

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 July 2018.

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

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 18/75 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence.

Item 2. 18/76 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School.

Item 3. 18/77 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 -

Footpath Vigo Lane

Multiple utility companies are taking it in turns to lay cables for the new development. The Council are allowing the companies to leave trenches open because no point in forcing one organisation to close them up, just to be dug up again.

This has caused a large amount of disorganisation and no proper walkway for residents. They forced to cross the road with no assistance. A road the planners deem necessary to put in pedestrian crossing for the new houses.

I've arguing with the Council to do something about this. They have put in a bid to be the contractors for the highways improvements with Advant. They've promised me that if they succeed in getting the work, it will be improved for the pedestrians while work is undertaken.

Real Christmas Tree Northlands Roundabout

Following the pressure put on me by a young lady to find a more environmentally friendly alternative to cutting down a fir tree to be displayed. I've used my budget to plant a fir tree on the roundabout. It will cost £2938.00, but extra money will be

This tree will be smaller than what we're use to. It will also have smaller lights on it for the first year. As too much weight will distress the tree and possibly kill it off. By planting a tree it will ensure residents have a tree to enjoy over the festive period and cut the costs for the long in celebrating Christmas.

Cllr Craig Martin

North Lodge and Chester-le-Street

craig.martin@durham.gov.uk

In addition, 1) The County Cllr gave an up-date re his 20mph consultation. 2) Re the copse of trees alongside the A693, Cllr Caygill suggested that the County Cllr should enlist the help of the Volunteer Rangers to raise the crowns. 3) The County Cllr provided an update re the occupancy of the land at the Drum pond. He will pursue this matter with Coveris and the Planning Department. Cllr Gregory will update the Police. 4) Re the Vigo Lane housing developments, the County Cllr will enquire what safeguards are in place to ensure the establishment and long term continuance of site management companies. 5) Cllr Hall considered that there was too little information available re the effect on the area infrastructure of the Vigo Lane housing developments. The Clerk will invite the Planning Manager to give a presentation to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 18/78 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th June 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. 18/79 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

Re Minute 18/64 section c). The Chairman and the Clerk will consider suitable replacement noticeboards for a decision by the Council.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. JULY 17th 2018.

CHAIRMANS REPORT.

1.AAP INFORMATION..

1.COUNTY DURHAM PLAN.PREFERRED OPTIONS STAGE. HELP TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF COUNTY DURHAM..HOUSING JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT UNTIL 2035. AS WELL AS THE TRANSPORT SCHOOLS AND HEALTHCARE TO SUPPORT IT. CHESTER LE STREET MASTER PLAN FOR THE AAP AREA. CONSULTATION PERIOD 22.6.018 UNTIL 3.8.2018.

2. INTERNATIONAL CRICKET MATCH RECENTLY HELD AT THE EMIRATES GROUND HAD BEEN WELL ATTENDED,BUT HAD CAUSED MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH CARS BEING PARKED IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.MANY RESIDENTS ARE BEING IGNORED WHEN TRYING TO COMPLAIN.WITH MAJOR WORLD CUP MATCHES BEING HELD 2019 THE PROBLEM OF CAR PARKING MUST BE RESOLVED ASAP.!!!!.AND MAKE SURE THAT RESIDENTS ARE NO LONGER INCONVENIENCED.

3.POLICE. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE TOWN AT WEEKENDS.

4.KARBON HOMES. TO HOLD "POP UP" EVENTS IN CERTAIN WORKSHOPS AROUND THE AAP AREA.STARTING AT SACRISTON 11.7.2018.CHESTER LE STREET 15.8.2018.FOLLOWED BY PELTON. STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS THAT RESIDENTS MAY HAVE.

5.BUSINESS SECTOR. "IN BLOOM" WINDOW DRESSING COMPETITION IN THE TOWN IS NOW TAKING PLACE.

6.CHESTERS BEST APPLICATIONS ARE NOW TO HAND 60 RECEIVED – 50% INCREASE ON 2017.

