

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 21st November 2017.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory, Maureen May,
Patrick Driscoll, John Murray, David Snaith.

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed everyone, in particular Dominic Waugh of Fairhurst Ltd who gave a very helpful and informative presentation on the proposed housing development on the former Arizona Chemical land at Vigo Lane.

Item 1. 17/100 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Dennis Hall, Colin Noble-Nesbitt and John Waugh.

Item 2. 17/101 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 17/102 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor Craig Martin to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

County Councillor's Report

North Lodge Parish Council November 2017

Cllr Craig Martin North Lodge and Chester-le-Street

craig.martin@durham.gov.uk – 03000 268 745

Park View Motorbike Festival

The group has been running fundraising events at Park View Academy (North Lodge site) for a few years. The event has been growing and is becoming a fixture in the biker calendar with over 400 attending this year. County Councillors across Chester-le-Street contributed money to support the event, along with myself. They raised a total of £2060, split evenly between Air Ambulance and Blood Bikes.

I've been working with the organisers to make them a more 'professional' body. So that they can get access to sources of funding and grow from strength to strength, while working with the community.

Transport for the North

This is a new Sub National Transport Body. It will devolve transport responsibilities to the region. With the aim of driving economic growth. The powers given include a number of Highway Authority powers, acquiring land for highways, and constructing new highways. Along with coordinating regional transport activities and co-management of the TransPennine Express and Northern Rail franchises.

I've been questioning how cabinet will ensure County Durham doesn't lose out (as we normally do to London) to the likes of Newcastle, Sunderland, and the Metro. The Portfolio Holder for Transport provided an upbeat answer stating that key projects were going ahead on A1, A19, and East Coast Mainline that would support improve our County. I followed this up with a discussion with the council officer responsible for transport, which was much more depressing. Transport for the North's focus is on connecting Newcastle and Leeds at speed. Projects coming from this could have knock on benefits for Chester-le-Street and places that aren't City of Durham, but not until the distant future.

Former Civic Centre Land

It has been announced that this land will very shortly be put on the open market to be sold. I've made the demand that the proceeds of the sale should be put back into Chester-le-Street. Investment in community buildings particularly. Losing the Civic Centre is the loss of a facility for the public, thus our community should be compensated.

In addition -

1) The County Council wished to be advised of any incidences of cables running across footpaths from houses to parked cars as these might constitute hazards to be dealt with. 2) The Picktree Lodge road signage lights were now working well. 3) No progress had been made with the County Council towards the purchase and installation of an additional waste bin at Low Flatts play area. Councillors agreed not to pursue this matter unless there was in the future a material change in circumstances. 4) Regarding a waste bin for the Drum pond area, the County Cllr. had not yet heard back from the Friends of Batley's group. 5) The County Cllr. and Cllr. Driscoll gave updates on the present situation re the sink hole at Merlin Drive. 6) Councillors raised concerns about what they considered to be misleading information re speed signs in the County Councillor's recent newsletter.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 17/103 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th October 2017, 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. 17/104 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

Re Minute 17/94. The Chairman and Cllr. Caygill had attended, on behalf of the Council, the Remembrance Day Service at which the Chairman had laid a wreath. The Service had been particularly well attended this year. Councillors thanked the Chairman and Cllr. Caygill for representing the Council at the Service.

The Chairman's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.21.11.2017.

Chairmans report.

AAP Information.

1.Universal Credit.Replaces Income based job seekers allowance.Income based employment support,Housing benefits.Income supprt.Child tax credits,Working tax credits This new service comes into force in the Chester le Sreet area in March 2018.And will impact 20% /5000 of the working population All applicants must apply on line.This is going to cause major problems in the area.AAP along with other organisations are to help as much as possible.This will be done through community centres Age UK Dementia Society etc. and DCC staff and Karbon Homes.

2.Dementia Friendly Communities Co-Ordinator.AAPs are asked to contribute to this position £12.454 for two years,The co-ordinator will work across Derwnt Valley,Chester le Street,Mid Durham,andd Stanley AAP areas to develop Dementia Friendly Communiies This request was agreed by the AAP.

3.New Refuse Cafe.Opening in Front Street.More information to follow.

4.Police no report.

5.Fire and Rescue Service. Increase in fires in the area.Rubbish and refuse usually caused by fly tipping. If you see anyone dumping rubbish etc and you are able to note vehicle registraion number please report number to Police or DCC.

6.Transferable Car Parking Tickets in Council operated car parks. This is ongoing.

7.Buisness Association, Lack of shops in St.Cuthberts Walk. Hoping that all shops and businesses will be invloved over activities during the Christmas period.

8.Remembrance Day Parade. 10.45am to leave Church Chare for service in market place at 11am.

9.AAP Small Grants Fund.The aim of this fund is to support local groups working in the area and in doing so improve the lives of local people,Priority will be given to aplicants that address the AAPs priority themes.Minimum grant yu can apply for is £250, For more information contact Hub 03000266144 or andrew.megginson@durham.gov.uk

Environmental Task Group.

