

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 17th April 2018.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory, Maureen May,
Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall, John Murray,
Colin Noble-Nesbitt, David Snaith, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 18/35 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence.

Item 2. 18/36 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 and an interest in Item 7 section 4e (below). Cllr Maureen May declared an interest as a member of North Lodge Property Owners' Association and an interest in Item 7 section 4f (below).

Item 3. 18/37 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 -

Bus Stop Picktree Village

A resident contacted me with concerns of waiting in the rain for bus outside Lintfort Picktree Village. Following a discussion with the Council plans have been produced to put a bus shelter opposite Lintfort on the South bound side.

Concerns have been raised that it has a modern design, compared to the rest of stone bus shelters across the Parish. This would be unfeasible due to the cost and how narrow the footpath is.

Following a discussion with residents, there is strong support for the bus shelter to be put in place. I'll be putting in £1000 of my budget in to ensure the project goes ahead.

Kind regards,

Cllr Craig Martin

North Lodge and Chester-le-Street
craig.martin@durham.gov.uk

In addition, 1) Re potential alterations to the Sustrans bridge at Low Flatts, the County Cllr will contact Sustrans within the next few weeks to ascertain if there have been any decisions taken. 2) Re the FixMyStreet website, the County Cllr had ascertained that it was incompatible with the County Council's Do It Online service and, therefore, was no longer accepted by the County Council. The County Cllr will continue to make representations, whenever possible, to have the technology improved so that FixMyStreet might again be available. 3) The County Council was not willing to offer a service arrangement for the forthcoming GDPR. The Clerk will contact other neighbouring principal Authorities to ask if they can assist. 4) The County Cllr will ask a question at a County Council meeting re the future of Chester-le-Street's railway station. 5) The County Cllr confirmed that he is pursuing with the County Council the matter of the damaged metal cover in Blind Lane.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 18/38 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th March 2018, 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. 18/39 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 18/26 section 1). Cllr Driscoll advised that the Highways Agency work to the Sustrans bridge at Picktree Lodge had now commenced although, as yet, no compound had been erected on the green space leading to the Baffle Bank. At Merlin Drive, the grassed area would require landscaping after the works there had been completed. The County Cllr kindly agreed to pursue this with the County Council.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17.4.2018.

CHAIRMANS REPORT.

1.AAP Information.

Health and inequalities across the area. This information will be used to help and inform the future work of the AAP. A walk through the life course of Chesterle Street. (Michael Flemming Public Health DCC).

Chester le Street Station. to be run by "Northern" which is owned by ARRIVA. Open hours Monday to Saturday 7am until 1pm, for the purchase of tickets (Advance purchase and season tickets will not be available at this present time) but all ticket types will be on offer. Waiting room and toilets open between 6am and 6pm.

Support for flood prevention scheme Chester le Street./Market Place. DCC and Environmental Agency.

Remembrance Parade 2018 Centenary Celebrations, Royal British Legion/AAP. Team have worked hard with RBL to obtain external funding for this event. Working with the Tesco Bags for Help Scheme have successfully secured £3000.00 to cover the costs for the 2018 event.

AAP Budget for 2018/2019. DCC have agreed its budget for this period. Chester le Street AAP will receive the following (£100.00⁰ for AAP priorities, £10,000 for Welfare reform grants £9,902.00 for youth work focusing on work with 11-18 year olds in addition the AAP has been given an extra £25,000 for the next three years to support special projects that tackle Social Isolation in Older people Total of £144,902.00..

Durham Constabulary Market Activity Week Monday 13th August- Friday 17th August 2018 10am until 3pm each day. Activities designed to build relationships between young people and agencies such as Police. Fire Services etc. to convey important messages around crime and community safety to the public Match Funding has been sought from Tesco, Proceeds for Crime Act. County Councillors and Awards For All. Total costs £20,000. Insp Coxon advised that match funding from Lottery Awards for All (£7k) had been received.

Water Safety Week Riverside 20.4.2018. Schools invited.

Linda Charlton (The Swan Lady at the Riverside). Linda Passed away recently, She was so very well known for all her work looking after the swans for a number of years. Many councillors would like to see a seat and plaque at the riverside be discussed (On going).

2 fires reported mainly refuse and scrubland.

Part time 20mph speed limits to be established at Pelton Community Primary School. Roseberry Primary School Sacriston Primary School.

Proposal of major traffic awaiting restrictions in the Beverley Gardens / York Terrace/ Lancaster Terrace areas,

Chester Best. 2018. Closing date for entries 31.5.2018. For all information or enquiries call 03000 260 000. The competition is open to all individuals, groups and organisations throughout the Chester le Street area. Chester Best competition encourages impressive floral displays and environmental improvements in the area. Download an entry form, www.durham.gov.uk/chesterbest send by email to civicpride@durham.gov.uk

1) Re health and inequalities across the area, Councillors considered that this had been the case for many years and the County Council must now take note of circumstances in the north of the County. The County Cllr advised that, in his opinion, the Chester-le-Street area was ignored too often by the County Council.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

At this point, Inspector David Coxon of Durham Police arrived at the meeting which was adjourned. Following discussions with the Inspector, who was thanked by the Chairman, the meeting re-convened.

