

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 September 2016.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Martin, Maureen May,
Carole Walton, Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall,
Colin Noble-Nesbitt.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

Prior to the meeting, the Council received a very informative presentation on the subject of Neighbourhood Plans from Stuart Carter of Durham County Council.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm, welcoming everyone but in particular Patrick Driscoll who had put himself forward for co-option to the Council.

Item 1. 16/86 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors David Snaith and John Waugh, and from Parish resident John Murray.

Item 2. 16/87 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. 16/88 Co-option of Councillor

Patrick Driscoll had attended the July meeting of the Council when he had expressed an interest in being co-opted to the Council. Councillors were now asked to decide on his co-option.

(Resolved - on a unanimous show of hands except for the abstention of Cllr. Jackie Martin, to co-opt Patrick Driscoll to the Council).

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Driscoll to the Council.

Item 4. 16/89 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). Councillors also discussed the latest situation regarding noise reduction measures at the Coveris factory, Drum Industrial Estate.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 5. 16/90 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th July 2016, 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. 16/91 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report included matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2).
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 16/78. Re overhanging vegetation on the footpath between the motorway roundabout and Picktree Village, several Councillors had observed that this had now been cut back.
- b) Re Minute 16/80 section a). Re overhanging vegetation on the footpath between North Road and Lyndhurst Avenue, Cllr. Caygill advised that this had still not been attended to. County Cllr. May agreed to chase this up with the County Council.
- c) Re Minute 16/80 section b). Re the requested extension of the yellow lines at the entrance to Lombard Drive, a time and date for the site meeting was still awaited. The Clerk is to pursue this with the County Council.
- d) Re Minute 16/80 section c). Several Councillors had observed, and been pleased with, the new sign affixed to the bus shelter at Northlands roundabout. Councillors thanked Cllr. John Waugh and the Clerk for their roles in this project.
- e) Re Minute 16/81 section c2). Re the reporting of matters by a Portfolio Holder to, for instance, the Police or the County Council, Councillors agreed with Cllr. Martin that sufficient information must be provided for the Portfolio Holder to make an assessment as to whether or not there has been a complaint raised with the Council, or if just a general dissatisfaction has been expressed.

Item 7. 16/92 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Crime and Community Safety

The Chairman invited Cllr. Jackie Martin to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Martin for her report.

b) Finance

The Clerk advised that Cllr. Waugh had confirmed to him that he had received the most recent bank statements and he was satisfied that the finances were in order.

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

c) Highways and Website

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

- 1) The County Council was now carrying out long awaited works to the footpath across the green space connecting Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge.
- 2) The County Council had been alerted to a heavily overgrown footpath, the northernmost path between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge.
- 3) The County Council had been alerted to a safety issue, being a missing "Keep Left" sign in the middle of North Road near to its junction with Low Flatts Road.
- 4) Cllr. Caygill commented that the entrance to Low Flatts Road from North Road was not distinct. The Clerk will suggest to the County Council that the kerbs at the junction be painted white.
- 5) Cllr. Caygill commented on the speed of traffic on North Road. The Clerk will ask the Police to carry out speed checks.
- 6) Cllr. Martin advised of trees on North Road overhanging so far that they were hitting passing buses. Cllr. Martin will identify the trees in question so that the County Council can be fully advised.
- 7) A street sign at the entrance to Kingsmere from North Road had been damaged. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllrs. Maureen May and Carole Walton to give their report.

d) Horticulture

Cllrs. May and Walton's report included the following matters.

- 1) Councillors discussed proposals for the development of the bed alongside the Northlands bus shelter and the bed at the south end of Lyndhurst Avenue.
- 2) Fly-tipping near to the entrance to Lombard Drive had been reported to the County Council.
- 3) An update was given re progress towards the Northumbria in Bloom entry.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. May and Walton for their report.

e) Planning

In the absence of Cllr. Snaith, no report was made.

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

f) Play Areas

Cllr. Caygill's report included the following matters.

- 1) At Merlin Drive play area, everything appeared to be in order.
- 2) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. The recently planted hedging along a small section of the boundary was choked with weeds which was hindering the growth of the new plants. One of the play area signs had been found on the ground and, therefore, needed to be replaced. Further consideration was being given to a replacement sign for the play equipment enclosure.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report.

g) Publicity

Cllr. Forrester advised that all publicity matters had been contained in her Chairman's Report earlier.

Councillors thanked the Chairman.

Item 8. 16/93 Correspondence

1) From Mazars LLP

Email re audit of Durham County Council Pension Fund.

2) From Durham Constabulary

Request for donation.

