

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 19th February 2019.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Elsie Forrester.
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 welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 19/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Jackie Gregory.

Item 2. 19/13 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 19/14 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 -

Consultation on Council's Future Ambitions

Durham County Council have begun consulting on their future vision. It has been 10 years since the Council's current objectives have been set. The world and our communities have changed and they need updating.

The chief concern I raised that the future plan needs to have a fair and equal approach to all of County Durham's towns and villages. That City of Durham should not take precedence over others. We're not going to solve the problems of areas that have been let down by focusing attentions on a city that is complaining of over development.

Councillor's overall agreed that the ambitions hit the correct notes. Although lack of connectivity through transport is something Durham County Council needs to take more seriously and put more emphasis on.

In addition, 1) Re re-instatement of the grassed area at Merlin Drive, to make progress the County Cllr, Cllr Noble-Nesbitt and Cllr Driscoll had met on site an officer of the County Council who was now in contact with Northumbria Water. 2) Re provision of artwork for the Drum Industrial Estate, Cllr Caygill had introduced to the County Cllr the artist who had produced the artwork for Merlin Drive play area. 3) Re the occupancy of the pond area at Drum, the court hearing was still in progress. 4) Cllr Caygill had observed that there was much litter in the Low Flatts area, apparently blowing down from units on the Drum Industrial Estate.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 19/15 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2019, 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. 19/16 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 19/03. Cllr May considered that a new crossing point for pedestrians was needed towards the east end of Vigo Lane. The County Cllr advised that he had that in mind but would need to gather evidence when the housing developments were completed to put before the County Council.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 19TH FEBRUARY 2019.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

AAP Information

1. Presentation – Police Precept Consultation. Ron Hogg Durham Police and Crime And Victims Commissioner. He informed the AAP and audience that he needs to increase the precept by 13% the maximum permitted in order to sustain front line policing, invest in IT, and tackle Cybercrime and other measures to make the force as efficient as possible for the future. Durham Constabulary is an outstanding police force and for the past three years has been the most effective and efficient in the country, We must sustain this at all costs.

2. Flood Prevention. This work will be done in three phases starting April 2019. It will eventually have a large public area, market stalls, events area. There will be a new water course to stop flooding. Hoping to have many themes, and community involvement. More information to follow.

3. Market Contracts- Ongoing. Tenders have been received.

4. Local Councillors and their Neighbourhood Budget Funding, Brockwell Centre Pelton Fell. Fence Houses Community Association. Chester le Street Rowing Club. Cheser West and Central Association. Chester le Street Sea Cadets. Installation of CCTV at Nettlesworth CC.

5. Police, There are 2 new PCSO's. The 2 new electric bikes have not arrive yet. But they are on the way !!!!!!! Hope to have road shows in the near future. Speed watch busy at the moment in the AAP areas.

6. Quiet month for fires mainly loose refuse, grassland wheelie bin. There had been problems with the attempted setting of fires to cars (suspect known), 1 Fire Tendor has been moved to Spennymoor,

8. AAP Priorities for 2019/2020.

9. Cricket World Cup 2019. More information to follow when confirmed.

AAP.ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY TASK GROUP INFORMATION.

1.Presentation of Greening of the Twizell/Cong Burn .

2.Police Update. – Same as AAP report. Activity Week will be on the Burns Green Ches ter le Street .Monday 12th August 2019 until Friday 16th August 2019.10am until 3pm each day. Volunteers are always needed.Still no new E Bikes yet, Pub watch all working hard to keep every one safe.

3.Northern Bus Depot Roundabout .A167 .Sub Group had met with Graham Hopper to look at types of sculptures etc.Martin Briscoe (DCC clean and green) had been given the “go ahead” to complete an Area Budget application for funding .Funding was available in the AAP budget (circa £10k).

4 CAT.Community Action Team. This is a 11 week rolling programme moving around the County.Dealing with local housing and all environmental issues in order to tackle degraded environments and improve the health and well being of residents.The area chosen in this AAP area is Grange Villa.22/4/2019 – 7/7/2019.CAT is lead by Environmental Health and Consumer Protection,Housing and Planning,Neighbourhood Wardens,Police and Community Support Officers and Fire and Rescue Teams.It was felt by the group as Grange Villa had already had had this service that there were other areas which could have been helped.