Item 6. 18/40 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Finance

The Chairman invited Cllr Waugh to give his report. Cllr Waugh advised that he had received the most recent financial information and he was satisfied that the finances were in order. The Clerk advised that subsequently the Precept for 2018/2019 had been received into the Council's bank account.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh for his report and invited Cllrs May and Driscoll to give their reports which included the matters contained in their written reports below -

b) Horticulture

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
HORTICULTURE REPORT
17 April 2018**

County Councils Responsibilities (16 Flower Beds)

Vigo Lane Flower Bed

This flower bed seems to have “disappeared” due to? Highway/verge works being carried out in this area. Following the completion of these works, discussion with Durham County Council will take place regarding agreed project.

Parish Council Responsibilities

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

This project is now complete.

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

Whips are now in our possession. Gardener will prepare ground and plant whips.

- **Shrub Beds (2) in North Road**

The reduction of the height of four large trees has been carried out and is now complete.

- **North Lodge Lambton Park**

We have now received a design for this project from Durham County Council. As discussed at last month's Parish Council meeting, the cost of works would be approx. £7000.00. The design would cost approx. £200. At the AGM of North Lodge Property Owners Association on Sunday 15 April 2018, discussions took place re this issue. The Association have offered to fund one third of this project. They suggested some large flowering shrubs be planted in the flower beds to reduce maintenance. They also agreed to continue with the help of clearing leaves during the months of September, October November and December.

Environmental Caretaker

No unusual issues have occurred.

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

11/03/18 – 07/04/18

Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
	Total Hours	7	151
Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.			16.5
Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Refreshing plants and weeding	0.5	1.5
Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Cleaning and tidying bus shelter.	0.5	4.5
Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Weeding and tidying flowers.	0.5	7.5
Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge.	Cutting back loose branches, stacking for County Council collection	2.0	6.0
Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park.			16.5
Shrub Bed within Longdean Park.			
Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm pub (South Bound).	Checking and cleaning.	0.5	4.0
Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Maintenance and cleaning	0.5	4.0
Raised Shrub Beds North Road			6.0
Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).			12.5
Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.			
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	Cleaning and tidying	0.5	4.5
Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.			15.5
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).	General tidying of flowers, shelter maintenance	0.5	5.5
Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Cleaning and tidying,	0.25	4.75
Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers			1.0
Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Bus shelter maintenance.	0.5	2.5
Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			15.0
Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			
Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	Cleaning and tidying.	0.5	2.5
Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	Shelter tidying.	0.25	5.25
Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).			4.5
Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			8.0
Daffodil planting.			
Handyman.			3.0

Councillor Patrick Driscoll/ Councillor Maureen May

- 1) Re completion of the cutting of the hedge at Low Flatts play area, Cllr Caygill hoped that this would not now be carried out as new shoots were appearing and birds beginning to nest.
- 2) Re extending the tarmac area at the entrance to Lambton Park, Cllr May advised that the North Lodge Property Owners' Association had generously offered to fund one-third of the cost and to help with the clearing of leaves there. Councillors discussed the project, including the historical significance of the area, and agreed that the quote and design provided by the County Council did not address this significance nor did it represent good value for money. Cllr Hall proposed that the scheme put forward by the County Council should be rejected.

(Resolved - to reject the scheme put forward by the County Council for extending the tarmac area at the entrance to Lambton Park).

The County Cllr will ascertain from the County Council what designs might be available, appropriate to a conservation area.

The Clerk will thank the Property Owners for their generous offer and advise them of the current situation.

- 3) Re recent vandalism of daffodils, Cllr Caygill advised that if this was being carried out by schoolchildren then Park View School would take up the matter with those responsible.

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

c) Planning

Cllr Snaith advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Snaith and invited Cllr Noble-Nesbitt to give his report which included the following matters.

d) Highways and Website

- 1) Replacement sewer laying in Lombard Drive was an on-going work.

- 2) The footpath between Caxton Way and Picktree Lodge had been waterlogged.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr Caygill to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -

e) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

On inspection, all equipment appears to be in good order. The Mole hills have been flattened.

LOW FLATTS

On inspection, all equipment appears to be in good order. The replacement hedging has now been planted. I have requested that the cutting of the perimeter hedge be halted as it is now too late in the season as buds are coming out and birds are starting to nest. I have reported the NO SMOKING ZONE sign is still missing.

David and I have examined the quote received for the Safety Surface replacement and will discuss with Councillors at the meeting.

Margaret Caygill

Cllr Caygill advised the meeting of the quote received in the sum of £4149 for the repairs to the safety surfacing at Low Flatts play area. Councillors discussed this, including sourcing comparative quotes, and agreed that the quote, having been overseen by the County Council's Leisure Services Technician, represented good value for money.

(Resolved - to accept the quote of £4149 from RTC Safety Surfaces Ltd for repair of safety surfacing at Low Flatts play area).

