

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 15th January 2019.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Elsie Forrester.
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Jackie Gregory.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, 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 wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Item 1. 19/01 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence.

Item 2. 19/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Margaret Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School. Cllr John Waugh declared an interest in Item 7 section 4b and in Item 8 the Great North Air Ambulance.

Item 3. 19/03 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 -

Housing Vigo Lane

Piling has been taking place, directly behind homes located on Vigo Lane. The situation has been horrific for those living there. I have been and visited the houses during this period.

The Council have provided next to no help in supporting residents. Apart from monitoring the vibrations and they're all within British Standards. But damage has been done to property. I have seen a kitchen that has broken floor tiles in it and fences ripped apart.

I don't believe this is acceptable, simply saying that this is civil dispute, and residents as individuals will have to just take Advant to the courts. The Council are the ones letting building take place. More should be done to support residents.

Wellfield School Academisation

Secondary school located in Wingate has generated over a £3 million deficit balance since 2013. The school is unable to clear this deficit in the near future, without having a significant negative effect on the education of the students it looks after. The formation of a multi academy trust with Tanfield School (currently half million pound deficit) is proposed as a solution. This allows the Council to use its reserves and clear this deficit. We have serious concerns about how this has been allowed to happen and the governing body are not being held responsible. There are many schools in County Durham that have had to make tough financial decisions and some extra cash would be a massive help on delivering better outcomes for young people. Durham County Council

as the local authority should be overseeing the financial situation, this has failed as well. We've asked the Council's scrutiny to investigate further.

Cllr Craig Martin

In addition, 1) Provision of artwork for the Drum Industrial Estate was still under discussion. 2) Re the occupancy of the pond area at Drum, the court hearing was in progress. 3) Re the frequency of bus services in Picktree Village, the County Cllr agreed to a request from Cllr Gregory to obtain passenger figures for bus usage there.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 19/04 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th November 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. 19/05 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 18/106. Window panes had been broken, presumably by vandalism, in each of the three bus shelters in the Picktree Village area along Picktree Lane. This had been reported to the appropriate authorities. The Parish Council handyman was thanked for sweeping up the broken material in readiness for removal by the authorities.

b) Re Minute 18/109 section a). Re the condition of trees on the former Arizona Chemical land, Cllr May advised that she was expecting to make enquiries with the County Council in the near future.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.15.1.2019.

AAP INFORMATION FROM NOVEMBER MEETINGS.

1.Chester le Street Market.DCC are looking for a new operator to take over the running of the market from 1.4.2019. Days, times, type of market will be known eventually.Also the size of the market and stalls.

2.Work to start very soon on the alterations to the market area.(Flood Prevention)

3.Changing Lives The Fells.Plawsworth.Building a future for homeless and vulnerable.people.

4.E.Bikes for the PCSO Police Team.Cost £5.033.00 for 2 approved by the AAP.

5.Problems in the town centre due to alcohol.Police state that there needs to be more door staff at the licensed premises. Police hope to have more police patrols on duty. Over the Christmas period the police hope to visit all the care homes in the area and deliver cards.They are also hoping to have a special event at the police station for young children.

6.Fire and Rescue Service Less fires this year over the bonfire night period.The Emergency Heating Provision is now up to date with the equipment being stored at High Handenhold Fire Station.Consisting of 100 Oil Filled Radiators,10 PumpAction Flasks,10 Sleeping Bags.And Wind Up torches/Lanterns.

7.Remembrance Day Event had been well attended. Approx.4.500 people.The AAP are trying to find someone or an organisation to take over the organising of this event in the future.A great thank you was recorded to Allison Rose for all the work she has done over the years planning this event.

CDAC Information.I along with CLL May attended the AGM at County Hall.There are 103 Parish /Town Councils in the County.At the AGM there was about 30 deligates!!!! Discussions that were mentioned was that councillors should have trainings at least every two years and new councillors and chairman should have trainings before taking up positions. Young councillors are needed. All councils should let their parishes be aware of what they are doing in the area and also ask residents what they would like doing as it is their money they are spending.

In addition, the County Council wished to receive ideas from the public for artwork at the motorway roundabout.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 19/06 Portfolio Holders' Reports

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

a) Crime and Community Safety

North Lodge Parish Council

Crime and Community Safety report 15th January 2019

Crime- current

Theft x 2 Vigo Lane. Theft of timer from building site.
Drum Road. Tyre Spot, attempted theft of petrol.

Criminal Damage x 2 Picktree Village. Glass panes in bus shelters
smashed. New trees uprooted.
Vigo Lane. Damage to house.

Await court result regarding the male arrested for theft from vehicles in North Lodge (reported in Parish Council Minutes of October 2018).

Community Safety

Police- Two E- bikes have been purchased.

