

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 16th October 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. 18/95 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence.

Item 2. 18/96 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School. Cllr Maureen May declared an interest as a member of North Lodge Property Owners' Association. County Cllr Craig Martin advised that he was now a member of the County Council's Planning Committee North and as such outside of that Committee he was not able to express or indicate any opinions regarding planning applications yet to be decided.

Item 3. 18/97 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor Craig Martin to give his report which included the following matters.

1) The County Cllr had attended a recent meeting of the Drum Business Group where he had advised the Group of the £6000 available from Section 106 monies for artwork at Drum Industrial Estate. The County Cllr hoped that the interest expressed by members of the Group will lead to a design proposal. 2) The leaseholder of the land at Drum including the pond was very concerned re health and safety risks posed by the illegal occupants of the pond area, and were seeking their removal through the civil courts. Cllr Caygill advised that unusual work had been done by persons unknown in a field opposite Low Flatts play area. The County Cllr advised that he had involved the County Council's Planning Enforcement Team in this and the situation was being monitored. 3) The County Cllr continued to press the County Council to carry out reinstatement work to the former sinkhole land at Merlin Drive.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 18/98 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th September 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. 18/99 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

Re Minute 18/89 section c). The replacement noticeboard was on order. Cllr Caygill, the Clerk and an officer from the County Council would soon have a site meeting to agree the exact place at Merlin Drive play area for the noticeboard.

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

AAP INFORMATION(24.9.2018).

1.Presentation b Human Kind- the new Drug and Alcohol Service for County Durham-covering support available across the Chester le Street and District AAP area and how to access the service.Centres in Durham.Peterlee and Bishop Auckland.Major problems with alcohol,cocaine and heroin,all ages and all social backgrounds.

2.Police report.Violence in the area last week end in the Riverside Park.Thefts from cars still a major problem.Please remember to lock cars and do not leave valuables in cars. LOAN SHARKS are operating in the area.Today major police operation took place and arrest were made in The Oval Ouston and the Avenue in Chester le Street involving Loan Sharks.There is a hotline phone number now available for any one with problems involving these dreadful people 0300 55 2222 USE IT.Meet the Detectives 4.10.2018 4pm- 7pm at the Fulforth Centre. Sacriston.

Police are working with the homeless people and the "Changing Lives" homes at Chester Moor.

3.Fire and Recue Services.Problem areas are Pelton Fell,Sacriston,and the town centre in Chester le Street.Usually grass scrub land,hedges and bags of rubbish just left in streets and bins.Also there has been an increase in car fires.

4.Karbon Homes. Working with the police with regard to Loan Sharks and with the Credit Union in the drop in Advice Centres.

5.Buisness Sector information."In Shops" closing down.Businessess are now in the process of moving out into shops in areas in the town centre.Xmas arrangements are being proposed with alterations to previous timing etc.1.12.2018 for lights to be switched on which is the "Small Business Saturday" Awaiting information with regard to "Free after 3pm" car parking.and activities on the day

6.Budget Proposals DCC projects.

7.Age UK "Information and Advice Service.Health and Wellbeing.supporting Poverty and Mental Health^Equest for £12.000.00. Case worker to be dedicated to the Chester le Street area,(approved by the Board)

Environment and Community Safety.

Police.Inspector Dave Coxon and Detective Gary Anderson.Problems in the town centre at night time, vandals,drugs and alcohol.Anti social behaviour.Working with residents at the YMCA and Changing Lives at Chester Moor.Arranging events in areas called "Meet the Detectives"to meet CID teams and specialist detectives to talk about local issues ,fraud and cyber safety Also advuce around drug and alcohol harm,hate crime and community matters Sacriston,Stanley and Consett.

Anna Caygill from the Environment Agency spoke about Community Flood Resilience in the town centre and surrounding areas.This is an ongoing programme more information to follow. There is to be a special event to be held 25.10.2018 in Cornerstones Centre 11m until 3pm.

OASIS.This is the illuminating waste project To date only 4 schools are taking part it is hoped more schools will become involved before the starting date which it is hoped will be in September.Newfield and Waldrige Scouts are to take part.

