and Darlington approximately 55% of households are categorised as 'Band A'.

3

2.3 The precept increase in 2015-16 raised approximately £500,000, helping to keep around 10 officers

in the force. **The proposed increase in 2016-17 would raise approximately £520,000, helping to keep around 11 officers in the force.**

2.4 The Government restrict the amount by which I can increase the precept, and require me to hold a referendum if I wish to increase it by 2% or over. Such a referendum would cost around £768,000, and the result would not be guaranteed. Each additional increase of 1% raises approximately £250,000. Therefore, in order to recoup the costs of a referendum, I would need to raise the precept by at least 5% (2% plus 3% to cover the referendum costs) before the force would actually see any additional money in the first year. In addition, if the people decided at the referendum that they did not want to pay more, the money spent on the referendum would be lost forever.

3 Available Options

3.1 My preferred option is to implement an increase of 1.98 %, which will raise approximately £520,000 and help to keep 11 Police Officers on the street compared to freezing Council Tax.

3.2 I am consulting on the following options:

- a) To increase the precept by 1.98%, increase of £3.22 per year or £0.06 per week for a Band D property
- b) To maintain the precept at its current level.

4 Responses

4.1 An online survey is available at: <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/2522989/Police-Council-Tax-2016-17-Public-Consultation> to enable you to respond. The consultation will run from 11th January 2016 until 1159pm on **Wednesday 27th January 2016**.

Planning Permission Drum Lane Caravan Site

15 Drum Lane Traveller Site
Drum Road
Chester-le-Street
Chester-le-street
DH3 2AF

Removal of condition 1 (temporary consent) of planning permission 2/13/00135/FPA to allow the permanent use of the land as a residential caravan site for travellers

I agreed initially that I had no objections to the use of a field next to the current site being used as temporary siting whilst the permanent site was upgraded. Now Mr Lee spokesperson of the travellers wishes this field to be used as permanent siting which I believe will ultimately lead to more travellers moving permanently into the area. I am opposed to this as currently the travellers live within North Lodge generally without any major issues. To introduce a larger population may in my opinion upset the balance of coexistence and have contacted planning to inform them of this.

Statement from applicant taken from planning application:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 This statement has been prepared on the instructions of Mr J Lee to provide supporting information in relation to an application for consent to vary planning permission 2/13/00135/FUL.

1.2 Planning permission was granted in 2013 for the use of land adjoining Drum Lane Traveller Site, Drum Road, Birtley to provide temporary accommodation for travellers displaced during a programme of refurbishment works carried out at the time by the Council. The development involved the extension of an existing area of hardstanding, extension to a welfare building, and boundary walls. The planning permission issued on 23rd August 2013 was subject to a number of conditions. This application seeks the removal of condition 1 which states:

“Prior to the expiration of the 30 month period all caravans, the garden wall highlighted in blue and the hardstanding area outlined in red on that attached plan Ref. Plan Con 1 shall be removed in their entirety and the land restored in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved beforehand by the Local Planning Authority.”

1.3 The applicant has made significant investment, and would like to retain the development, which is felt necessary to provide accommodation to visitors, those waiting for accommodation on the site, and other residents. The removal of the condition would allow the development to remain permanently.

Lighting issues on A693

All Lights (apart from one) working from Northlands to Perkinsville

Lighting initiative switch off – No lighting will be removed in the vicinity of Northlands/ Drum Roundabout /Perkinsville Roundabout.

Street lighting policy clearly states that lighting will not be removed from residential areas or conflict points ie roundabouts /junctions

- Lighting on the path between Northlands and Lyndhurst Avenue has been adopted by DCC

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report Tuesday, 19th January 2016

Police Report

October 2015: a) Queensmere - youths in garden - police searched area, no trace of youths.

December 2015: a) North Road - residential burglary – police investigation still in progress, will update as soon as possible

b) Ash Meadows - residential burglary – police investigation still in progress, will update as soon as possible.

c) Low Flats Road – apple thrown at window by youths – no damage caused, no trace of youths when police attended.

d) Park View School – pupils set up instagram account, within 30 minutes staff closed it down. Pupils advised

e) Leander Avenue – theft of wheel trims

f) Drum Industrial Estate - 3 non residential burglaries, Police are aware of the increase of crime in this area,

Police will update with a community plan after speaking to owners/ of factories/businesses.

employees

Lesley Hunter-Police Community Co-ordinator.

Crime trends-Rise in thefts from motor vehicles in Chester-le-Street due to insecure vehicles- reminder to Councillors and Residents to always lock their vehicle when leaving it unattended.

Crime and Community Forum Group- Chester-le-Street Area Action Partnership.

Supporting the Chester-le-Street and district Neighbourhood Watch

Scheme.