1.No meeting held in October.

2.CAT.The Community Action Team in Chester le Street .The team is currently in the Chester le Street Area to tackle the environmental and housing issues to improve health and promote healthier lifestyles.

Priority Issues.Rubbish that has been dumped in gardens or waste ground.Raise awareness of scams/doorstep crime.

Activities currently being worked on.- Weekly walkabouts,drop in sessions,Fire Home Safe,and Wellbeing Visits.Extra Patrols to tackle litter in the Front Steet and commercial accumulations. Speaking at schools about litter and dog fouling.Supporting the Police with their "operation dark"campaign. Working with property owners to bring empty houses back to use. Any problems in your area contact community actionteam@durham.gov.uk or call 03000261016 We will be working in the area u til 15.12.2017.

3.RHS "Its your Neighbourhood" (IYN) Competition.Community Grant Scheme.Contact Civic Pride Team for information . 03000261000.

4.Environment Task Group will would like to see more young people involved either through youth organisations or if possible through schools.

5.Chester Best Awards,The group to approach AAP for support funding.

6.Flower and Vegatable Show, Once again this had been a great success.Judges had been very impressed and said that the whole area was one of the best in the NE.

7.Memory Garden,Work is ongoing.

8.Mr.Jeff Knight has been succeded to the AAP until next July whilst Mr.Derek Snaith has been promoted to Derwent Valley AAP Co-rdinator covering maternity leave for the current co-ordinator.

Children,Young People and Families Task Group.

1 "Have your Say" event,Questionare aproved and will eventually go out to schools to cover years 4.5.6.

2.The Youth Grant. 5 Applications.totalling £12.678. Small group to be arranged to consider the requests,

3.Projects - Support for Families - Around Budget and Cooking .Support for Young Carers.Issues relating to gambling,payday lenders,loan sharks,social media,illegal money lending.Feeling Safe Education and awareness in terms of alcohol and drug and sustance misuse in children and young people. Mental Health Preventative measures especially in relation to young people.Promotion of positive mental health and resillience in children and

young people and families.

4.Helen Pinkney -Community Project Development Officer will be leaving the Chester le Street AAP in January and returnig to her position in Crook,

N.L.P.C,

Cll Mrs E. Forrester BA and Cll Mrs M Caygill attended the Remberance Day Service in Chester le Street and laid a wreath of Poppies on behalf of the residents of North Lodge Parish.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 17/105 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Crime and Community Safety

The Chairman invited Cllr. Gregory to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -

North Lodge Parish Council.

Crime and Community Safety report 21st November 2017

Current

Ambleside Court, Vigo Lane.

Burglary, Monday 20/11. Property taken included car keys and a car parked outside the property. Investigations still ongoing.

Information only.

Tyre damage caused by a vehicle, details unknown, leaving the road and driving across the large communal grassed area and a resident's garden in Blind Lane. Any similar incidents involving other areas of the Parish should be recorded and forwarded to our local PCSO Christine Taylor.

Community Safety

Still await result of speed monitoring by Police (as opposed to volunteers) in Blind Lane and North Road.

Thank you to David for circulating 'In the Know'.

Remember non emergency calls contact Police using telephone number 101.

Any emergencies contact the Police using telephone number 999

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Gregory for her report and invited Cllr. Snaith to give his report.

b) Planning

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith and invited Cllr. Caygill to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report below-

c) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

All equipment appears to be in order. There are numerous Mole hills once again.

LOW FLATTS

All equipment appears to be in order. I have asked for quotes for replacement safety surfacing for three areas, complete and edging only.

The perimeter hedge has been partly flayed. The gap in the hedge remains.

The seat has been treated to protect the wood.

Marg. Caygill

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Caygill for her report and invited Cllrs. May and Driscoll to give their reports which included the matters contained in the written reports below -
d) Horticulture

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
HORTICULTURE REPORT
21 November 2017**

County Councils Responsibilities (16 Flower Beds)

- All flower beds have now been replanted up with winter/spring bedding.

Parish Council Responsibilities

- **Low Flatts Road Trees**

In communication with the Parish Clerk, Councillor Forrester (chairperson), Councillor Caygill and Councillor May have agreed to accept the quote from Abby Trees for the essential tree works/maintenance of these trees. The cost to the Parish Council will be £730.00. We are currently awaiting Durham County Council's acknowledgement of the Parish Council's Authority for the trees.

- **Hawthorn Hedging in Low Flatts Play Area**

Following discussion with Martin Briscoe, Durham County Council will sell established hawthorn trees – under negotiation. To date we are still waiting for quote for trees.

- **Cutting of Hedging around field of Low Flatts Play Area**

Unfortunately, Durham County Council cutting machine is broken and written off. A new machine is on order but has not yet arrived.

- **Seat at Low Flatts Road Play Area**

Seat has now been varnished/painted.

- **Flower bed at top of Longdean Park**

Bed has been planted up. Further design work will be carried out next season

- **Trees overhanging North Road**

Martin Briscoe has been contacted but he has requested photographs of offending trees. This will be done shortly.