Supporting Chester le Street. And Districts.

This new task group consists of Welfare Reform,Health and Wellbeing and Children Young People and Families.Still in the process of setting up. Many organisations involved.Key priorities Poverty.Smoking and Alcohol.Early years.Healthy weight.

Fireworks.Chester le Street Cricket Club. 3.11.2018 Gates open 4.30pm start time 6.00pm.Advance tickets Adults £4 children £2.Door tickets Adults £5 children £3,Bar.Food,Luxury Hot drinks.and Fairground rides.

Fireworks. Riverside.4.11.2018.Gates open 4.30pm.start time 6.30pm..Live music.Fun Fair.Food and Refreshments.Tickets £5 plus booking.Children free.www.riversidefireworks.co.uk

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 18/100 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

16 October 2018

County Councils Responsibilities

- All flower beds have now been emptied in preparation for planting up with winter bedding.

From September meeting. 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. **16 October 2018 - Still no response**

Parish Council Responsibilities

- **North Lodge Lambton Park**

One year on and still no resolution found. Falling leaves still causing major problems.

- All flower beds have now been planted up with winter bedding.

- **Seat at Lambton Worm Pub**

Email sent to Martin Briscoe requesting new seat.

- **Hawthorn Whips**

Larger size Hawthorn trees have been requested to Martin Briscoe for Low Flatts play area

Environmental Caretaker

- No issues reported.

Councillor M May & Councillor P Driscoll

Horticulture Portfolio Holders

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR 2 AUDIT**

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

DATE: 10/09/18 – 07/10/18

Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
	Total Hours	32	82
Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Fed and watered Bed	1.0	19.0
Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Cleared out tubs, supplied compost and planted up.	3.5	5.0
Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Maintenance and tidying	1.0	2.5
Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Watered and fed flower borders and shrubs	1.0	3.0
Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge.			
Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park.			0.5
Shrub Bed within Longdean Park.			5.0
Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm pub (South Bound).	General tidying.	0.5	1.0
Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Tidying bus stand	0.5	2.0
Raised Shrub Beds North Road			
Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Feeding and watering	1.0	5.0
Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.	Feeding and watering	0.5	1.0
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	Maintenance and cleaning	0.5	1.5
Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.	Cleared bed, rotovated, planted up, fed and watered and applied slug pellets	7.0	10.0
Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard	Cleared under tree, added		

Drive.	compost, planted up, watered and fed.	2.0	2.0
Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/ Hours	Accumulation
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Tidying bus stand, used compost and planted up.	4.0	5.5
Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Cleaning bus stand.	0.25	1.25
Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers			
Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Cleaning and tidying	0.25	1.25
Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Cleared bed, rotovated, planted up, fed and watered and applied slug pellets.	7.0	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	0.75
Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	General maintenance, feeding and watering.	0.75	1.75
Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).	Feeding and watering.	1.0	3.0
Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			
Daffodil planting.			
Handyman.			

In addition, 1) Several Councillors expressed concern at the difficulties being experienced in making day-to-day contact with County Council officers. 2) Re leaf removal from the entrance to Lambton Park, Councillors again held a detailed discussion of the several options available. However, none of these options were considered to be suitable. Cllr Hall, therefore, proposed that the Parish Council should not take on the responsibility and cost of removing leaves from horticultural areas.

(Resolved on a show of hands with 8 Councillors in favour of the proposal and Cllr May abstaining, having declared an interest - that the Parish Council will not take on the responsibility and cost of removing fallen leaves from horticultural areas).

3) Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should continue to press the County Council for prompt remedial work to be carried out on any health and safety issues regarding footpaths brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

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

Councillors discussed the recently received planning application DM/18/02936/WAS for a new waste transfer and processing site at Drum Industrial Estate. The County Cllr agreed to take the concerns of Councillors to the County Council. Councillors are to review the information currently available on the County Council website to ascertain what additional information they would require re this application.

Cllr Snaith advised that there were no other 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 -

d) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

All equipment seems to be in good order.

The notice, as requested, has been lifted and fixed.

Once again there is evidence of the moles at work.

LOW FLATTS

All equipment seems to be in good order.

The wooden seat at the field edge could do with being re varnished.