5.Chesters Best / In Bloom/ Cricket World Cup 2019.New independent group being formed to manage the Chesters Best and may be Chester le Street in Bloom.in the future.This new group would it is hoped attract additional /different funding and move away from the reliance of AAP funding. For the Cricket World Cup it is hoped that there will be major displays all around the area. 3D display in Town Centre.The roundabout which leads to the Emerates Cricket Ground it is hoped will have major displays. Hope AAP will be able to help with funding,It was suggested that DCC Cricket Club be asked if they could help with funding.!!!!!!!!!!.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 19/17 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr Waugh to give his report.

a) 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 -

b) Horticulture

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HORTICULTURE REPORT

19 February 2019

Durham County Councils Responsibilities

- **Damaged Grassed Area North Road**

There is a damaged area of grass in between 2 shrub beds in North Road. However due to the continued landscaping from newly renovated house, it has been decided to put this issue on hold until works are complete.

- **Blind Lane**

Councillors May/Driscoll and Gregory met with Martin Briscoe –Durham County Council – to discuss installing two further small flower beds in Blind Lane. We are still awaiting costings.

Parish Council Responsibilities

- General maintenance is taking place.

- **Christmas tree in Picktree village.**

Councillors May and Driscoll will meet with some residents from Picktree Village this week to discuss this item.

Environmental Caretaker

- **Seat in Low Flatts Road Play area**

Seat will be varnished in warmer weather.

No issues reported.

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR 2 AUDIT**

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

DATE: 12/11/18 – 06/01/19

No	Description	Comment	Present	Accumulation
			Month/Hrs	
		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	Present Month/Hours	Accumulation
		Total Hours		
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, 1) It was not known who had responsibility for the maintenance of the verge under the Sustrans bridge on North Road. The County Cllr will make enquiries with the County Council. 2) Re the damaged grassed area between two shrub beds on North Road, the Chairman kindly agreed to contact the residents of the house there.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs May and Driscoll for their reports 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 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 19 February 2019

Governance and Policy Portfolio

Briefing Note/Update from Councillor Dennis Hall

National Association of Local Councils – response to Standards Report:

A year-long Parliamentary inquiry into ethical standards in local government, published today (30 January), has backed calls from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) for reforms to the current regime aimed at improving behaviour in 10,000 local (parish and town) councils.

NALC has campaigned for a range of measures to be introduced to support high standards of conduct by its 100,000 local councillors, including the re-introduction of sanctions, greater emphasis on training and development, and a single code of conduct for all tiers of local government based on NALC's own model code.

However, NALC has issued a plea to the Government to address the report's failure to recommend and promote more councillor training and development. NALC has been pressing for greater encouragement and support for induction and regular refresher training for local councillors on standards, coupled with a new investment in a national training programme.

Cllr Sue Baxter, chairman of NALC, said: "NALC is fully committed to promoting and supporting the highest standards of conduct by local councillors and officers in the first tier of local government, which is increasingly playing a bigger role in communities including the delivery of public services and community facilities.

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1147-parliamentary-inquiry-backs-nalc-call-to-strengthen-standards-regime-for-100,000-councillors>

Standards

Local government Ethical Standards: Committee Publishes Report: (30 January):

The Committee on Standards in Public Life has today published its report on local government ethical standards:

The Committee on Standards in Public Life today published its report and recommendations on ethical standards in local government, following a year-long review and wide consultation. LLG were at the launch. Key recommendations include:

- a new power for local authorities to suspend councillors without allowances for up to six months
- revised rules on declaring interests, gifts and hospitality
- local authorities retain ownership of their own Codes of Conduct
- a right of appeal for suspended councillors to the Local Government Ombudsman
- a strengthened role for the Independent Person