8.ACTIVE DURHAM.INCREASE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN COUNTY DURHAM BIRTH- 5 YEARS AT LEAST 3 HOURS ACROSS EVERY DAY. AGE 5-18 YEARS 60 MINUTES PER DAY. ADULTS 75-150 MINUTES PER WEEK. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WWW.ACTIVEDURHAM.ORG.UK.WOULD

9.BRASS FESTIVAL.STREET CEILIDH MARKET PLACE WEDNESDAY 18.7.2018 6.30PM – 8.30PM.THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AND WILL MATCH UP BANDS ONE FORM SCOTLAND AND AN ALL FEMALE BAND FROM NEW ORLEANS. A FREE INTERACTIVE FAMILY EVENT WITH PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE VERY SPECIAL EVENING.

10 "GOALS IS GO OUT AND LIVE." PELTON COMMUNITY CENTRE FRIDAY 27TH JULY 1.30PM.JOIN US FOR A FILM OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM WIZARD OF OZ WITH A FEW VARIATIONS REFRESHMENTS AVAILABE ON SALE AFTERWARDS.RSVP TO ANNE KNAPTON 07786156739.

Councillors discussed the Chester-le-Street Masterplan, in particular the possible further development of the Drum Industrial Estate. Cllr Gregory considered that further development would create additional traffic on roads not having suitable capacity for the current volume of traffic. Councillors thanked Cllrs Gregory and Driscoll for generating interest within the Parish for the Chesters Best competition.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 18/80 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Crime and Community Safety

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety report 17th July 2018

Crime Update

Theft -Lombard Drive- Items left outside property for Council Collection, removed by persons unknown.

Criminal Damage- The Wheatsheaf Pub, Damage to gaming machine by persons unknown.

Road Traffic Accident- Lombard Drive, schoolboy crossing road hit by wing mirror of van. Investigations still on going.

Community Safety

New speed limit signs to be placed in Blind Lane.

Thank you to David for sending 'In the Know'

Any non emergency calls to Police, use telephone no.101

Any emergency calls to Police use telephone no. 999

Councillors also discussed a County Council proposal for an amendment to the extent of the 30mph speed limit in Blind Lane.
The Chairman thanked Cllr Gregory for her report and invited Cllr Waugh to give his report.

b) Finance

Cllr Waugh advised that he had received the most recent financial information and was satisfied that the Council's finances were in order.

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

c) Horticulture

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING JULY 2018

County Council Responsibilities

All flower beds are now planted up including new bed at entrance to Longdean Park

Parish Council Responsibilities

- ***Planting of bedding plants is complete throughout the Parish***
- ***Area in front of house on corner of North Road and Longdean Park***
Wild flowers have been planted along back wall. Martin Briscoe has agreed to attend to the grassed area at front.
- ***Lambton Park***
We have now reached a Status Quo. Currently attempts are being made to source an industrial Leaf Extractor
- ***Northlands Shrub Bed***
Durham County Council quote for reducing the shrub bed by half is:
Remove half of the shrubs, import soil and seed - £465.00. Councillors need to discuss and agree way forward.

Regarding minutes of June Parish Council meeting: (*Request for review of horticulture services by Councillor Caygill*)

Exactly one year ago to date, the same request for a review of the Horticulture service (to ensure Value for Money) was made.

Councillors May, Driscoll, Murray and Chairman Forrester carried out a Parish walk-a-about. The purpose was to assess the time required approximately to be allocated to each horticulture area. (This also included bus shelters). A report of the assessment was written by Councillor Murray and given out as information.

A monthly Audit, of time and work carried out by the Parish gardener, as well as all accumulation of hours, was commenced and delivered to the Parish Council by Councillors May and Driscoll. We have now delivered eleven reports and the final one at this Parish meeting.

In view of Councillor Caygill's request for a review of the horticultural services (In addition, No1 Page 8) it appears that our efforts in producing monthly analysis have not been successful.