The County Cllr then offered to provide funding of £4000 for this project from his Neighbourhood Budget and this was accepted with thanks.

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

f) Crime and Community Safety

North Lodge Parish Council.

Crime and Community Safety report 17th April 2018.

Crime – current

Criminal Damage:

Leander Avenue- Damage (by means unknown) to Parish Council notice board.

Vehicle Crime:

Ambleside Court, car window smashed

Drum Lane, car window smashed.

Investigations ongoing.

Road Traffic Accident:

North Road, vehicle mounted highway, crashed into a lamp post, and a domestic garden fence. It continued to travel through a private garden and collide with the brickwork to a house. One person arrested.

Community Safety

On Monday, 16th April, for one week, the Cleveland and Durham Police Specialist Operations unit is to launch a crackdown on speeding drivers though out the county.

Reminder to residents. There is an increase in theft from motor vehicles within the Chester-le-Street area. This is mainly due to vehicles being left unlocked or keys left in the ignition. Please make sure on leaving your vehicle, it is securely locked and that there are no valuables on show inside the vehicle.

Thank you to David for continuing to send ' In the Know'.

All non emergency incidents call Police using telephone number 101

Any emergency incidents call Police using telephone number 999

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gregory for her report.

g) Publicity

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

Item 7. 18/41 Correspondence

- 1) From Durham Cathedral
Thanks for Donation.
- 2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Notification of CDALC Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on Thurs. 24th May 2018.
 - b) Notification of Payscales and Allowances for 2018 and 2019.
- 3) From Durham County Council
Notification of AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 23rd April 2018.
- 4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for outline planning permission (all matters reserved except access) for the erection of up to 84 dwellings, at site of former Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane.
 - b) Application for two storey extension to side, porch to front and single storey extension to rear, at 66 North Road.
 - c) Application for single storey extension to side and rear, at 9 Kingsmere.
 - d) Approval for conversion of garage to side to habitable accommodation with pitched roof above, at 59 Kingsmere.
 - e) Approval for felling of 1 No. tree and works to 7 No. trees, at 23 Blind Lane.
 - f) Approval for felling of 1 No. Sycamore tree protected by a TPO, at Hollydene, North Lodge.

Item 8. 18/42 Items Requested by Councillors

a) Planting of Barrels

Cllr Gregory had produced a report outlining the history of the wooden barrels owned by the Council and this had been distributed to Councillors. After discussion it was agreed that 11 barrels should be sold at £25 per barrel, the remaining 14 barrels being retained for planting along North Road. These barrels are to be maintained by the Parish Council Gardener with any available help from residents to water the plants.

b) Replacing the Noticeboards

Councillors discussed this potential project to replace the existing noticeboards with more attractive and in some cases larger ones, also possibly re-siting some. The Chairman and the Clerk are to select three designs for the consideration of the Council.

c) FixMyStreet Website

This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to express concern that no consultations had taken place before the service was discontinued.

d) Use of Personal Email Accounts

The Clerk outlined progress to date in contact with the County Council hoping to lead to the provision of .gov email addresses for each Councillor.

Item 9. 18/43 Preparation of the Newsletter

Cllr May kindly agreed to take the lead again in the preparation of the Newsletter. Articles from Councillors and others are to be submitted to Cllr May before the next Council meeting whenever possible. All Councillors and the Clerk gave their consent to the use of their photograph in the Newsletter.

Item 10. 18/44 Payment of Accounts

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£ 487.50	Salaries April 2018	
Expenses		£ 80.00	Expenses April 2018	
Durham County Pension Fund		£ 48.43	Pensions April 2018	
Pot-It-On		£ 108.00	Horticulture April 2018	
Pot-It-On		£ 152.00	Environment Care April 2018	
E. Febrillet		£ 155.00	Tree Pruning	
D. Murrell (via Costco Ltd)		£ 11.27	Copier Paper	£ 1.88

Total Payments £1042.20

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 18/45 Other Matters for Information

1) Cllr Gregory advised that two residents had expressed unhappiness at the proposed installation of hard-standing on North Road for the speed camera van. The County Cllr advised that he understood that the surface was designed so that the grass would grow through it and that there would be no new signage at the site.

2) The County Cllr advised that it was expected that the fence on North Road at the former BOC site would eventually be removed by the site developers.

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 17th April 2018.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 487.50	Salaries April 2018	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses April 2018	
Durham County Pension Fund	£ 48.43	Pensions April 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 108.00	Horticulture April 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care April 2018	
E. Febrillet	£ 155.00	Tree Pruning	
D. Murrell (via Costco Ltd)	£ 11.27	Copier Paper	£ 1.88
Total Payments	£1042.20		

Balance to 31st March 2018

Balance b/f	£20993.13	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2018	<u>£ 1303.06</u>		Current £ 740.83
	£19690.07		30 Day <u>£19108.33</u>
			Total <u>£19849.16</u>
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 13.79</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 145.30</u>
Balance c/f	£19703.86		£19703.86