

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Dennis Hall.  
Councillors: Sue Brown, Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory, Patrick Driscoll, Craig Martin, Chris Veitch, John Waugh.  
County Councillor: Craig Martin.  
Clerk: David Murrell.

Before the meeting, Councillors welcomed PCSO Christine Taylor who gave an informative insight into the work of the Police in North Lodge and Chester-le-Street including issues faced by the Police. There was a discussion on how the Parish Council and the Police could work together to achieve the best outcomes for Parish residents.

Following this, the Chairman welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

### Item 1. 22/93 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Elsie Forrester and Maureen May.

### Item 2. 22/94 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Craig Martin declared interests as a County Councillor and as a Governor of Park View Academy.

### Item 3. 22/95 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited the County Councillor to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

-----  
**Defibrillator at Wheatsheaf**

I've funded the installation of a defib at the Wheatsheaf. This is being done through the North Lodge Remembrance Group.

Those running the Wheatsheaf have kindly agreed to have the device attached to the pub. They will also fund the electricity required to keep the defib heated.

Both pubs now have a public defib that can be accessed 24 hours a day by calling 999. I look forward to working with the parish council to see how I can assist in installing more of these devices across the area.

-----  
In addition, the County Cllr advised that he intended to report to the next Parish Council meeting regarding the current North East devolution deal.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

**Item 4. 22/96 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 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. 22/97 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's report included the following matters -

- 
- 1) The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for providing information re the Chester-le-Street Masterplan and poverty data. Councillors agreed that these should be included in the Agenda for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.
  - 2) Councillors were requested to give early consideration to proposals for projects for the financial year 2023/24.
  - 3) Councillors were requested to give some thought to projects to celebrate the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III. This is to be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.
- 

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his report.

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 22/86. Re the Community Arts Awards Programme, Cllr Caygill advised that a possible theme for next year, following an initial discussion with the School, was the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III.
- b) Re Minute 22/86 section a). In reply to Cllr Brown re grass cutting by the County Council, the County Councillor advised that the County Council awaited notification of the Government financial settlement before making a decision on budgets.
- c) Re Minute 22/86 section b). Re horticultural assistance for Park View School, Cllr Caygill advised that this may also take the form of a celebration for the forthcoming coronation.
- d) Re Minute 22/88 section c). The Clerk is to produce a report for the next meeting showing up-to-date expenditure against budget.
- e) Re Minute 22/88 section d). Cllr Gregory advised that the repair by the County Council of the damage to the signage at the pedestrian refuge near to the North Road/Low Flatts Road junction appeared to be in hand.
- f) Re Minute 22/88 section e). The Chairman considered that the Horticulture sub-group was a success.
- g) Re Minute 22/92 section b). Re the wood alongside the A693, Cllr Caygill advised that a site meeting was scheduled for within the next few days.
- h) Re Minute 22/92 section c). Cllr Gregory, in her capacity as a Parish resident, advised that a further letter had been received from the MP stating that there had still not yet been any contact from Sustrans. However, some of the graffiti on the North Road bridge had been removed.

**Item 6. 22/98 Portfolio Holders' Reports**

**a) Communications and Media Development**

The Chairman invited Cllr Veitch to give his report which contained the following matters -

-----

Cllr Veitch gave an update on activity through the Facebook and Twitter pages.

-----

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

**b) Crime and Community Safety**

---

**Crime**

North Road (travelling south): Graffiti on the rear wall of the bus shelter in North Road junction with Lombard Drive.

Photographs taken and report made to police.

**Community Safety**

**Young Hero's awards**

The nominee must be aged 18 or below.

Further details can be obtained on Chester-le-Street Police Facebook account.

**UK Road Offender Education Awards**

DC Natalie Homer from Durham Constabulary attended the ceremony and was given the Outstanding Contribution to Road Safety award by Chief Constable Jo Shiner of Sussex Police.

**Festive Card Competition.**

Co Durham primary schools are being ask to enter a competition to design a festive card for Durham Constabulary.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell will pick her favourite.

The design will be professionally printed and sent out to key community members.

Closing date for entries 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Further details on Durham Constabulary Facebook account.

Non-Emergency calls to Police use telephone number 101

Emergency calls to Police use telephone number 999

**Co Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue service.**

Articles of interest published on the Co Durham and Darlington Rescue service Facebook account and website.

a) How to stay safe on the lead up to and including Bonfire Night 5<sup>th</sup> November.

b) Details of a new collaboration to create a state- of- the-art offshore emergency fire training centre near Durham.

