

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 September 2018.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Maureen May, Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall,
David Snaith, John Waugh.

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 18/85 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory and Colin Noble-Nesbitt.

Item 2. 18/86 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

Item 3. 18/87 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 -

£6,000 found for North Lodge

106 money allocated off the last Drum Industrial Estate development has been discovered sitting on DCC's ledgers since the district council days. I chased this up and met with the Council's Head of Resources following rumours from numerous sources that the funding existed.

The funding comes from an original pot of £33,000 from when Coveris was built. £27,000 was moved into Chester-le-Street District Council's Leisure/Sport/Culture budget. The remaining £6,000 was just never spent and absorbed into Durham County Council's accounts. This 106 money must be spent on public art in the Drum Industrial Estate.

No Plans to Improve Roads

Recent figures reviewing the Council's progress with highways work shows an alarming position regarding the unclassified road network. There has been no improvement in roads that need maintenance (20%) and Durham County Council consider this to be very good. Highlighted as green in performance indicators.

I raised the point that the Council should at least be aiming to improve this by 1%. Rather than being happy that our unclassified road network continues to remain dramatically below national average. The Council will be reviewing how it measures this performance indicator.

Kind regards,

Cllr Craig Martin

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

In addition, 1) Re the Section 106 monies, the County Cllr asked Councillors to make proposals for suitable projects. 2) Re the copse of trees alongside the A693, the County Council will try to get the work included in the job list to be contracted out in March. 3) Cllr Driscoll advised that reinstatement work to the former sinkhole land at Merlin Drive had not yet been carried out. The County Cllr will chase this up.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 18/88 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th July 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. 18/89 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 18/77 section 3). Re the occupancy of the land at the Drum pond, the County Cllr will seek an update from the leaseholder.
- b) Re Minute 18/77 section 4). Re the Vigo Lane housing developments, the County Council Planning Manager was seeking further information from Avant Homes re landscape management companies. Re local infrastructure, Councillors agreed that careful consideration would be needed when a planning application for the former Arizona Chemical site was received.
- c) Re Minute 18/79. The Chairman and the Clerk had selected a replacement noticeboard and Councillors agreed to the purchase. The Clerk is to contact the County Council to seek permission for the noticeboard to be erected in Merlin Drive play area.
- d) Re Minute 18/82. Cllr Hall outlined a proposal for a new Portfolio which would be named the Policy and Governance Portfolio. Matters to fall within the scope of the Portfolio would include such as Data Protection and the Code of Conduct. Councillors discussed this proposal and agreed to establish the new Portfolio. Cllr Hall was elected as the Portfolio Holder.
(**Resolved** - to establish a new Policy and Governance Portfolio. Councillor Dennis Hall is the Portfolio Holder until the next Annual General Meeting when an election will be held in the normal way).

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18.9.2018.

AAP INFORMATION FROM JULY MEETING.:-

1.CENTENARY CONCERT "WARS END". IN ST.MARY AND ST CUTHBERTS CHURCH SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD 2018. 7PM.TICKETS ADULTS £8.50p.CHILDREN UNDER 16 £5.CONTACT 01913882312 MR FRED RICHARDS.

2.RIVERSIDE PARK HAS OBTAINED A "GREEN FLAG" FOR THE AREA.

3.TO MANY DRIVERS ARE NOW DRIVING DOWN FRONT STREET,BE WARNED YIU ARE BEING WATCHED.

4.OLD CO-OP BUILDING,APARTMENTS ARE BEING BUILT ABOVE THE SHOPS.

5.NO WAITING AND NO PARKING WHITE LINES ARE BEING PUT DOWN IN MANY AREAS OF CHESTER LE STREET,

6 "IN BLOOM" JUDGES STATED THAT THE AREA WAS EXCELLENT RESULTS SEPT.

HOPING FOR A GOLD AWARD !!!!!.

7.COUNTY DURHAM PLAN ONGOING

8 WHEELS TO WORK PROJECT.ON GOING IT IS PROVING VERY VALUABLE TO SO MANY PEOPLE.

9.MAN V FAT PROJECT. RIVERSIDE SPORTS COMLPEX.. A NEW FOOTBALL LEAGUE FO MEN WHO WISH TO LOOSE WEIGHT.(REQUEST FOR £5000.)

10.OLDER PEOPLES SOCIAL ISOLATION FUND.ON GOING.