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 -

e) Highways and Website

- 1) The County Cllr will find out in March if the North Lodge Estate roads are on the work programme for repair during the next financial year. Cllr Noble-Nesbitt would prefer to have a site meeting, if possible, with a County Council officer to discuss the work required.
 - 2) Three street lights at Picktree Lodge were not working. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council.
 - 3) An off-road bike, with no lights lit, had been observed at night crossing the Merlin Drive grassed area to access the Baffle Bank. This could be dangerous to others, such as dog walkers, in the area.
 - 4) There was much evidence of dog waste not being picked up in the North Lodge and Picktree Lodge Estates area. It was unfortunate that there was never any attendance there by the Neighbourhood Wardens.
 - 5) A household wood burning stove had been observed emitting unpleasant fumes. However, there was presently no legislation covering such a situation.
- 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 -

f) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

All equipment seems in good order. We still have a lot of Mole activity in and around the Play Area.

LOW FLATTS

All equipment seems to good order. Outside the enclosed area Mole activity is obvious for the first time here.

Litter, including dog waste bags are on the field perimeter.

Wooden seat needs treatment soon.

The area around the waste bin has litter escaping from the basket. Council to consider the cost of solid covered replacement bin.

Re a replacement waste bin for Low Flatts, the County Council had provided a quote of £310.80 inc vat. This was agreed unanimously by Councillors on a show of hands. The Clerk will ask the County Council to proceed with the installation.

In addition, 1) There was evidence of a motor bike having been ridden on the playing field at Low Flatts play area. 2) The new noticeboard at Merlin Drive had much condensation on the inside of the viewing panel. The Clerk will contact the supplier for a remedy. 3) There was much debris on the corner of North Road and Vigo Lane. The County Cllr considered that the housing developers there would make good the area once all development works had been completed. 4) Cllr Driscoll had observed evidence of fly-tipping at the former Arizona Chemical site.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

g) Crime and Community Safety

In her absence, Cllr Gregory had advised the Clerk that there were no matters to report.

h) Publicity

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

Item 7. 19/18 Correspondence

- 1) From The Children's Foundation, Great North Air Ambulance and St. Cuthbert's Hospice
Letters of thanks for donations.
- 2) From Keep Britain Tidy
Notification of Great British Spring Clean event.
- 3) From Wear Rivers Trust
Email re Cong Burn Restoration Project.

- 4) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Email re powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments.
 - b) Email re County Durham Plan Pre Submission Document consultation.
 - c) Agenda for the Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 21st February 2019.
 - d) Email re Local Government Ethical Standards.

- 5) From Durham County Council
Email re review of the County Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

- 6) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following was within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for two storey side and front extension, single storey rear extension, partial garage conversion, replacement roofing and replacement windows, at 22 Lyndhurst Avenue.
 - b) Application for side extension 3 storey, single storey rear extension and internal alterations (resubmission), at 14 North Lodge.

Item 8. 19/19 Availability of S106 Money

The Clerk advised that the most recent County Council list of Section 106 monies included a figure of £6000 for the provision of off-site play facilities in north Chester-le-Street. Councillors agreed that Cllr Caygill should contact the County Council Leisure Services Technician to discuss the possibility of using the funds to install an additional item of play equipment at Low Flatts play area.

Item 9. 19/20 Provision of a Defibrillator

The County Cllr had put forward for discussion the potential for installing a defibrillator in the Parish. The County Cllr would fund purchasing and installation costs but would not be able to provide funds for on-going maintenance. Councillors discussed this and agreed in principle that it would be desirable to install one or more machines although there were no obvious available sites. The County Cllr will gather further information for consideration by Councillors.

Item 10. 19/21 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 495.29	Salaries February 2019	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses February 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 190.00	Environment Care February 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 294.00	Horticulture February 2019	
Information Commissioner	£ 40.00	Annual Registration Fee	
Durham County Council	£ 707.92	Hosting of Website	£117.99

Total Payments £1817.21

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 19/22 Other Matters for Information

The Chairman advised that the Remembrance Day service would now be organised by a new group, the Chester-le-Street and District War Memorial Group.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

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