Project - Crime Community road shows- to be held at locations in the town along side other major activities, such as the 'Activities' week and show, Riverside. Dates to be distributed once received.

the Classic Car

This group meets bi monthly, members of the public welcome. Next meeting Monday, 7th March at the Hub, Chester-le-Street 6-8pm.

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Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 19 January 2016

The Drum Road closure, for resurfacing, was scheduled to end today, at 7.00 pm – relief for North Road!

Durham County Council has agreed in principle to the fixing of signs by the Parish Council, bearing the words “North Lodge Parish” to bus shelter walls at North Road (BOC), North Road (Northlands) and Picktree Village (Ash Meadows), there being no conflict with permitted highways furniture/signing. [ACTION]

At the entrance to Lombard Drive, the extension of double yellow lines awaits the anticipated DCC publication of a statutory notice before it can possibly go ahead. [AWAITING]

The single metal seat near lamp standard 472 on the grassed square between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge, remains in need of some renovation (or replacement), having some sharp edges and poor paintwork. [ACTION]

One of the very important paths between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge has been under water and impassable almost continuously for a long time, despite the installation of a drain which does work, and needs attention by the County Council – a site meeting may be worthwhile. [ACTION]

Some improvement with regard to overhanging vegetation has been evident recently. The County Council does not appear to have any appetite to change its system into a proactive one involving its Neighbourhood Wardens rather than its present reactive system involving Technical Services (Highways).

Following a site meeting with Martin Briscoe from the County Council, agreement in principle has been reached regarding a new dog bin on the eastern edge of Picktree Lodge Estate, near to the motorway baffle bank, adjacent to lamp standard 500 (recently renumbered without any obvious reason!). The cost of supply (and installation?) will need funding by the Parish Council but the emptying of the bin can be incorporated into the County Council’s existing system, without further cost to the Parish Council. [CONFIRMATORY ACTION]

C N-N 19/01/2016

Website report for the NLPC meeting of 19 January 2016

1. From Monday 18 January, any website issues should be reported via the County Council’s ICT Service Portal for which Rebecca Maddison’s advice email of Thursday 14 January regarding “Changes to your website support” will need to be followed.
2. ICT will move the NLPC website from *Sharepoint* to *Wordpress* by 1 April 2016 (target), giving enhanced security, compliance with new guidance and a much easier system to use. It will include the transfer of pages content, minutes and agendas. The new site will keep the original website colours, and parish badge. It will include a front page image, but not a banner image (unless a Service Level Agreement [SLA] is taken out – see point 3 below). Part of this transfer will include training to use *Wordpress*. There will be several dates to choose from – but the relevant people will need to attend this training.
3. Introduction of an annual charge: From 1st April 2016, there will be the option to purchase a Service Level Agreement [SLA] from Durham County Council. This will cost approximately £575 per year and buys the following: Hosting the website on one of DCC’s servers for the year of the SLA ; Full website support from 1st April 2016 until 31st March 2017 – in line with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) which was developed for schools ; Addition of banner image to the website.

The purchase of the SLA is optional and DCC will continue to host the website until 31st March 2017, at which point DCC will then need to take the website down. During that time there will be access to log support calls on the ICT portal. However, all calls will be responded to on a best endeavour basis regardless of the urgency of the problem. Depending on the regularity and nature of these requests please note there may be a charge for some support.

C N-N 19/01/2016

**HORTICULTURE REPORT
NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
19 January 2016**

Shrub bed at Lyndhurst Avenue

- The shrubs have now all been cut back by Durham County Council. The bed looks much neater. Discussions are now taking place re-planting of bulbs, perennials etc. for the coming year. Part of a tree trunk has been left in bed, Durham County Council to be asked to totally remove it as regrowth from it would take many years.

Graffiti

- Frank has re-painted two bus shelters (Lombard Drive & opposite Lambton Worm) during the school holidays. He has also removed graffiti from bus stop opposite Lombard Drive. Frank inspects all bus stops every Monday for litter, graffiti etc.

Flower Tubs

- Two outstanding tubs have still not been delivered. Durham County Council to be contacted.

Suggestions

- Suggestions have been put forward from some residents re more flower beds
 - a) North Road –between the drives of the houses opposite to the entrance to Longdean Park.
 - b) ? In open space opposite bungalows in Blind Lane.
 - c) Picktree village.

If we wish to have more flower beds –who should install and maintain them?

Frank has received many compliments from residents on the quality of the horticulture in North Lodge area.

Raised Bed Picktree Village

- Frank has weeded and cleaned a large section of this bed. Investigations are required in order to establish the Parish Councils responsibility. Discussions are needed in order to improve this area.

Health & Safety

- For health & safety, it has been decided that the Horticulture team will wear high visibility jackets when attending to Parish Council sites.

Carole Walton/Maureen May