

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 July 2019.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Jackie Gregory.
Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Maureen May, Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall, Colin Noble-Nesbitt.
County Councillor: Craig Martin.
Clerk: David Murrell.
A Resident.

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 19/73 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Elsie Forrester, David Snaith and John Waugh.

Item 2. 19/74 Declarations of Interest

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

Item 3. 19/75 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 -

A1M bridge improvement work

This will be resuming during July. Highways England held an event for residents to drop into and have their question answered. They stated that the difficulties they faced they didn't genuinely know how to solve them. This is the reason we haven't heard anything from them in a while.

They have entered into an agreement with Sustrans that will allow them to completely close off the C2C. A permanent diversion will be created for cyclists and walkers with new footways created. Allowing them to use Vigo Lane and get access next to the Rolls Royce factory.

This will allow the majority of work to be completed during the day, meaning less disruption for residents and expected sooner finish date. But the work will still go on for more than year. Highways England just expect that when they come to renew the licence for being onsite, they need loads more extra time than previously thought.

County Plan

Durham County Council's long awaited second attempt of getting a planning policy faced its first electoral test in front of County Councillors. On 19th June a vote was held on whether the plan should be moved onto the next stage for independent review. This was approved with most opposition Councillors voting against it.

I couldn't support it with it being so Durham City centric and ignoring the rest of the County. There were numerous reasons why this is the case that were cited. My main concern is the distribution of infrastructure projects. Per person in City of Durham there will be £2600 while in North Durham we're getting £135 spent per person.

This really does concern me because the county plan is more than just planning policy. It's a key part of how we will drive economic prosperity across County Durham. Building houses, bringing more people into the area, who in turn will spend more money on services. Instead Durham County Council is going to throw most of this investment into the city, over developing a beautiful historical asset, leaving other areas behind.

County Durham needs a new planning policy to protect itself against developers doing what they want with little protection for residents. But that plan needs to be for all County Durham not just City of Durham.

In addition, 1) The Christmas Tree at Northlands roundabout had died and had been removed by the County Council who would like to try again with a replacement tree. Councillors agreed to support this proposal. 2) Re Highways England work at the entrance to Picktree Lodge, Councillors agreed that if the work had not re-commenced by the end of July then the help of the MP should be sought.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 19/76 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th June 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. 19/77 Chairman's Report

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

Chairman's Report July 2019

It is good to see the flower beds have been filled with summer bedding plants, which are now in full bloom.

The Parish Council barrels contain as many diverse plants as possible. This is to encourage bees and other pollinators. This issue is reviewed regularly.

On Friday 5th July, Mr Graham Cozens from Durham County Council (DCC) accompanied three Parish Councillors (Councillors May, Driscoll and Gregory) on a walkabout to survey the trees and shrubs in North Road. The route started and finished at the Lambton Worm Pub.

The following plan was agreed:

All the Council owned trees would be placed on a rota for the DCC tree surgeon to assess if any maintenance is required.

Other general work carried out by the DCC horticulture team would include trees branches and large shrubs over hanging from private gardens onto the public path. These would be cut back and the greenery waste would be given back to the individual residents concerned.

At the entrance to Lambton Park, on the north grass verge, Mr Cozens had concerns regarding the health of two trees which appeared to be struggling to leaf. He stated that another visit to assess the trees in 12 months will be necessary. If the trees have not improved they will be removed. Replacement of the trees and any landscape issues will be discussed at that time.

At the Lombard Drive entrance to the North Lodge estate, on the south verge, a branch from a council owned tree is overhanging a section on the North Road including a bus shelter. The branch was seen to catch the front and nearside of buses either stopping or passing the shelter. He will arrange for the remove of the offending branch as soon as possible

He acknowledged that Park View school had attended to the trees and shrubs on their land near to the stone wall boundary of North Road.

There are many large shrubs on the east embankment, north of the Sustrans C2C bridge which some are overhanging onto the public path. He suggested that the Parish Council write to Sustrans in the first instance, requesting that these branches are cut back.