Environmental Caretaker

A lot of litter (2 Mattress etc. etc.) has been found in Picktree Village. Durham County Council have been informed and action taken.

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

Date: 09/10/17 – 12/11/17

Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
	Total Hours	34	101
Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Tidying, refreshing slug pellets, trimming.	2.0	7.5
Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Tending Watering, Maintenance	1.0	1.0
Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Bus shelter tidying	0.5	2.0
Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Flower shrub bed planting, feeding, watering	1.0	4.0
Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge.		_____	4.0
Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park.	Planting, feeding, watering, refreshing slug pellets.	5.0	14.0
Shrub Bed within Longdean Park.		_____	_____
Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm pub (South Bound).	Cleaning and maintenance	0.5	2.0
Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	General tidying	0.5	2.0
Raised Shrub Beds North Road		_____	6.0
Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Bed clearing, feeding and watering	2.5	5.5
Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.		_____	_____
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	Cleaning and tidying	0.5	2.0
Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.	Clear bed of plants, leaves, remove hostas, cut yew tree, re soil and plant up	9.0	13.0
Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.		_____	_____

Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/ Hours	Accumulation
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Feeding and watering, tidying shelter.	1.5	3.0
Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Graffiti cleaning, plus tidying	0.75	2.25
Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers.	Tidying only	0.25	1.0
Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Bus shelter maintenance	0.25	1.0
Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Planting, feeding and watering, plus refreshing of slug pellets	3.5	11.0
Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.		_____	_____
Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	Cleaning and tidying	0.25	1.0
Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	Graffiti cleaning and shelter maintenance	0.75	3.25
Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).	Watering, feeding and refreshing slug pellets	2.0	4.5
Heather Bed at Picktree Village.		_____	8.0
Daffodil planting.		_____	_____
Handyman.	Painted /varnished seat at Low Flatts Play area – second coat, tidying area	2.25	3.0

Regarding the flower bed at the entrance to Longdean Park, it was agreed to include this item on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs. May and Driscoll for their reports.

e) Finance

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

f) Highways and Website

In the absence of Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt, no report was made.

g) Publicity

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

Councillors thanked the Chairman.

Item 7. 17/106 Correspondence

1) From a resident

Copy email re street lighting at Picktree Lodge.

2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) Notification of the Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on Thurs 23rd November 2017.
- b) Email re Dying to Work Campaign.
- c) Email re Durham County Council budget 2018/19 consultation.

3) From Durham County Council

- a) Email re Tree Week 2017.
- b) Email re planning application DM/17/02028/FPA.
- c) Email re AAP Children, Young People and Families Task Group "Call Out For Projects" campaign.
- d) Letter re Tax Base 2018/19.
- e) Notification of AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 27th November 2017.

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

- a) Application for T1 Beech remove lower limb over driveway and T2 Sycamore fell, at 17, North Lodge.
- b) Application for single storey extension to rear, at 25 North Lodge.
- c) Application for single storey extensions to side, decking and access steps, at 23 North Lodge.
- d) Approval for alteration and extension of existing dwelling and erection of detached garage, at Lough Finn, 31 North Lodge.
- e) Approval for crown lift of 7 no. trees (Holly, Lime and Maple) to 4m and fell 1no. Laburnum, at 14 North Lodge.
- f) Approval for outline application for the erection of a detached bungalow, with appearance, layout and scale matters reserved, at 7 Eastlands.

Item 8. 17/107 Adoption of Revised Code of Conduct

Councillors considered the draft revised Code of Conduct, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed that it should be adopted with immediate effect.

(Resolved - to adopt the revised Code of Conduct with immediate effect).

Item 9. 17/108 The new General Data Protection Regulations

Cllr. Hall had kindly agreed to monitor the progress through Parliament of the new Regulations, and to advise the Council on all relevant matters. Cllr. Hall had prepared a briefing note and this was read out by the Clerk.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Hall, in his absence, for agreeing to oversee this matter.

Item 10. 17/109 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries November 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses November 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions November 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 545.08	Horticulture November 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care November 2017	
D. Murrell (via Shaw & Sons Ltd)	£ 76.74	Receipts & Payments Book	£12.79
Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00	Wreath and Donation	
Total Payments	£1527.48		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 17/110 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters submitted for information.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm, wishing everyone an enjoyable winter recess.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st November 2017.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 478.36	Salaries November 2017	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses November 2017	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 145.30	Pensions November 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 545.08	Horticulture November 2017	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care November 2017	
D. Murrell (via Shaw & Sons Ltd)	£ 76.74	Receipts & Payments Book	£12.79
Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00	Wreath and Donation	
Total Payments	£1527.48		

Balance to 31st October 2017

Balance b/f	£31024.88	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Oct. 2017	<u>£ 1243.66</u>	Current	£ 1274.44
	£29781.22	30 Day	<u>£29094.54</u>
		Total	£30368.98
Add Grant Received	<u>£ 557.76</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 30.00</u>
Balance c/f	£30338.98		£30338.98