

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 18th October 2016.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Martin, Maureen May,
Carole Walton, Patrick Driscoll,
Colin Noble-Nesbitt, David Snaith, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Peter May.

Clerk: David Murrell.

A Resident

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

Item 1. 16/98 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Dennis Hall.

Item 2. 16/99 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. 16/100 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). Re Liberal Democrat literature, the Clerk will ask Mr. Martin to clarify his recent published claim that additional flashing speed signs have been installed in the Parish. Re speeding in Picktree Village, the Clerk is to ask the County Council to consider replacement of the current flashing signs with ones that show the actual speed of the vehicle, or to re-calibrate downwards the speed at which the current signs are activated. The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 16/101 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th September 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 5. 16/102 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 16/91 section c). Re the requested extension of the yellow lines at the entrance to Lombard Drive, Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt advised that he had attended a site meeting with officers of the County Council who had agreed to set in place a Traffic Regulation Order for no waiting lines on both sides of Lombard Drive from the junction with North Road to level with the west facing walls of the first house on both sides. Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had requested that the TRO also include No Loading kerb marks.
- b) Re Minute 16/91 section d). Re Parish signs for bus shelters, Councillors agreed to purchase four additional signs. Cllr. Waugh kindly agreed to arrange the purchase on behalf of the Council.

c) Re Minute 16/92 section c4). Re the request for the kerbs at the junction of Low Flatts Road and North Road to be painted white, no response had yet been received from the County Council. The Clerk will chase this up.

d) Re Minute 16/92 section f2). Re Low Flatts play area, Cllr. Caygill provided an up-date regarding a replacement sign. Clarification from the County Council was required re the telephone number to be included. Re weeds around the small hedging plants, Cllr. Maureen May suggested a site meeting to assess the work required.

e) Re Minute 16/95. The Clerk provided an up-date re repairs to bus shelters and will again approach the County Council to carry out work to the Northlands shelter.

The Chairman's report included matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). The Chairman will be attending the forthcoming CDALC AGM and the Remembrance Day parade on behalf of the Council.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 16/103 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 and invited Cllr. John Waugh to give his report.

b) Finance

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Waugh for his report and 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 had now completed the transfer of the website to the new system.

Councillors agreed that the heading for the site should be changed to the font used by the Parish Council in letter headings. There were several matters that the Clerk would be considering to tidy up the site.

2) The County Council had previously been alerted to a heavily overgrown footpath, the northernmost path between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge. However, nothing had yet been done. County Cllr. May kindly agreed to chase this up.

3) The County Council had previously been alerted to a safety issue, being a missing "Keep Left" sign at the pedestrian refuge on North Road near to its junction with Low Flatts Road. However, nothing had yet been done. The Clerk will chase this up.

4) Several Councillors commented on the excessive speed of some traffic on North Road. County Cllr. May advised that as a member of the County Council Police and Crime Panel he was aware that the Police had very limited time to use mobile speed cameras.

5) County Cllr. May advised that he would be asking the County Council to clear fallen leaves along North Road so that they did not become a hazard to pedestrians and road users.

6) A 30mph road marking on North Road needed re-painting. County Cllr. May kindly agreed to follow this up.

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 matters contained in the written report attached (Appendix 4).

At Picktree Village, County Cllr. May was arranging funding for two years from his Neighbourhood Budget for a new flower bed. The County Council had asked if the Parish Council would then take over the funding of the bed. Councillors discussed this and agreed that they were minded to do so, subject to budget requirements at the time.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. May and Walton for their report and invited Cllr. David Snaith to give his report.

e) Planning

Cllr. Snaith advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith and 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, the equipment appeared to be in order although molehills were appearing again. The Clerk is to chase up an earlier request to the County Council for a different design of litter bin. The County Council is in the process of replacing throughout the County missing smoke-free zone signs.

2) At Low Flatts play area, the equipment appeared to be in order. County Cllr. May had observed that the entrance to the play equipment area was muddy. Cllr. Caygill will inspect this to see how it might be repaired. The Clerk will contact the Co-operative Environment Volunteers to see if they will again tidy the path running from Low Flatts to the Drum Industrial Estate.

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 7. 16/104 Correspondence

1) From the Environment Agency

Letter re Low Flatts pond.

Councillors agreed that the improvement of the pond area was now on hold until such time as the involvement of the land owner could be gained.

2) From npower

Advice of price increase.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re Delivering Differently Scheme.

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

4) From Durham County Council

a) Email re Village Greens.

b) Email re Part Time Advisory 20mph Speed Limit, North Road.

c) Email re new website.

d) Invitation to the Annual Meeting of the Durham County Council Pension Fund to be held on Thursday 10th November 2016.

- 5) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Approval for erection of 1no. downlit fascia sign, 1no. illuminated entrance sign and 1no. illuminated projecting sign, at Chatfields Tyne Tees, Drum Road.
 - b) Approval to fell 1no. Horse Chestnut tree and prune 1no. Sycamore tree, at 21A North Lodge.