Observing from a public path, the trees on the private Avant housing development are in need of some attention. Mr Cozens asks again in the first instance, that the Parish Council inform the company of the observations.

The walk was productive and informative.

Once again, I thank the Parish Councillors for their hard work in maintaining a vibrant area.

Re trees on North Road, the Clerk will contact Sustrans re their overhanging trees north of the bridge. The County Cllr and Cllr Snaith are to separately contact Avant to request that Avant makes an assessment of the condition of their trees. The Chairman will ask the County Council to inspect trees at the junction of North Road and Queensmere.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 19/59 section 5). Re path repairs at Lyndhurst Avenue/North Road and Picktree Lodge/Caxton Way, the Chairman and the County Cllr were taking this forward.

b) Re Minute 19/61 section b). Re ownership of the verge under the Sustrans bridge at North Road, enquiries at the Land Registry had also failed to produce the identity of the owner.

c) Re Minute 19/61 section c). Re litter blowing from the Drum Industrial Estate, the Chairman advised that City of Durham Parish Council had employed a part-time Warden. The Clerk will include an item for discussion at the next meeting of the Council.

d) Re Minute 19/61 section g). Re the notice board at Merlin Drive, the supplier had offered a replacement free of charge. However, the responsibility for the cost of removal and re-installation had yet to be discussed with the company.

e) Re Minute 19/62 section b1). Re the Picktree Lodge footpath which had not yet been cleared despite advice from the County Council that it had been, the County Council had agreed to a site meeting to review the situation.

f) Re Minute 19/62 section g). Re a potential health and safety risk at the junction of the new path from the Avant development and North Road, Cllr Snaith had advised that a reply from Avant was awaited.

g) Re Minute 19/72 section 1). The County Cllr advised that he was still pursuing with the County Council potential health concerns at the Drum pond area.

Item 6. 19/78 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr Hall to give his report.

a) Policy and Governance

Cllr Hall advised that he had no matters to report.

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

b) Play Areas

MERLIN DRIVE

Equipment appears to be in good order with the exception of some food residue on a swing seat and a tyre under the Swing See Saw still appears to be punctured.

LOW FLATTS

Equipment appears to be in good order. The old waste bin is still in position in the fenced area. The hedge whips are once again being choked by weeds.

Re the old bin at Low Flatts play area, the Clerk will obtain a quote for its removal.

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

c) Highways and Website

There was vegetation overhanging footpaths near to lamp posts 2373 and 2379. The Clerk will advise the County Council accordingly.

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

d) Horticulture

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HORTICULTURE REPORT 16 July 2019

Durham County Councils Responsibilities

- **Flower Beds**

All flower beds, including the two new flower beds installed in Blind Lane, are now planted up with Summer Bedding. Sadly the cordylines from the centre of the flower beds on the east side of North Road, plus? Some in Picktree Village have been stolen. Graham Cozens (Durham County Council) has been informed.

Parish Council Responsibilities.

- **Blossom Trees at entrance to North lodge, Lambton Park**

Graham Cozens (Durham County Council) has assessed these trees regarding the need to trim/crown them. He has suggested to review them next year with the probability of at least one needing to be felled.

- **Summer Bedding**

Geraniums (218 @ 65p each)	= £141.70
Bedding plants (57 @ £1.50 per 6 Pack)	= £ 85.50
Total	= £ 227 20
Amount charged to Parish Council from Pot-it-on	£219.70
Plus	
3 bags of compost - 80 litres each	= £18.00
Slug pellets	= £ 4. 50
Plant Food	= £ 4. 00
1 Ton of top soil	= £ 39.60
Total	= £66.10

- **Christmas tree for Picktree Village**

Councillor May has approached appropriate Companies. Approximate prices given but will report back final costings in September.

Environmental Caretaker

No major issues reported

Councillor M May & Councillor P Driscoll (Horticulture Portfolio Holder)

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

YEAR 2 AUDIT

Parish Council/Gardeners Responsibility.