Operation Dark - No reports of any burglaries (November 2018 to date) in the North Lodge area.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HORTICULTURE REPORT

15 January 2019

Durham County Councils Responsibilities

- **Trimming of trees in North Road (November report)**
Severely overhanging tree remains.
- **Broken Rotting Tree, Vigo Lane**
A large overhanging branch of this offending/dangerous tree was immediately cut off by? Durham county council/ Avant homes.
- **Damaged Grassed Area (? by Northumbrian Water) Merlin Drive**
Councillors May and Driscoll spoke with graham Cozens Durham county council who said no seeding would take place until Springtime.
- **Damaged Grassed Area North Road**
There is a damaged area of grass in between 2 shrub beds in North Road - ?due to building works. Parish Clerk to contact Durham County Council re issue.

Parish Council Responsibilities

- General maintenance is taking place.

Environmental Caretaker

- **Seat in Low Flatts Road Play area**
Frank will assess this seat and varnish if necessary at an appropriate time. Seat to replace would cost £620.00.
- **Picktree Village**
Our Caretaker has observed a particularly large amount of litter in the village- mainly coming off the motorway roundabout this month.
- **Bus Shelters in Picktree village.**
Three glass bus shelters in the village have been vandalised (glass broken)
 - 1 opposite Eastfields
 - 1 opposite Lintfort
 - 1 opposite Washington Hospital

Both Durham County Council and the Police have been informed for action required

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR 2 AUDIT**

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

DATE: 12/11/18 – 06/01/19

No	Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
		Total Hours	21	133
1	Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.			20.5
3	Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Tidied tubs.	0.5	6.5
1	Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Tidying in bus stand and cleaning seat	1.25	4.75
3	Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Feeding plants, weeding beds and tidying.	1.75.	7.25
1	Checking of Low Flatts Play Area – Hawthorn Hedge.			
1	Flower Bed at entrance to Longdean Park.			0.5
1	Shrub Bed within Longdean Park.			5.0
1	Bus Shelter North Road – opposite Lambton Worm pub (South Bound).	Tidying and cleaning.	0.75	2.25
1	Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Cleaning and tidying stand, cleaning seat	1.25	4.25
2	Raised Shrub Beds North Road			
2	Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Cleared leaves.	3.0	14.0
2	Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.	Tidied tubs	0.25	2.25
	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	Tidying and cleaning	0.75	2.75

1	Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.	Feed plants, weeded bed, clearing leaves	3.0	17.0
1	Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.			2.0
No	Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/ Hours	Accumulation
1	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Tidying bus stand, cleaning seat, tidying and weeding flowers	1.75	8.25
1	Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Cleaning bus stand and seat.	1.25	3.25
	Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers			
1	Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Tidying bus stand and cleaning seat.	1.25	3.25
2	Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Feeding plants, weeding out and clearing leaves.	2.25	17.25
1	Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			
1	Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	General cleaning.	0.5	1.5
2	Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	General tidying.	0.5	2.5
3	Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).	Feeding plants and tidying beds.	1.0	8.0
1	Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			

	Daffodil planting.			
	Handyman.			

Councillor Patrick Driscoll / Councillor Maureen May

 In addition, Cllr May agreed to ask the County Council to cut down weeds in the verge under the Sustrans bridge on North Road so that wild flower seeds to be planted there would have a better chance of germination.

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 Hall to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

e) Policy and Governance

North Lodge Parish Council

Meeting on Tuesday 15 January 2019

Governance and Policy Portfolio

Briefing Note/Update from Councillor Dennis Hall

National Association of Local Councils

NALC publishes new materials to help local councils promote elections

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1124-nalc-publishes-new-materials-to-help-local-councils-promote-elections>

Standards

The Committee for Standards in Public Life is due to publish a report on standards, including in relation to elected members, on 30 January. I shall report on this at our February meeting

Planning

Guidance: Pocket parks plus: supporting parks and public spaces: (5 December 2018)

MHCLG are inviting applications from community groups interested establishing a new pocket park or refurbishing an existing park.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pocket-parks-plus-supporting-parks-and-public-spaces>

Other

Consultation outcome: Running free: consultation on preserving the free use of public parks : (14 December):

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/running-free-consultation-on-preserving-the-free-use-of-public-parks?utm_source=3958bd3f-db5c-4637-9037-78c9c0576b75&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Councillor Dennis Hall

Date 9 January 2019

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

f) Highways and Website

Highways Report January 2019

Condition of road surfaces within North Lodge Parish

With reference to the document 'Condition of road surfaces within North Lodge Parish' CN-N 24 May 2018, over the subsequent 6 months to November some of the shortcomings have been dealt with (in widely varying quality) by the County Council's micro patching team(s).

There has been no action regarding, for example:

- Lombard Drive: the ~12 worn down areas just before the turn for Merlin Drive;
- Hampton Court: cul-de-sac, the ~24 noted areas;
- Merlin Drive : the 8 areas noted outside houses 1 and 2.