At the exit at the Sustrans bridge a few dog litter bags have been dumped again.

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 -

e) Crime and Community Safety

Crime and Community Safety report 16th October 2018

Crime- current

12 thefts from motor vehicles all committed in a single night.

Areas affected include, Picktree Lodge, Caxton Way, Sinclair Drive, Mitford, Lyndhurst Avenue and Highbury Close.

It appears all vehicles had been left unlocked and no damage was caused upon entry.

Items taken included small amount of money, a purse and sunglasses.

One male has been arrested and bailed pending further investigations.
A night time curfew has imposed as a condition of bail.

A reminder from police to everyone, check vehicles are locked and no valuables are left in the vehicle when left unattended.

Community Safety.

Operation Dark

Police have implemented a crime prevention initiative promoting awareness on how to make property secure in the winter nights.

Thank you to David for circulating 'In the Know'

Any non-emergency calls to Police, use telephone number 101
Any emergency calls to Police, use telephone number 999

Re Operation Dark, Councillors agreed that Cllr Gregory is to liaise with the County Cllr and the Police to have a press release issued by the County Cllr. Councillors also agreed to monitor the number of incidents of theft from property in the Parish over the winter months and, if necessary, to include an advisory article in the 2019 Newsletter.

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

f) Highways and Website

- 1) The Highways England work at the entrance to Picktree Lodge appeared to be progressing slowly.
 - 2) The County Council had not attended to some of the areas advised to them requiring road surface repair. The Clerk will ask again for this work to be carried out.
 - 3) The activation times of the 20mph flashing lights on North Road now varied from the previously agreed times. The Clerk will ask the County Council to re-set the timings.
- The Chairman thanked Cllr Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr Hall to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

g) Policy and Governance

Parliamentary Publications:

Neighbourhood Planning (12 October):

The Localism Act 2011 allows parish councils and groups of people from the community, called neighbourhood forums, to formulate Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders, to guide and shape development in a particular area. This briefing examines these powers and reviews of their effectiveness and describes recent changes to relevant provisions in the National Planning Policy Framework.

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN05838>

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hall for his report.

h) Publicity

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

Item 7. 18/101 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Copy letter to Highways England re Vigo Railway Bridge.

2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

Agenda for the AGM to be held on Saturday 20th October 2018.

3) From Durham County Council

- a) Notification of the Pension Fund Annual Meeting to be held on Monday 5th November 2018.
- b) Notification of the AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 22nd October 2018.

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

- a) Application to erect a boundary fence, at Unit 27, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
- b) Application for change of use to waste transfer, recycling station and haulage yard with enclosure of existing canopy, lean-to extension to the western elevation, parking and equipment store area, weighbridge and demountable buildings, at land west of Drum Road.
- c) Application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of six bedroom detached house, at Lough Finn, 31 North Lodge.
- d) Approval for variation of condition 4 and removal of conditions 10 and 15 of planning permission DM/16/04052/FPA to update landscaping and public art proposals, at site of former British Oxygen Company, Vigo Lane.

Item 8. 18/102 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 495.09	Salaries October 2018	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses October 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care October 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 533.30	Horticulture October 2018	
Signscape Ltd	£1109.04	Purchase of Noticeboard	£184.84
Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00	Wreath and Donation	

Total Payments £2429.43

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 9. 18/103 Other Matters for Information

The Chairman and Cllr Caygill are to represent the Council at the forthcoming Remembrance Day parade and service.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th October 2018.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 495.09	Salaries October 2018	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses October 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care October 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 533.30	Horticulture October 2018	
Signscape Ltd	£1109.04	Purchase of Noticeboard	£184.84
Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00	Wreath and Donation	
Total Payments	£2429.43		

Balance to 30th September 2018

Balance b/f	£38022.82	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Aug/Sept 2018	<u>£ 8656.43</u>		
	£29366.39	Current	£ 455.66
		30 Day	<u>£33154.13</u>
		Total	£33609.79
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 3.40</u>		
	£29369.79	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 240.00</u>
Add Grant Received	<u>£ 4000.00</u>		
Balance c/f	£33369.79		£33369.79