

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 April 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.

A visitor (part of meeting)

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 19/33 Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence.

Item 2. 19/34 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 19/35 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 -

Drum Businesses Meet to Discuss Road Death

A special meeting of the Drum Business Group was called to discuss the death of a motorcyclist within the industrial estate. Businesses within the estate have repeatably raised concerns about how parked lorries and burger vans cause dangerous situations. The motorcyclist collided with a stationary lorry while they using the estate as a short cut.

Cllr Craig Martin brought together representatives from the Police and Highways within Durham County Council so businesses could raise their concerns and seek ways to prevent future incidents. Discussions led to the idea of double yellow lines being implemented at the many junctions. Proposals are expected to be brought back to the next Drum Business Group meeting.

Highway's Officer also commented that where applications come in for food vans within the estate, they regularly recommend that they're rejected for safety concerns. How they gather parked vehicles around them on the road. But very little can be done when they are located on private land.

Public Art in Town Centre

Plans are being discussed to introduce a major piece of public art with the deculverting of the market place. I've made repeated calls for this not to happen, as I do not believe public opinion is behind such a proposal. Residents do not generally have confidence in this project being a success overall, from past experience with the civic heart. I've been selling the opening up of the market as it bringing natural beauty into the centre of our town. That it is not going to be a subjective piece of art.

During the various briefings councillors had, it was suggested that the Dainty Dinah bust could find a new home in the centre. This is something that would use a current piece of artwork that says something about the town's history. I believe this was a far better idea, which should trump the putting in place of a completely new piece of art.

Re Drum Industrial Estate, 1) The Chairman advised of problems due to large vehicles heading there but mistakenly accessing unsuitable local estate roads. 2) Re artwork for the Drum, the County Cllr advised that he was looking into raising additional funds from businesses there. 3) Cllr Gregory suggested that the Parish Council should be represented at the Business Group meetings. The County Cllr will make a request to the Group. 4) Re the pond area, the County Cllr understood that the present occupants of the area were considered by the legal team acting for the factory owners to have a right to be there. The factory owners were now believed to be re-negotiating their lease with the land owners. 5) Cllr Hall considered that the lack of Parish Council representation on the Business Group resonated with the County Council's attitude to Parish Councils.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 19/36 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 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. 19/37 Chairman's Report

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 19/25 section 2). Re ownership of the verge under the Sustrans bridge at North Road, the Chairman will make enquiries.
- b) Re Minute 19/25 section 4). Re litter blowing from the Drum Industrial Estate, the County Cllr will discuss this at the next Drum Business Group meeting.
- c) Re Minute 19/25 section 7). Councillors thanked the County Cllr for providing an advance copy of his latest newsletter.
- d) Re Minute 19/27 section c). Cllr Noble-Nesbitt advised that two lights at Picktree Lodge were on permanently. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council.

At this point, the visitor arrived at the meeting.

e) Re Minute 19/28 section c2). Re tree lights for Picktree Village, further information was provided by the Chairman.

f) Re Minute 19/28 section g). Cllr Noble-Nesbitt provided an outline of the Clean Air Strategy 2019 and asked how Parish Councils could engage with the County Council to promote a Smoke Control Area for Chester-le-Street. The County Cllr and the Chairman will take this forwards.

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

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 16TH 2019.

CHAIRMANS REPORT.

AAP REPORT.

1.Junior Park Rark Run.Held every Saturday morning. Very well attended.Over 7 weeks more than 900 runners took part.

2.New operator for the managing of the Chester le Street market. .To date their have been no applications to take on this management.Any interested parties have until Friday April 26th 2019 submit their proposals.

3.Schemes being developed by local Councillors from their Neighbourhood Budget Resources .Major repairs to Bullion Hall, Purchase of equipment at Sacriston Colliery Cricket Club.

4.Shotley Bridge Community Hospital Services, " Have Your Say,Share Your Views.

5.10 Years of the Durham County Council "AAP" s .Their are 14 covering the County. There is to be a special event to be held at Hardwick Hall.Sedgefield (6.30pm – 9.30pm) 24.4.2019. Each AAP will have a table for 20 guests There will be presentation of awards for exemplar projects from each of the AAP s, The award from Chester le Street will go to "Market Activity Week – Durham Constabulary.

5.Market area work ongoing no major problems to date.

6.Fire and Rescue Services, No one in attendance.

7.A167 Roundabout- Environmental project. Ongoing.