Both Councillors May and Driscoll, based upon our reports/observations believe the gardener distributes his time in a fair and responsible manner. It must be remembered that at certain times of the year priorities can change. We would like to reiterate that the gardener is only contracted to work six hours per week, five of which are on horticulture and the other is on bus shelters..

Cllrs M May/P Driscoll

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council /Gardeners Responsibility
ENDING YEAR ONE AUDIT
11/06/18 – 08/07/18

No.	Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
		Total hours	34	228
1	Shrub Bed close to Northlands Roundabout	Clearing, tidying, weeding and trimming bed.	10.5	32.0
3	Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout	Cleared and planted tubs, including compost and watered.	2.0	3.5
1	Bus Shelter – Northlands (North Bound)	Tidying and cleaning	1.0	7.0
3	Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides.	Cut grass trimmed and tidied.	2.0	12.5
1	Checking of Low Flatts Play Area- Hawthorn Hedge			9.0
1	Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park			16.5
1	Shrub Bed within Longdean Park			5.0
1	Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm Pub (South Bound)	Sweeping and tidying	0.5	5.5
1	Bus shelter North Road – Lambton Worm pub (North bound) No Flowers	Sweeping and maintenance	0.5	5.5
2	Raised Shrub beds North road	Started clearing work	1.0	7.0
2	Flower beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park)	Cleared storm damage, planted row of Geraniums and watered	2.5	29.5
2	Tubs at Lambton Park entrance	Planted tubs and watered	1.0	1.0
	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound) No flowers	General maintenance	0.5	6.0
1	Millennium Flower Bed at Entrance to Lombard Drive	Clearing, planting bed and watering	6.0	21.5

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council /Gardeners Responsibility
ENDING YEAR ONE AUDIT
11/06/18 – 08/07/18

No.	Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
1	Jubilee tree at entrance to Lombard Drive			
1	Bus shelter- North Lodge Estate (North Bound) (Flowers on North Side)	Sweeping and cleaning.	0.5	7.5
1	Bus Shelter Barley Mow Inn (South bound)	General maintenance	0.25	6.0
	Bus stop Barley Gate Vigo Lane No Flowers			1.0
1	Bus Shelter Ambleside Court Vigo lane (Laurel on Westside)	Cleaning and sweeping	0.25	3.5
2	Flower bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge	Tidied bed cut grass and watered.	2.5	20.5
1	Planting of Flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge			
1	Bus shelter (glass in Picktree Village)	General maintenance	0.25	3.5
2	Bus shelter Ash Meadows Picktree Village flower/shrub bed both sides.	Sweeping and tidying	0.25	6.5
3	Small shrub/flower beds in Picktree Village beds (Opposite Mr. & Mrs Kirkup)	Watering and tidying beds	2.5	7.0
1	Heather Bed at Picktree Village			8.0
	Daffodil Planting			
	Handyman			3.0

Councillor Patrick Driscoll/ Councillor Maureen May

In addition, 1) Proposals for the Northlands shrub bed are to be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. 2) Re sourcing a leaf collector for the entrance to Lambton Park, Councillors are also to consider other areas of the Parish that would benefit from this, for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council. 3) Councillors discussed the results of the year-long audit of the work of the Gardener.

(Resolved on a show of hands by 8 votes in favour to 1 against - that the work of the Gardener provides value for money for the Council).

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

d) 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.

e) Highways and Website

1) Re the problems of Japanese Knotweed and a motorway fence gate being ajar at the Baffle Bank/Merlin drive area, Highways England had confirmed that they would attend to these. 2) Re the control of parking at Lombard Drive by the Civil Enforcement Officers, the Clerk is to ask that the Officers also attend at the start of the new school year in September.

