

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 20th November 2018.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Elsie Forrester.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory, Maureen May,
Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall.

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 18/104 Apologies for Absence

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

Item 2. 18/105 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.

Item 3. 18/106 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 -

Front Street Flats

At the last meeting of the Planning North Committee, a proposal was put forward to convert the first floor of the former Co-Op department store into 14 flats. I did have concerns about such a proposal as it came with no parking at all. But when looking at the property market on Front Street there is only one flat of a similar nature advertised as empty (also without parking). There are multiple flats off Front Street without parking, such as the original Lloyd's Bank.

I backed this application and spoke in favour of it. With my concerns answered I think we need more of these projects and will benefit the town centre. Converting more unused retail space into something that will be used. Bringing more people into the centre of the town, who will be much more likely to use services in the town centre.

Bishop Auckland Hospital

An attempt to put forward a cross party motion showing to prevent a reduction in services at Bishop Auckland Hospital. It requested that the secretary of state intervene and prevent it from happening.

I feel that this is an important issue because there is a push from the NHS to centralise services. If they're going to shut community wards in Bishop Auckland then why not in Chester-le-Street.

Although everyone was in support of the proposal, sadly we ended up having an extended debate on the Council's procedures. But the NHS has now taken a step back from closing the ward in question.

Bus Shelter Picktree Village

The bus shelter I funded is now in place opposite Lintfort, Picktree Village. It has been welcomed by residents who are already enjoying the shelter from the Autumn weather.

Myself and residents met for a photograph. We've put a press release celebrating the new shelter and highlighting everyone's concerns at the poor quality service that the village receives. Sadly the local newspaper did not carry the story.

Cllr Craig Martin

North Lodge and Chester-le-Street

craig.martin@durham.gov.uk

In addition, 1) The motorway bridge repair work near the entrance to Picktree Lodge is to be put on hold until March due to unexpected problems encountered by the contractors. In the interim, the site will be cleared and tidied. 2) Re the illegal occupancy of the pond area at Drum, the leaseholder of the land expected a court case to be heard very soon. The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 18/107 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th October 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.

Cllr May advised that the words “cleared tubs” should not have been included in the sixteenth section of the Year 2 Audit report contained in Minute 18/100 section a).

Item 5. 18/108 Chairman’s Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 18/97 section 3). Re the still-awaited reinstatement of the former sinkhole land at Merlin Drive, Councillors Driscoll and May had mentioned this to a Durham County Council officer who agreed to press for the work to be done.
- b) Re Minute 18/99. The Clerk advised that the new noticeboard was now with the contractor for installation.
- c) Re Minute 18/100 section a2). It was agreed that this resolution not to clear leaves, related only to land not under the management of the Parish Council. The Gardener will, therefore, continue to clear leaves at the entrance to Lambton Park although this might reduce available time for horticultural work elsewhere.
- d) Re minute 18/100 section c). Re the planning application for a new waste and processing site at Drum Industrial Estate, further reports were awaited before the application could be fully considered by the Parish Council and before the application could go to the County Council Planning Committee.
- e) Re Minute 18/103. The Chairman advised that she and Cllr Caygill had represented the Council at the Remembrance Day service which had been extremely well attended. The Chairman had laid the Council’s wreath.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.20TH NOVEMBER 2018.

CHAIRMANS INFORMATION.

1.AAP

Dementia Friendly Communities. (Notice).

Local County Councillors Schemes.

Fire and Rescue Service,Deliberate Secondary Fires in many areas.Sacrison,Great Lumley,Ouston,Waldrige Fell,High Flats Chester le Street..Worikng on a new scheme to help people with emergency heating- blankets,flasks small heaters etc if needed, Request for funding from the AAP (£12.000) Scheme to be ongoing. Beware of bonfire night.

Police, "Meet the Detectives" had been a great success in the Sacrison area.

"Chester Best".50% increase in applications.

AAP Youth Fund is still open until end of November.

Remembrance Day Parade.11.11.2018. 10.20am leave Park View school proceed to the market place for service at 10.55 at the war memorial.

Christmas Festival 1.12.2018.starting 1pm.(More information to follow).

AAP Priority Survey On going,

AAP "Word on le Street". News Letter.(I was on the group which read and made final comments before going to print).

Moor Park Project.(Chester Town Football Club. Plans for the future) Notice

2.ENVIRONMENT Police E,bikes. Better transport options for local policing.These bikes would be of great help getting around the area,such as off road tracks cycle tracks,and patrolling during dark nights,The bikes would also give a wider range of officers a much better presence in the area.(2 bikes cost £5033.00 ,) AAP to be asked for funding) The Task Group were in full agreement for this request, which will go before the AAP soon).