11.CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON.

12. CHESTER BEST AWARDS.6 FULL DAYS OF JUDGING. LOTS OF EXCELLENT GARDENS. AWARDS WILL BE AWARDED 11.10.2018 AT AN EVENT AT THE EMERATES CRICKET CLUB.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 18/90 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllrs May and Driscoll to give their reports which included the matters contained in the written reports below -

a) Horticulture

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HORTICULTURE REPORT

18 September 2018

County Councils Responsibilities

- Flower beds will shortly be emptied in preparation for planting up with winter bedding.
 - A request has been sent to Robbie Aberdeen – Team Leader, Clean and Green DCC to trim trees in North Road, Picktree Village (near Ashmeadows) and top of Longdean Park. A response is awaited.
-

Parish Council Responsibilities

- **North Lodge Lambton Park**

Treebor Landscapes has been contacted regarding leaf collecting at entrance.

Cost: £100 for one collection.

Probably need two collections in October, two collections in November and one collection in December.

Total cost £500.00

Other areas of Parish which require leaf collections need to be identified by Councillors

- All flower beds have been emptied in preparation for planting up with winter bedding.
 - **Seat at Lambton Worm Pub**
This seat is badly affected by bird droppings from tree above seat. Seat has been thorough cleaned by Parish Gardener but lots of damage has occurred. Can this seat be replaced? Decision by Councillors required.
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Environmental Caretaker

- Only one incidence of graffiti observed this month on lamp post near to North Lodge Estate bus stop. Caretaker will remove this ASAP.
-

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
START OF YEAR 2 AUDIT**

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

DATE: 09/07/18 –09/09/18

Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
	Total Hours	50	50
Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Cut back large shrubs, cleared weeds, tidied bed and trimmed.	18	18
Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Fed, watered and tidied.	1.5	1.5
Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Tidied bus stand and cleaned seat	1.5	1.5
Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Cut grass, edged and tidied shrubs.	2.0	2.0
Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge.			
Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park.	Watering and feeding.	0.5	0.5
Shrub Bed within Longdean Park.	Cleared bed and surrounding path.	5.0	5.0
Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm pub (South Bound).	Cleaning and maintenance.	0.5	0.5
Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Tidying bus stand. Cleaning seat.	1.5	1.5
Raised Shrub Beds North Road			
Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Cut grass, cleared and weeded, tending flowers	4.0	4.0
Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.	Watering and feeding	0.5	0.5
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	General maintenance	1.0	1.0
Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.	Weeding, feeding and watering	3.0	3.0

Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/ Hours	Accumulation
Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.			
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Tidied bus stand Cleaning of seat	1.5	1.5
Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Cleaned bus stand and seat.	1.0	1.0
Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers			
Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Cleaning, maintenance and cleaning of seat.	1.0	1.0
Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Cut grass, fed and watered flowers and edged surrounds	4.0	4.0
Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			
Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	General maintenance	0.5	0.5
Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	Cleaning bus stand and tidying shrubs	1.0	1.0
Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).	Watering, feeding and tidying	2.0	2.0
Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			
Daffodil planting.			
Handyman.			

In addition, 1) Re a possible replacement seat at the Lambton Worm Hotel, Cllr May will enquire with the County Council for suitability and availability. 2) Re the monitoring of work done by the Gardener, Councillors agreed with Cllr Hall who stated that he was highly satisfied with the work of the Gardener and felt that this matter had now been discussed thoroughly and sufficiently by Councillors who thanked Cllrs May and Driscoll for all their excellent work in the Horticulture Portfolio.

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

c) Planning

Cllr Snaith advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Snaith.

d) Play Areas

In her absence, Cllr Caygill had provided the written report below -

MERLIN DRIVE

All equipment seems to be in good working order.

The No Smoking sign has slipped down the fence and is being hidden by grass.

I met with the DCC inspector who promises to lift and refix this.

LOW FLATTS

All equipment seems to be in good working order except for a missing handle on the infants Spring Daisy. The DCC inspector was going to replace this immediately.

Whilst the waste bin is OK, it might be better if it was replaced by a solid enclosed bin as suggested at last meeting.

Most of the replacement perimeter hedging seems to have been lost In the summer drought as only one or two survive.