8.Police Update.Private Landlords event to take place to discuss problems in town. Community Safety Roadshows. Nothing planned to date.Pub Watch working hard with licensees in the area.Vulnerability Training undertaken and was well attended.There is a need for more licensee members from the rural communities to take part.Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of each month in the County Cricket Club,Dwelling and Commercial Burglaries- Some suspects have been caught and locked up,Make sure that all properties are kept safe and be vigilant All reports should go through 101 or if it is an emergency 999

9.E-Bikes still awaiting funding from the AAP.

10,Area Budget Application- Activity Week 2019. Request for £5.000. to the AAP Board from the Crime and Community Safety/Opportunities for Young People / Town Centre,This request was passed.

11.Board Vacancies.Public Representative and Partner Representative Voluntary Sector.

Commented [ef1]: ajr

The Chairman advised that the Police e-bikes had now been delivered.
Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 6. 19/38 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 16th April 2019

Crime- current

Burglary x 2.

Kingsmere, attempted entry to premises, whilst residents away from property.

Drum Industrial Estate attempted entry on a Burger van.

Road related incident x 1.

Off road bike on Coast2Coast track near the Wheatsheaf pub.

Local PSCO 's have altered their shift pattern to combat this increasing trend,
two bikes have been stopped in other areas of Chester-le-Street.

Crime- update

Burglary x1

Ambleside Court. CID are still investigating and forensic evidence has been collected. The police advise that the resident had been deliberately targeted due to having ownership of a commercial take away business. This seems to be a nationwide issue.

Community Safety

Operation Sceptre: 3 knives handed into local police. All were destroyed.

Cyber Security : Advice available from Police regarding cyber safety/security for organisations and small/ medium businesses.

Road Safety : Mobile Phone Enforcement Campaign in progress.

Reminder, It is illegal to hold a phone or a 'sat nav' whilst driving. The law also applies when stationary at traffic lights or queuing in traffic.

Continued thanks to David for sending 'In the Know' information to Councillors

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 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

16 April 2019

Durham County Councils Responsibilities

- **Diamond Flower Beds Picktree Lodge**

Due to the uncertainty of when the Bridge Works etc.at Picktree Lodge will be complete, we are unable to plan the re-instatement of the original two flower beds. We will continue to monitor the area.

Parish Council Responsibilities.

- **Christmas tree in Picktree village.**

No further information at present.

- **Low Flatts Play Area Hawthorn Hedge (Gap)**

This gap has now been cleared of weeds. Hawthorn whips are growing nicely but slowly.

- **Plinth at Picktree Lodge**

The plants at the bottom half of the Plinth have been cleared (due to plants dying). Extra soil will be added in next planting season.

- **Land near to bridge at Wheatsheaf Pub**

We have no firm confirmation of land ownership yet.

Environmental Caretaker

A bicycle was found by our Caretaker at entrance to Lombard Drive. Frank informed the local Police.

**NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR 2 AUDIT**

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

DATE 11/03/19 – 07/04/19

No.	Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/Hrs 12	Accumulation 183
1	Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Tending shrub bed and weeding	3.0	31.0
3	Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Fed and watered.	0.25	7.5
1	Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Tidying bus stand, cleaning seat.	0.75	7.5
3	Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Fed and watered beds.	0.5	10.5
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).	General tidying.	0.25	3.5
1	Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Tidying bus stand. Cleaning seat.	0.75	7.0
2	Raised Shrub Beds North Road			
2	Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Applied weed killer.	1.0	18.0
2	Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.	Fed and watered		3.0
	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (South Bound). No flowers.	Tidying and cleaning.	0.25	4.0
6	Tubs in North Road. Near to the Living Christmas Tree.			

1	Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.	Fed and watered, plus weeding	0.5	20.5
No.	Description	Comment Total Hours	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
1	Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.	Weeded and cleared around tree.		2.5
3	Tubs in Lombard Drive, - near school			
1	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Cleaned bus stand and seat. Fed and watered flower bed.	1.0	13.0
1	Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Tidying bus stand and cleaning seat.	0.75	5.5
	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.	0.75	5.5
2	Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Fed, watered and weeded.	0.75	21.5
1	Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			
1	Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	General cleaning.	0.5	3.0
2	Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	General tidying. Weeding beds	0.5	4.0
3	Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).	Fed and watered.	0.5	10.0
1	Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			
	Daffodil planting.			
	Handyman.			