Chester Best.60 Entries Good event held at Emerates.Group to discuss whether awards should run for another year,How the awards should be ran and how the awards will be funded.

Northern Bus Depot Roundabout. DCC Clean and GreenTeam to make more suggestions for improvements to this area.Graham Hopper to be invited to the next meeting to talk about what he. could do to develop the area. Durham County Councillor B Baimbridge is willing to help with funding.

Illuminating waste project .8 Groups agreed with themes. 8 Windows agreed.

Cllr Gregory advised that Chester-le-Street in Bloom and Chester's Best had won County Durham's Community Partnership Award.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 18/109 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
20 November 2018**

County Councils Responsibilities

- **Flower beds.**
All beds have now been planted up with winter bedding.
- **Trimming of trees in North Road**
Councillors May and Driscoll met with Graham Cozens (Durham County Council) re trees. Durham County Council are reluctant to trim trees unless Bus companies complain that overhanging branches are hitting buses.
However Graham Cozens will further investigate specifically about one particular tree.
- **Broken Rotting Tree, Vigo Lane**
Whilst on duty, the Parish Council's Environment Caretaker observed a dangerous overhanging tree onto footpath. Councillor May contacted Durham County Council emergency hotline who will attend to the issue ASAP. A reference number was also generated. As the tree was overhanging from Avant Homes building site, Councillor May also informed a site worker who said he would inform his manager.

Parish Council Responsibilities

- **Seat at Lambton Worm Pub and Hawthorn Whips**
A reminder email has been sent to Martin Briscoe re – Seat at Lambton Worm pub and Hawthorn Whips. Both these items are from October 2018 report.

Environmental Caretaker

- **Dog Poo Bags**
Frank did investigate the dumping of Dog Poo bags at Tuppenny Bridge, Low Flatts. Three bags of different colours were found in vicinity.
- **Seat in Low Flatts Road Play area**
Frank will assess this seat and varnish if necessary at an appropriate time.

Councillor M May & Councillor P Driscoll
Horticulture Portfolio Holders

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR 2 AUDIT**

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

DATE: 08/10/18 – 11/11/18

Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
	Total Hours	30	112
Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Fed and watered Bed	1.5	20,5
Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Fed and watered tubs.	1.0	6.0
Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Tidied bus stand, plus cleaning seat	1.0	3.5
Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Cleared leaves and tidied	2.5	5.5
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 maintenance.	0.5	1.5
Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Tidy up bus stand, plus cleaning seat	1.0	3.0
Raised Shrub Beds North Road			
Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Fed and watered beds, cleared leaves.	6.0	11.0
Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.	Fed and watered	1.0	2.0
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	Maintenance and tidying	0.5	2.0
Millennium Flower Bed at entrance	Fed and watered bed, weeded		

to Lombard drive.	and cleared leaves	4.0	14.0
Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.			2.0
Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/ Hours	Accumulation
Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Tidying up bus stand, plus cleaning seat.	1.0	6.5
Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Cleaning bus stand, plus cleaning seat.	0.75	2.0
Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers			
Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Tidying, plus cleaning seat.	0.75	2.0
Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Fed and watered bed, weeded and cleared leaves.	4.0	15.0
Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			
Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	General maintenance.	0.25	1.0
Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	General maintenance,	0.25	2.0
Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).	Started clearing out beds.	4.0	7.0
Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			

Daffodil planting.			
Handyman.			

Councillor Patrick Driscoll / Councillor Maureen May

 In addition, re the condition of trees on the former Arizona Chemical land, Cllr May agreed to make enquiries with the County Council.

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

b) Crime and Community Safety

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety report 20th November 2018

Crime - current

Theft from motor vehicles: Ambleside Court, theft of tow bar.
 Lombard Drive, theft of tools from van.

One allegation of criminal damage: Vigo Lane, still under investigation.

Crime Update (reported in October council minutes)

Male arrested for theft from motor vehicles, has been charged. Bail conditions continue.

Community Safety

Operation Dark (as reported in the October council minutes)

Above operation, and other relevant issues, are to be included in the Police monthly newsletter.

Police have submitted an application to Chester-le-Street AAP for a grant to purchase E-bikes. Update at next council meeting.

Issues surrounding the posting of videos on social media were discussed.

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

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

c) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

Equipment appears to be in good order, The Mole hills are now numerous and could pose a trip hazard. Can DCC deal with these please.

LOW FLATTS

Equipment appears to be in good order. The replacement litter bin has not yet been fitted.