The Police had asked each Parish Council in the Chester-le-Street area to make a donation of £1,500 towards the purchase of an additional neighbourhood patrol vehicle. Councillors' discussion of this request included considering any potential benefit to the Parish in making the donation and also the effect on the Council's finances bearing in mind current and potential future requirements.

(Resolved by a unanimous decision - not to make a donation).

3) From the Department for Communities and Local Government

Letter re Neighbourhood Planning Bill.

4) From BDO LLP

Letter re completion of audit.

5) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Agenda for the AGM to be held on Saturday 22nd October 2016.

b) Emails re County Council consultation on implementing a Public Space Protection Order for dog control.

c) Email re Government consultation on council tax referendum principles.

d) Invitation to meeting with local MP's and the Parliamentary Outreach Team, to be held on Friday 14th October 2016.

6) From Durham County Council

- a) Email re proposal by BT to remove the payphone kiosk in Picktree Village.
- b) Quotation for Christmas Lights 2016.
- c) Letter re community governance review, Pelton Fell.
- d) Email re vacancy for a representative on the Local Pension Board.
- e) Letter re 2017/18 budget setting.

Re item 7g, Cllr. M. May and County Cllr. P. May declared interests.

7) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-

- a) Application for two storey extension to side, at 45 Lombard Drive.
- b) Application for erection of 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign to front, enlarging and altered positioning of 2no. non-illuminated signs to front, and altered position of 1no. non-illuminated sign from front to rear, at Unit 3 and 5, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
- c) Application for single storey extensions to front and rear, at 4 Queensmere.
- d) Application for erection of 1no. downlit fascia sign, 1no. illuminated entrance sign and 1no. illuminated projecting sign, at Chatfields Tyne Tees, Drum Road.
- e) Application for two storey side extension and single storey rear extension, at 10 Kingsmere.
- f) Application to fell 1no. Horse Chestnut tree and prune 1no. Sycamore tree, at 21A North Lodge.
- g) Approval for new bungalow with integral garage within existing house curtilage and new access for existing dwelling, at Hollydene, North Lodge.
- h) Approval for two storey extension to side, at 45 Lombard Drive.
 - i) Approval for single storey extensions to front and rear, at 4 Queensmere.
 - j) Approval for erection of 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign to front, enlarging and altered positioning of 2no. non-illuminated signs to front, and altered position of 1no. non-illuminated sign from front to rear, at Unit 3 and 5, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
- k) Approval for single storey extensions to rear and rear/side, at 38 North Road.
 - l) Refusal to crown reduce and reshape 4no. Sycamore trees and reduce height and prune canopy to 1no. Cedar tree (all covered by TPO CLS-1 North Lodge), at 21A North Lodge.

Item 9. 16/94 Neighbourhood Plans

The earlier presentation by Stuart Carter greatly informed the discussion re a possible Plan for North Lodge. No Councillor was willing to lead the production of a Plan for North Lodge on its own. However, at the next Chester-le-Street Area CDALC meeting, the Chairman will canvass opinion for a joint Plan with neighbouring Parishes.

Item 10. 16/95 Bus Shelters

Councillors discussed the need for repair, refurbishment or replacement of the bus shelters. It was agreed that the existing shelters enhanced the appearance of the Parish and, therefore, the policy of the Council was to retain the existing shelters if at all possible. Funds were not available to carry out work to all shelters at once and, therefore, they would be attended to in turn over time.

(Resolved - that the policy of the Council re bus shelters is to retain the existing shelters).

Re the shelter on North Road northbound opposite the entrance to Lombard Drive, the Clerk is to enquire if there is any alternative material to concrete for the shelter roof and then to arrange for the required work to be carried out. The Clerk will also contact the bus company to enquire about the provision of real time information systems. The Clerk is also to ask the County Council to carry out the required repair work to the shelter at Northlands roundabout.

Cllr. Martin advised that a new seat and litter bin had been installed at the Pelaw Grange bus shelter.

Item 11. 16/96 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£487.60	Salaries August 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses August 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£141.51	Pensions August 2016	
Pot-It-On	£322.98	Horticulture August 2016	
Pot-It-On	£140.00	Environment Care August 2016	
Salaries	£487.40	Salaries September 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses September 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£141.51	Pensions September 2016	
Pot-It-On	£433.70	Horticulture September 2016	
Pot-It-On	£175.00	Environment Care September 2016	
HM Revenue & Customs	£195.20	P.A.Y.E.	
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
D. Murrell (via Costco Ltd)	£ 9.59	Copier Paper	£ 1.60
BDO LLP	£240.00	Audit Fee	£40.00
DSJ Property Services	£ 30.00	Fixing Sign	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 16/97 Other Matters for Information

Cllr. Caygill asked if the Parish Council would be contributing funds to the Northumbria in Bloom entry. The Clerk advised that no request from the organisers had yet been received.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th October 2016.