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

f) Play Areas

At Merlin Drive play area, there were several small holes in the ground. Although the County Council would inspect the play area each week the Clerk will advise the Leisure Services Technician. At Low Flatts play area, Cllr Driscoll considered that a litter bin was not fit for purpose. Cllr Caygill will establish the cost of a replacement for discussion by the Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill 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. 18/81 Correspondence

1) From County Councillor C. Martin

- a) Email re copse of trees.
- b) Email re speed limit on Blind Lane.

2) From Scottish Woodlands

Email re Lambton Estate Woodland Management Plan consultation.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

- a) Email re Training Sessions.
- b) Email re Neighbourhood Protection event to be held on Wednesday 18th July 2018.
- c) Email re NALC legal briefing re the Ledbury case.
- d) Notification of Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 26th July 2018.
- e) Email re County Durham Plan consultation.

4) From Durham County Council

- a) Letter re Chester-le-Street Masterplan consultation.
- b) Email re Licence Agreement, Highways England works at Picktree Lodge.

The Parish Council was asked to work with the County Council Clean and Green team to establish a proposal for a landscaping improvement scheme as compensation for the work being carried out by Highways England.

- c) Email re change in communications with the Clean and Green Team.
- d) Email re parking enforcement at Lombard Drive.
- e) Letter re 2019/20 Budget Planning.

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

- a) Application for cutting back overhanging branches of a weeping willow, at 1 North Road.
- b) Application for tree works, at 5 North Lodge.
- c) Approval for two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, single storey garage to side and porch to front, at 48 Lyndhurst Avenue.
- d) Approval for felling of 1 no. tree, works to 19 no. trees and trees within G19 and G20, at Oaklea, North Road.
- e) Approval for two storey extension to side, porch to front and single storey extension to rear, at 66 North Road.
- f) Approval for single storey extension to side and rear, at 9 Kingsmere.
- g) Approval for two storey extension, single storey front extension and porch, at 11 Longdean Park.
- h) Approval for construction of three storey extension to side of dwelling, at 14 North Lodge.

Item 8. 18/82 Items Requested by Councillors

Portfolio Holders' Responsibilities

Councillors discussed the responsibilities and process of Portfolios. Cllr Hall suggested a new Policy and Governance Portfolio. The Chairman and Cllr Hall are to produce a proposal for the consideration of the Council.

Length of Service as Chairman

The Chairman proposed that, as a general rule, the maximum term as Chairman should be limited to two years.

(Resolved - that unless there are exceptional circumstances the maximum term as Chairman is to be limited to two years).

Item 9. 18/83 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 497.29	Salaries July 2018	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses July 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care July 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 447.00	Horticulture July 2018	
JAK HQ Ltd	£ 280.00	Printing of Newsletters	
Durham County Council	£2825.57	Annual Bedding	£470.93
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 30.00	Postage Stamps	
M. May (via Leamside Nurseries)	£ 30.00	Plants	
M. May (via Pity Me Nursery)	£ 30.00	Geraniums	£ 1.15

Total Payments £4371.86

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 18/84 Other Matters for Information

Cllr May advised that the Newsletter was now available for distribution by Councillors to residents. The Chairman thanked all those involved in the production and distribution of the Newsletter.

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 18th September 2018.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 497.09	Salaries August 2018	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses August 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 190.00	Environment Care August 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 357.50	Horticulture August 2018	
Salaries	£	Salaries September 2018	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses September 2018	
Pot-It-On	£	Environment Care September 2018	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture September 2018	
HM Revenue & Customs	£	P.A.Y.E.	
E. Forrester	£ 180.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Mazars	£ 240.00	Annual Audit Fee	£ 40.00
St Astier Ltd	£5895.35	Refurbishment of Bus Shelters	£ 982.56

Total Payments £

Balance to 31st July 2018

Balance b/f	£42387.94	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2018	<u>£ 4371.86</u>		
	£38016.08	Current	£ 652.09
		30 Day	<u>£37650.73</u>
		Total	£38302.82
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 6.74</u>		
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 280.00</u>
Balance c/f	£38022.82		£38022.82