Re molehills at Merlin Drive, the Clerk had contacted the County Council Leisure Services Technician who will arrange for the molehills to be flattened.

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

d) Policy and Governance

North Lodge Parish Council

Meeting on Tuesday 20 November 2018

Governance and Policy Portfolio

Briefing Note/Update from Councillor Dennis Hall

National Association of Local Councils

Digital Mapping: (9 November):

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has published the Digital Mapping Toolkit to help local (parish and town) councils understand digital mapping and the benefits it can have to them and their communities.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1110-nalc-launches-new-toolkit-on-digital-mapping>

Standards

Press release: Government to toughen rules banning sex offenders from councils: (18 October):

New disqualification rules to prevent people found guilty of serious crimes from serving as councillors and mayors.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-toughens-rules-banning-sex-offenders-from-councils>

Consultation outcome: Disqualification criteria for councillors and mayors: (18 October):

The government consulted on proposals to update the disqualification criteria for councillors and mayors to bring it into line with both modern sentencing practice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/disqualification-criteria-for-councillors-and-mayors>

Planning

Open consultation: Planning reform: supporting the high street and increasing the delivery of new homes: (29 October):

Building on existing planning reforms, the government is consulting on proposals that will allow greater change of use to support high streets to adapt and diversify, support extending existing buildings upwards to create additional homes, and speed up the delivery of new homes. Closing Date: 14 January 2018:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-reform-supporting-the-high-street-and-increasing-the-delivery-of-new-homes>

Councillor Dennis Hall

Date 9 November 2018

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hall for his report.

e) Highways and Website

In his absence, Cllr Noble-Nesbitt had advised the following -

In monitoring what has been missed, week by week, it became apparent that DCC's weekly programme of patching throughout the county has included a continuing series of visits to North Lodge Estate in which quite a lot more has been done. It has not been therefore possible to give a definitive list of places missed. So to be fair to DCC, I will continue to monitor until it becomes clearer as to what, if anything, is missed. At the moment, it is mainly patches at the east end of Lombard Drive and the adjacent south end of Merlin Drive that await treatment, plus most of the noise promoting gaps between concrete blocks.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Noble-Nesbitt.

f) Finance

In his absence, Cllr Waugh had advised the following -

While I can not attend tomorrow's meeting, I can confirm I have read the financial information supplied and that everything is in order.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh.

g) Planning

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

h) Publicity

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

Item 7. 18/110 Correspondence

1) From a Resident

Copy letter from Highways England re Vigo Railway Bridge.

2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) Email re new disqualification rules.

b) Email re Royal Garden Party 2019.

c) Agenda for the Smaller Councils Forum Meeting to be held on 22nd November 2018.

3) From Durham County Council

a) Press release re funding for horticultural projects.

b) Email re County Durham Environment Awards.

c) Letter re Tax Base for 2019 / 2020.

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

Application for demolition of existing house and erection of detached house and detached garage, at Oaklea, North Road.

Item 8. 18/111 Payment of Accounts

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£ 495.29	Salaries November 2018	
Expenses		£ 90.00	Expenses November 2018	
Pot-It-On		£ 190.00	Environment Care November 2018	
Pot-It-On		£ 390.00	Horticulture November 2018	
Co. Dh. Assn. of Local Councils		£ 27.00	Training Event	

Total Payments £1192.29

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 9. 18/112 Other Matters for Information

The Chairman advised that she, Cllr Caygill and Cllr May had met at Merlin Drive a representative of Streetscape Products who had subsequently produced a proposal for adult fitness equipment. This is to be included in the Agenda for the January 2019 meeting of the Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm, wishing everyone a very enjoyable Christmas break.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2019.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 495.09	Salaries December 2018	
Salaries	£	Salaries January 2019	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses December 2018	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses January 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care December 2018	
Pot-It-On	£	Environment Care January 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 183.50	Horticulture December 2018	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture January 2019	
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 231.40	PAYE	
E. Forrester	£ 165.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
DSJ Property Services	£ 180.00	Installation of Noticeboard	
Assn. of Local Council Clerks	£ 40.00	Annual Subscription	
Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 122.00	Annual Subscription	
Total Payments	£		

Balance to 30th November 2018

Balance b/f	£31016.73	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Nov. 2018	<u>£ 1192.29</u>		Current £ 668.94
	£29824.44		30 Day <u>£29156.81</u>
			Total <u>£29825.75</u>
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 1.31</u>		
	£29825.75	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ None</u>
Balance c/f	£29825.75		£29825.75