1) Re the plinth at Picktree Lodge, Councillors agreed with Cllr Gregory that the small bed at the base of the plinth should be grassed over. Cllr Caygill reminded Councillors that the top of the plinth was designed to take rockery plants and Councillors agreed that it should be planted up accordingly. 2) Cllr Caygill advised that the appearance of the Northlands bed was much improved after the recent work there by the Gardener. 3) Re Minute 19/32, after a further discussion Cllr May is to obtain from the Gardener details of how many plants he buys on behalf of the Council, how much he pays for them and where he buys them from. Also taking into account the quality of plants bought, the Council will then be better placed to establish if best value is being achieved. The Chairman thanked Cllrs May and Driscoll for their reports and invited Cllr Waugh to give his report.

c) 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.

d) Planning

Cllr Snaith gave an update on the progress of the housing developments at Vigo Lane. It was expected that the developments would be completed within 18 to 24 months. Cllr Waugh reminded Councillors that there was provision for a play area in the outline application for the former Arizona Chemical land and this was expected to be carried through to the detailed application. Re a possible new notice board for Vigo Lane, Cllr Snaith agreed to enquire if installing it at the recently revamped bus stop would be acceptable. The County Cllr advised that he understood a shelter was on order for that bus stop.

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

e) Play Areas

PLAY AREAS REPORT APRIL 2019

MERLIN DRIVE

All equipment appears to be in good order.

The Mole hills have been flattened by the grass cutting machine.

LOW FLATTS

All equipment appears to be in good order.

We still await the replacement waste bin and the seat to be treated.

The weeds have been cleared around the hedge whips giving them a chance to grow.

Re branches on the ground at Merlin Drive, Cllr Driscoll will ask the County Council to remove them.

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

f) Highways and Website

Various road surfaces on North Lodge Estate had been repaired to a good standard by the County Council's contractors. However, a drain in Merlin Drive had been left taped over. The Clerk will advise this to the County Council.

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

g) Policy and Governance

North Lodge Parish Council

Meeting on Tuesday 16 April 2019

Governance and Policy Portfolio

Briefing Note/Update from Councillor Dennis Hall

Items of General Interest:

Inquiry launched into pavement parking; (2 April);

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/news-parliament-2017/pavement-parking-launch-17-19/>

Councillor Dennis Hall

Date 12 April 2019

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. 19/39 Correspondence

- 1) From the County Councillor
Email re High Street funding.
- 2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Email re European parliamentary elections.
 - b) Notification of the Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on 23rd May 2019.
- 3) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for rear and side extension, at 1 Lintfort.
 - b) Approval for side extension 3 storey, single storey rear extension and internal alterations (resubmission), at 14 North Lodge.
 - c) Approval for first floor and front extensions and associated external alterations (amended 22.02.19), at 27 North Lodge.
 - d) Approval for demolition of garage and erection of two-storey extension to north elevation, first floor extension above existing flat roof to south, new window fenestration and change of external material appearance, at 59 Longdean Park.
 - e) Approval for extension to rear, at 111 Picktree Lodge.
 - f) Approval for erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling to replace existing conservatory, at 66 Picktree Lodge.

Item 8. 19/40 Presentation from Standards Training Event

Cllr Hall had attended an external Standards Training event and he gave an overview of the matters raised and discussed there. Councillors thanked Cllr Hall for his informative presentation.

Item 9. 19/41 Preparation of the Newsletter

Cllr May kindly agreed to again collate this year's Newsletter. Councillors were asked to send items for possible inclusion to Cllr May within the next few weeks.

Item 10. 19/42 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 451.05	Salaries April 2019	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses April 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care April 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 168.00	Horticulture April 2019	
Durham County Council	£ 338.46	Dress/Undress Christmas Tree	£56.41
Cty DhM Assn of Local Councils	£ 330.46	Annual Subscription Fee	

Total Payments £1529.97

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 11. 19/43 Other Matters for Information

There were no other matters.

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 16th April 2019.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 451.05	Salaries April 2019	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses April 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care April 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 168.00	Horticulture April 2019	
Durham County Council	£ 338.46	Dress/Undress Christmas Tree	£56.41
Cty Dhm Assn of Local Councils	£ 330.46	Annual Subscription Fee	

Total Payments £1529.97

Balance to 31st March 2019

Balance b/f	£25296.08	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2019	<u>£ 1366.48</u>		
	£23929.60	Current	£ 269.17
		30 Day	<u>£23661.41</u>
		Total	£23930.58
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 0.98</u>		
	£23930.58	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
Balance c/f	£23930.58		£23930.58