Cllr Driscoll advised that at Merlin Drive play area the County Council had thinned out the surrounding shrubs. Cllr Driscoll had then extracted much litter from the shrub beds. Cllr Driscoll also advised that at Low Flatts play area there had been further damage to the Spring Daisy and there was clear evidence of more vandalism.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

e) Highways and Website

In his absence, Cllr Noble-Nesbitt had provided the written report below -

The Vigo Lane house building continues, it seems to me, with about the same level of disruption on Vigo Lane.

The infrastructure for the restoration of the motorway bridge above the Sustrans cycleway appears to be in place with the Highways England temporary buildings in place and in use at the top end of Picktree Lodge Estate / Vigo Lane [complete with TV aerial!]. The Public Right of Way is retained well at the top of the Baffle Bank. Perhaps 6 to 9 months to do the work?

The DCC patching of roads that has been going on for months around the county has reached those bare patches that were detailed in the report of "what needs to be done" sent earlier to DCC.

The NLPC website appears to be working well.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Noble-Nesbitt for his report.

f) Crime and Community Safety

In her absence, Cllr Gregory had advised the Clerk of the following -

1) The PCSO had been asked to supply the Clerk with any recent crime or community safety data. The Clerk advised that nothing had yet been received. 2) The three flower barrels located in Picktree Lodge were expected to be sold during September. 3) The recent Councillor training day attended by Cllr Gregory was excellent and very informative.

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. 18/91 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Copy letter to Highways England re Vigo Railway Bridge.

2) From Mazars LLP

Notification of completion of audit for year ended 31st March 2018.

3) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Notes from the Local Councils Working Group meeting on 12th June 2018.

b) Email re Harvey v Ledbury case.

c) Email re Woodland Management of County Council Woods.

d) Email re training and seminars.

e) Email re Independent Remuneration Panel and Councillors' Allowances.

4) From Durham County Council

a) Email re Christmas Lights.

(Resolved - to accept the quote of £282.05 from Durham County Council to dress and undress the Christmas Tree).

b) Email re landscape management at Vigo Lane.

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

a) Application for single storey extension to side and rear (resubmission), at 9 Kingsmere.

b) Application for works to 5 trees within the grounds of the property, at 17 North Lodge.

c) Application to fell 3 holly trees, remove low limb from oak tree and prune sycamore tree, Picktree Manor, Picktree Lane.

d) Application for removal of 1 willow tree and 4 holly trees, at 6 North Lodge.

e) Application for substitution of house types inc 3 additional dwellings, at Site of former British Oxygen Company, Vigo Lane.

f) Approval for two storey extension, at 29 Caxton Way.

g) Approval for replacement single storey rear extension, at Northgate, North Road.

Item 8. 18/92 Items Requested by Councillors

a) Proposal for a new Policy and Governance Portfolio

This proposal had been considered earlier in the meeting.

b) Northlands Shrub Bed

Cllr Driscoll advised that many hours of work had been put in during the last few weeks at this bed by the Gardener. Councillors agreed that the bed was now looking very attractive. Cllr May outlined the alternatives available for the bed. However, Councillors considered that it should be left as it is. **(Resolved unanimously on a show of hands** - to retain the Northlands shrub bed in its current design).

c) Leaf removal

Cllr May had obtained a quote for leaf removal from the entrance to Lambton Park. However, this was considered by Councillors as being too expensive. The Chairman and the Clerk are to make further enquiries for quotes.

d) Review of the Clerk's Salary and Expenses

The Clerk left the room whilst this matter was being discussed. Councillors agreed that the Clerk's salary should remain tied to the national agreement. The Clerk's expenses amount is to increase by £10 per month.

(Resolved - the amount of the Clerk's expenses is to be increased by ten pounds per month commencing with the October 2018 payment).

The Clerk thanked Councillors for their consideration of this matter.

Item 9. 18/93 Payment of Accounts

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	£ 497.09	Salaries September 2018	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses September 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 114.00	Environment Care September 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 300.00	Horticulture September 2018	
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 225.40	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 £8656.43

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 18/94 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters submitted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

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	£ 497.09	Salaries September 2018	
Expenses	£ 80.00	Expenses September 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 114.00	Environment Care September 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 300.00	Horticulture September 2018	
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 225.40	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	£8656.43		

Balance to 31st July 2018

Balance b/f	£42387.94	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2018	<u>£ 4371.86</u>	Current	£ 652.09
	£38016.08	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