DATE 10/06/19 – 07/07/19

No.	Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
		Total	33	257
		Hours		
1	Shrub Bed close to northlands Roundabout.	Applied weed killer, fed and watered.	2.0	39.0
3	Tubs at North Road near to Northlands Roundabout.	Fed and watered plants.	0.5	11.0
1	Bus Shelter –Northlands (North Bound)	Tidying bus stand, cleaning seat.	1.0	10.0
3	Flower/Shrub Beds (Back and two sides).	Applied weed killer, and planted up and watered	2.5	14.0
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 maintenance.	0.25	4.5
1	Bus Shelter North Road –Lambton Worm pub (North Bound). No flowers	Tidying bus stand. Cleaning seat.	1.0	9.5
2	Raised Shrub Beds North Road			
2	Flower Beds at entrance to North Lodge (Lambton Park).	Fed and watered beds, replaced missing plants.	2.5	28.5
2	Tubs at Lambton Park entrance.	Fed and watered.	0.5	5.5
	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate	Tidying and maintenance.		

	(South Bound). No flowers.		0.25	5.0
6	Tubs in North Road. Near to the Living Christmas Tree.	Fed and watered.	0.5	3.5
1	Millennium Flower Bed at entrance to Lombard drive.	Applied weed killer, added top soil, planted full bed, watered and fed	7.5	29.5
No.	Description	Comment	Present Month/Hrs	Accumulation
		Total Hours		
1	Jubilee Tree at Entrance to Lombard Drive.	Applied weed killer, planted up, fed and watered	2.0	5.0
3	Tubs in Lombard Drive, - near school	Fed and watered	0.5	0.5
1	Bus Shelter – North Lodge Estate (North Bound). (Flowers on north side).	Cleaned bus stand and seat, fed and watered flowers	1.75	16.5
1	Bus Shelter. Barley Mow Inn (South Bound).	Tidying bus stand, cleaning seat.	1.0	8.0
	Bus Stop. Barley Gate, Vigo Lane. No flowers.			
1	Bus Shelter. Ambleside Court Vigo Lane. (Laurel on West side)	Tidying bus stand, cleaning seat and tidied laurel.	1.5	8.5
2	Flower Bed around plinth – bottom and top at entrance to Picktree Lodge.	Supplied compost and planted top of plinth. Replaced missing flowers and watered. Top soil to level off base of plinth.	4.5	29.0
1	Planting of flowers below wall opposite plinth at entrance to Picktree Lodge.			
1	Bus Shelter (Glass) in Picktree Village.	General cleaning.	0.75	4.5
2	Bus Shelter. Ash Meadows, Picktree Village Flower/shrub bed both sides.	General cleaning and tidying beds	1.0	6.0
3	Small Shrub/Flower Beds in Picktree Village (opposite Mr & Mrs Kirkup).	Fed and watered.	1.5	11.5
1	Heather Bed at Picktree Village.			

Daffodil planting.			
Handyman.			2.0

1) Re the bed at Northlands, the Chairman suggested that consideration should be given to purchasing additional shrubs. 2) Councillors considered that the roles and responsibilities of the Gardener and Environment Caretaker should be reviewed. The Clerk will include this on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Council. 3) Re Christmas lights for Picktree Village, the Portfolio Holders are to canvass the opinions of residents there regarding the proposal to use battery powered lights on existing trees. The Portfolio Holders are also to obtain costings for discussion at the next meeting of the Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs May and Driscoll for their reports.

e) Finance

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

f) Planning

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

g) Publicity

At the request of Cllr Forrester, the Clerk reported on the forthcoming Activity Week (12th - 16th August), Brass on the Bus (17th July) and an update from the AAP re operation of the Market.

h) Crime and Community Safety

Cllr Gregory gave her report which included the matters contained in her written report below -

Crime and Community Safety Report, July 2019

Crime

Vehicle crime x 1

Broken car window at Leander Avenue.

No reports of any other crime.