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£	Salaries October 2016	
Expenses		£	Expenses October 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund		£	Pensions October 2016	
Pot-It-On		£	Horticulture October 2016	
Pot-It-On		£	Environment Care October 2016	

Balance to 30th September 2016

Balance b/f	£41157.88	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - Aug/Sept16	<u>£ 3114.49</u>		Current	£ 122.18
	£39157.88		30 Day	<u>£37921.21</u>
			Total	£38043.39
		Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ Nil</u>

Balance c/f	£38043.39			£38043.39
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North Lodge Parish Council

September 2016 Report

County Councillor Peter May

Consultation on implementing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control

We're inviting people to have their say on proposals to introduce a Public Space Protection Order for dog control. This will replace our existing Dog Control Order, which makes it an offence to allow a dog to foul without picking it up.

New legislation introduced (The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) extended our powers to encourage responsible dog ownership by turning Dog Control Orders into PSPOs.

What will the PSPO for dog control actually mean?

A Public Space Protection Order is an Order that identifies a particular public place and does not allow certain things to be done in the restricted areas.

When implemented, it will be an offence in County Durham to:

- Allow a dog to foul without picking it up (already an offence under our existing Dog Control Order and will continue to be an offence under the new PSPO)
- Allow a dog to stray
- Fail to put a dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer
- Allow dogs into fenced off play areas which are owned and managed by us (DCC). See attached list of sites where there are fenced off play areas and where dogs will no longer be allowed to enter – will also be available online).

Anyone in breach of the PSPO will be issued with a fixed penalty notice (FPN).

Why are we considering implementation of this order?

Introducing the PSPO will have a potential positive impact on everyone as it will ensure our open spaces are:

- Cleaner (reduced dog fouling)
- safer (reduced risk of slips, trips and falls by treading on dog excrement, reduced risk of encountering unaccompanied dogs that have the potential to be aggressive and/or cause traffic incidents)
- healthier (reduced risk of contracting toxocariasis from dog faeces that could lead to blindness in humans)

There is a communications plan which will include raising awareness through a press release, details being sent to stakeholders along with signage/cards for specific areas affected and available in key locations.

The main means of feedback will be through the online consultation form at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation or call 03000 265 586 to request a paper survey. This consultation runs from Monday, 12 September until Monday, 5 December 2016.

Vegetation Blocking footway from J63 to Picktree Village.

Council has dealt with it as I asked several weeks ago. Unfortunately due to manpower issues it was not as soon as would have liked.

Neighbourhood Budget Application – Ref No: 16NB-CHES028 Park View School North Lodge Part Time 20mph

On the basis of the details set out in the above Neighbourhood Budget application and the information provided as part of the project appraisal process, I am pleased to advise you that this project has been allocated £17,000 Capital from my Neighbourhood Budget. The funding is to be used for the implementation of 4 part time 20mph zones around the Park View lower school entrances and on the primary North Road route.

North Lodge in Bloom

I was elected as Secretary to the committee at a recent meeting of the group.

Bellway Homes Consultation for old BOC site.

Attended an introductory consultation 5 September along with other members of the community to view Bellways proposals. 220 homes.

Generally, I found very little to be concerned over except that there will be two entrances onto the busy VIGO LANE which could cause congestion. No bungalows on plans!!

Caxton Way/Picktree Lodge footpath

To be improved to avoid flooding awaiting notification of completion and then the seat can be installed. As of 13/09/16 have been told that works are to start early wc 19/09/16

Conservative Government proposals for Parliamentary Boundary Changes 2018

Proposals for the North East

Number of NE Constituencies to reduce from 29 to 25 (Nationally the number of MPs will reduce to 600 from 650)

Our area boundary will be more or less the same taking in Lamesly, Kibblesworth and Birtley.

Teaching Assistants pay issues.

I voted to support the Teaching Assistants and voted against the Councils proposals to offer up to 2 years pay support if they accepted the Councils offer of 37 hours per week term time only

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report- Tuesday, 20th September 2016.

Due to holiday commitments, I did not attend the Crime and Community Forum group. A full updated report will be submitted at the Parish Council meeting in October.

General

PCSO Christine Taylor attended the North Lodge Residents Association in September and gave a detailed and informative annual report.

I will attempt to arrange a mutually convenient date for Christine to attend the North Lodge Parish Council.

There was a road traffic accident in Blind Lane in September, traffic was restricted was a short time.