Also very little has been rectified regarding the noise inducing transverse worn out grooves, at 10 to 25 metre intervals, as noted throughout Lombard Drive, Leander Avenue, Hampton Court and Merlin Drive. The overall appearance of the roads on this Leech built estate (1958) remains generally dreadful, with nothing comparable throughout North Lodge Parish.

NOTE: A regular minor bus service uses Lombard Drive, Leander Avenue and Merlin Drive.

It is recommended that NLPC asks DCC to consider resurfacing the Leech built estate, at least, and asks the County Council for an appropriate site meeting.

CN-N 15 January 2019

Re the condition of road surfaces, the Clerk is to ask the County Council for a site meeting.
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 -

g) Play Areas

LOW FLATTS

Equipment appears to be in good order. Can we ask for an update on the new covered waste bin. At the Sustrans opening a lot of litter has accumulated including a dog waste bag. The wooden seat needs to be treated to protect it from the elements.

MERLIN DRIVE

Equipment appears to be in good order. It appears the molehills were flattened but many more have emerged. The new notice board has been erected and looks substantial and smart and allows for lots of NLPC news.

Re a waste bin for Low Flatts, the Clerk will initiate a further request.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

h) Publicity

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

Item 7. 19/07 Correspondence

- 1) From npower
Letter re power supply.
- 2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Email re council tax referendum principles.
 - b) Email re Charter revision.
- 3) From Durham County Council
Notification of AAP Environment and Community Safety task group meeting to be held on Thursday 17th January 2019.
- 4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following was within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for demolition of conservatory, replace with ground floor rear extension, at 15 Lintfort.
 - b) Application for extension to front, side and first floor, at 27 North Lodge.
 - c) Approval to erect a boundary fence, at Unit 27, Third Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate.
 - d) Approval for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of six bedroom house, at 31 North Lodge.
 - e) Approval for substitution of house types (Plots 48-52, 59-71, 135-146 inc.), 3 additional dwellings (s.73 application to vary condition 1 (amended plans) of permission DM/18/00429/VOC), at site of former British Oxygen Company, Vigo Lane.

Item 8. 19/08 Requests for Donations

Councillors considered all outstanding requests for donations and agreed to make the following payments -

Great North Air Ambulance £50.

Chester-le-Street Amateur Rowing Club £50.

St. Cuthbert's Hospice £50.

County of Durham School Benevolent Fund £25.

The Children's Foundation £25.

Item 9. 19/09 Setting the Precept

Copies of financial forecasts prepared by the Clerk had been previously circulated. These formed the basis for extensive discussions by Councillors.

The following projects, additional to those in the forecasts, were approved (amounts approximate) -

A training budget £250.

A new flower bed in Blind Lane £500.

Four new/replacement noticeboards £700 each.

An interim update leaflet £250.

The following projects did not receive approval -

Payment of a basic allowance to Councillors.

New flower beds in Merlin Drive.

New/replacement seats for Longdean Park/North Road and Low Flatts play area.

Tablets for Councillors.

The following projects are to be taken forwards as follows -

Installation of adult fitness equipment at Merlin Drive - to keep in mind for any future improved opportunity.

A .gov email address for each Councillor - the Clerk is to make enquiries with the County Council.

A living tree and Christmas lights, including a power supply, for Picktree Village - the County Councillor kindly accepted this as a potential County Council project to be financed from his Neighbourhood Budget.

Taking into account the agreed projects together with the Clerk's forecasts, Councillors agreed to set a Band D equivalent charge for 2019/2020 of £31.53 which is the same figure as the current financial year.

(Resolved - to set a Precept of £31.53 per Band D equivalent property for the financial year 2019/2020).

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all his work in the production of the forecasts.

Item 10. 19/10 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 495.09	Salaries December 2018	
Salaries	£ 495.09	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	£ 152.00	Environment Care January 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 183.50	Horticulture December 2018	
Pot-It-On	£ 120.00	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	
Great North Air Ambulance	£ 50.00	Donation	
CLS Amateur Rowing Club	£ 50.00	Donation	
St. Cuthbert's Hospice	£ 50.00	Donation	
Co. Dh. School Benevolent Fund	£ 25.00	Donation	
The Children's Foundation	£ 25.00	Donation	

Total Payments £2716.08

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 18/11 Other Matters for Information

There were no matters submitted.

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 19th February 2019.

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries		£	Salaries February 2019	
Expenses		£ 90.00	Expenses February 2019	
Pot-It-On		£	Environment Care February 2019	
Pot-It-On		£	Horticulture February 2019	

Total Payments £

Balance to 31st January 2019

Balance b/f	£29825.75	Balances at Bank:-		
Deduct Payments - Jan. 2019	<u>£ 2716.08</u>		Current	£ 552.86
	£27109.67		30 Day	<u>£26659.22</u>
			Total	£27212.08
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 2.41</u>			
	£27112.08	Deduct cheques not yet presented		<u>£ 100.00</u>
Balance c/f	£27112.08			£27112.08