Community Safety

Enquiries were made to police to consider holding a 'Meet the Detectives' road show in North Lodge. It was decided that the Parish Council should consider arranging a road show involving a wider range of community bodies. Further enquiries will be made.

Continued thanks to David for circulating 'In the Know' to Councillors.

Remember

For non-emergency call to Police, use telephone number 101

For emergency calls to Police, use telephone number 999

Councillors thanked Cllr Gregory for her report.

Item 7. 19/79 Correspondence

- 1) From two residents
emails re horticulture.
- 2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
 - a) Notification of Smaller Councils Forum meeting to be held on 25th July 2019.
 - b) email re Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station review.
 - c) email re use of secret ballots and public participation.
 - d) email re Section 106 agreements.
 - e) email re handling intimidation.
- 3) From Durham County Council
 - a) email re the County Durham Plan - submission for independent examination.
 - b) email re Community Led Housing.
 - c) Letter re Budget Planning.
 - d) email re the Angus Irvine Playing Fields Fund.
- 4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
 - a) Application for two storey side and front extension, partial garage conversion, replacement roofing and replacement windows, at 22 Lyndhurst Avenue.
 - b) Application to prune back branches from T2 Elm growing towards neighbouring boundary in line with inside face of Conifer hedge and remove low dead branch from rear of tree, remove 1x low branch from T3 Oak growing towards neighbouring boundary, cut 2 x dead/declining G1 Holly trees to ground level leaving basal growth, remove epicormic growth from 1x G2 Lime and 1x G2 Sycamore, crown lift both trees to 3m from ground level (TPO - CSL 2) at Picktree Manor, Picktree Lane.
 - c) Application for display of 4no. non-illuminated V-Board and 1no. non-illuminated Flat Board signage, at various sites adjacent to A1(M) J63 roundabout, A183/A1052 Houghton Gate Junction and adjacent A182 to W of A182/A183 roundabout.
 - d) Outline application for the erection of 6 houses with details of access (all other matters reserved, at site of former Pelaw Grange Cottage, North Road.
 - e) Approval for rear and side extension (amended plans 03.06.2019) at 1 Lintfort.

Item 8. 19/80 Items Requested by Councillors

Due to pressure of time, these items are to be held over to the next meeting of the Council.

Item 9. 19/81 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 450.85	Salaries July 2019	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses July 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 152.00	Environment Care July 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 609.02	Horticulture July 2019	
Cty. Dhm. Assn. of Local Councils	£ 27.00	Fee for Training Event	
St Astier Ltd	£6727.07	Refurbishment of Bus Shelters	£1121.18
D. Murrell (via Post Office Ltd)	£ 1.06	Postage for Annual Return	
D. Murrell (via Morrison's)	£ 7.00	Photocopier paper	£ 1.17
D. Murrell (via HM Land Registry)	£ 3.00	Search Fee	
JAK HQ Ltd	£ 240.00	Printing of Newsletters	

Total Payments £8307.00

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 10. 19/82 Other Matters for Information

Councillors discussed two emails regarding horticultural matters received from residents and draft replies were agreed to be finalised by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th September 2019.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 451.05	Salaries August 2019	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses August 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 190.00	Environment Care August 2019	
Pot-It-On	£ 248.00	Horticulture August 2019	
DSJ Property Services	£ 90.00	Removal of Litter Bin	
Mazars LLP	£ 240.00	Audit Fee	£40.00
Salaries	£	Salaries September 2019	
Expenses	£ 90.00	Expenses September 2019	
Pot-It-On	£	Environment Care September 2019	
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture September 2019	
J. Gregory	£ 165.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Total Payments	£		

Balance to 31st July 2019

Balance b/f	£47275.01	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2019	<u>£ 8307.00</u>	Current	£ 691.52
	£38968.01	30 Day	<u>£38545.40</u>
		Total	£39236.92
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 1.91</u>		
	£38969.92	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 267.00</u>
Balance c/f	£38969.92		£38969.92