Item 8. 16/105 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£487.60	Salaries October 2016	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses October 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£141.51	Pensions October 2016	
Pot-It-On	£241.98	Horticulture October 2016	
Pot-It-On	£140.00	Environment Care October 2016	
Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00	Wreath and Donation	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 9. 16/106 Other Matters for Information

- 1) Cllr. Caygill hoped that there might be a future opportunity to use Section 106 funds to re-paint North Road bridge.
- 2) County Cllr. May advised that the County Council was willing to write to car owners who were reported as having had litter thrown from their cars.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm following which a discussion was held with the resident.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th November 2016.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries November 2016	
Expenses	£	Expenses November 2016	
Durham County Pension Fund	£	Pensions November 2016	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture November 2016	
Pot-It-On	£	Environment Care November 2016	
G. Caygill (via Pity Me Nursery)	£ 10.00	Plants	£0.38

Balance to 31st October 2016

Balance b/f	£38043.39	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - October 16	<u>£ 1141.09</u>		Current £ 672.60
	£36902.30		30 Day <u>£36421.21</u>
			Total <u>£37093.81</u>
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 191.51</u>
Balance c/f	£36902.30		£36902.30

North Lodge Parish Council
County Councillor Peter May
October report 2016

Overhanging foliage obscuring the lights on footpath between North Road and Lyndhurst Avenue. Martin Briscoe has emailed me to confirm that this is being attended to as soon as possible.

Speeding in Picktree Village.

Responding to a request from Mr Kirkup of Picktree Village I have asked the Council to enquire about the cost to change over the top signs of the speed awareness flashing signs to show actual speed.

I have also asked for the Council to consider making Picktree Village a 20mph zone and am awaiting responses.

DDC Councillors Allowance Scheme. Year up to 31st March 2016

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/membersexpenses>

Total paid out in Basic allowance (£13300) £1,667,179

Special Responsibility allowances £283,788

Dependents carers allowance £0

Travelling expenses £77,387

Subsistence expenses £117

Broadband allowance £7,007

Chair/Vice chair exp allowance £1,151

Leader of the Council gets basic allowance £13,300 + £36,535 leader allowance plus other expenses

Deputy Leader £13,300 + £19,950 deputy allowance plus other expenses

Cabinet members £13,300 + £13,300 plus

Chairs £13,300 + £3,325 plus

Group leaders £13,300 + £3,325 plus

Peter May North Lodge

£13,300 with nothing else claimed.

The current political make-up of the council is:

- 96 Labour councillors
- 17 Independent councillors
- 9 Liberal Democrat councillors
- 4 Conservative councillors

Coveris update.

After my intervention. The council is to install noise recording equipment in 2 resident's home for 2 weeks at each location.

At the time of writing no date was available but is thought to be in November.

The residents will be responsible for switching on the equipment and the Council will change over the SD card half way through the time. It is hoped that this may provide the necessary information required to resolve the dispute.

Park Road North

I have asked Christine Taylor to initiate a speed check in PRN in answer to a residents issue re speeding in the road.

Part Time Advisory 20mph speed limits, Park View School (North Lodge Site) still on course for November installation

Liberal Democrat literature

I would like to apologise for any embarrassment caused to the Parish Council appertaining to remarks aimed at me by the local Liberal Democrat Activist Mr Martin.

Unfortunately, Mr Martin is bombarding the area with accusations that I am not a responsible Councillor and mentioning projects that I have? have not done in conjunction with the Parish Council. Mr Martin's information is usually out of date and is said without any research as many of his accusations are false and untrue.

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety Report- Tuesday, 18th October 2016

Current issues.

Picktree Lodge 3 x house burglaries.

Investigations still ongoing.

Following these incidents, County Councillor Peter May distributed crime prevention letters to all properties in Picktree Lodge.

Crime and Community Forum

Market Activity week:

This community event was the most successful one to date, with a record number of people attending. Discussions on going regarding holding the same in 2017.

Credit Union Conference held Pelton Fell:

A number of residents are still awaiting the opportunity to open an account with Credit Union. Forum group have contacted NE Credit Union in order to speed up the application process.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Require volunteers to sit on the management committee.

Cyber Crime:

Measures to counter act cyber crime to be considered as an initiative for 2017. If agreed, information sessions will be held at road shows.

Road Safety week 21st -26th November:

Speed Watch volunteers are discussing with Police an initiative involving the area beside Red Rose School.

Street Lighting:

The Forum group has made a request to Durham County Council for a list showing which street lights have been switch off to conserve energy as opposed to those with faults.

HORTICULTURE REPORT
NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
18 October 2016

County Councils Responsibilities

- Flower Beds Installed by Durham County Council. - All the flower beds, with the exception of one in North Road, have now been prepared for planting with winter bedding - total 16.
- Area opposite plinth at Picktree Lodge – Concrete slab has been removed but still some tidying etc. to be done. Martin Briscoe to be contacted re progress.

Parish Gardener Responsibilities

- General winter maintenance and tidying now in progress throughout the parish.
- Three tubs which were identified to be placed at Barley Mow end of North Road will now be sited at Northlands end of North Road. Councillor Caygill and residents have kindly offered to plant and maintain these tubs.
- The In Bloom group have requested to take over responsibility for the small 3 sided bed around Northlands bus shelter from now until after judging in 2017. Councillor Caygill and her husband have kindly offered to manage and maintain this bed during this period. Many thanks are given to them both for their commitment.
- Northlands Shrub Bed. - Following the last Parish Council meeting it has been agreed that the maintenance of this Bed will be a joint venture. Councillor Caygill and her husband will cut and shape the shrubs and plant further shrubs as well as any summer/winter bedding and spring bulbs. The Parish Gardener will weed and edge this bed. However it is rather dangerous for the Parish Gardener to weed amongst the shrubs until they have been cut back exposing the soil and therefore allowing him to move around the bed. The County Council have indicated that they no longer wish to be involved with this shrub bed.

C Walton/M May

In Bloom

- Two meetings and one walk-a-about have taken place. The next meeting on 25 October 2016 will be the official start of the project.
- Area at Wheatsheaf Pub the Parish Gardener will clear area beside Wheatsheaf pub under Sustrans Bridge and will plant with wild flowers.

M May
18 October 2016