**Safety in the Home and Community**

Details on arranging a Safe and Well being visit are on the Facebook account and website of Co Durham and Darlington Rescue service

---

In addition, at the request of Cllr Gregory there will be an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting on the production and distribution to residents of a leaflet re crime prevention during the winter nights.

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

**c) Finance**

---

The financial information supplied by the clerk has been checked and I can confirm everything appears to be in order.

---

The Chairman thanked Cllr Waugh for his Finance report and invited Cllr Driscoll to give his Highways and Community Assets report which included the matters contained in his written report below -

#### d) Highways and Community Assets

---

The monthly bus shelters inspection was carried out on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. All appeared in good condition, with leaf clearance and seat cleaning carried out as usual, with one specific exception.

This exception was the south bound bus shelter on North Road, near the Lombard Drive entrance, which had been spray painted on the rear wall, around the glass cabinet, with large lettering. This was during the night of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> of September. This has been photographed and reported to Park View School, and the police, to check for familiar gang tagging, and the wall itself will be re-painted. The bus shelter in North Road, south bound, past the Barley Mow roundabout, has now had the damaged glass cabinet removed, and is awaiting re-installation of a newly purchased cabinet. Nexus have replaced the plastic front in their cabinet, and positioned a new timetable. All glass cabinets have had the winning school art posters removed, and replaced with posters from those pupils who were commended for their efforts.

---

The Chairman thanked Cllr Driscoll for his report and invited Cllr Caygill to present the Horticulture report which had been prepared by Cllr May and which included the matters contained in her written report below -

#### e) Horticulture

---

**County Council flower beds will be planted up shortly - in next two weeks.**

#### Notes of Horticulture Sub Group

Monday 10 October 2022

#### NOTES AND OUTCOMES

#### Present:

Councillor May, Councillor Caygill, Councillor Brown

#### Topics for Discussion

##### 1 Barrels

There are four flower barrels out of the fourteen within the parish which require immediate disposal, due to metal straps becoming rusty and dislodged rendering the barrels unstable.

They are:

- a) One near to Northlands bus shelter.
- b) Three at Lombard Drive close to school.

The remaining ten barrels (two at entrance of North lodge, Lambton Park - six at North Road close to the living Christmas tree - two near to Northlands bus shelter), will be kept, monitored and assessed next year.

##### 2 Daffodils

Councillors May and Caygill met with Stephen Makepeace (Parish gardener) and agreed areas to plant daffodils:-

North Road - In grass In front of the wall of houses leading from entrance of top of Longdean Park, to house called Northgate (where the grassed area ends).

A small amount of daffodils to be planted in Northlands shrub bed.

Merlin Drive Play Area -Stephen agreed to dig holes around Play area in order that Park View School students could plant daffodils as part of their school curriculum

##### 3 Parish Gardener

General area of Parish looks neat and tidy, Plants are almost ready to be planted.

#### **4 Tree Planting**

The group believe that the issues raised by Rob George should remain the responsibility of the County Council. The group agreed with this initiative and are willing to co-operate but not in a physical capacity.

#### **5 Picktree Lodge Entrance Update**

It was discussed that a tree - 'The Queens Canopy' could be planted in this area with flowering shrubs planted in front; or the tree in question could be incorporated within Rob Georges planting scheme.(the Parish Council could identify the tree with a commemorative plaque)

-----  
The Chairman thanked Cllrs May and Caygill for the report.

#### **f) Meetings of Partnership Organisations**

In her absence, Cllr Forrester had provided a copy of the AAP Annual Report for 2021/22. The County Councillor advised that the County Council was holding a consultation on community engagement including the future of AAP's.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Forrester for her report and invited Cllr Waugh to give his Planning report which included the following matters -

#### **g) Planning**

Cllr Waugh advised that he continued to inform Councillors on a weekly basis of any new planning applications in the Parish and also to highlight any concerns. The Parish Council had previously commented on planning application DM/22/01430/FPA. As an amendment to the application had been submitted, Councillors agreed on a further response to be submitted.

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

#### **h) Play Areas**

##### **MERLIN DRIVE**

All equipment appears to be in good working order.

The new items are proving very popular and give added play and educational value.

##### **LOW FLATTS**

All equipment appears to be in good working order.

James Young has put out the supply of the new items to tender.

-----  
In addition, Cllr Caygill will consider new signage for both the play areas and, resulting from a discussion on parking issues at Merlin Drive, will consider production of a map showing the play areas for display on noticeboards and on social media.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

#### **i) Policy and Governance**

Cllr Hall advised that there were no matters to report.

Councillors thanked Cllr Hall.

The Chairman invited Cllr Martin to give his report.

#### **j) Project Development, Business and External Relations**

Cllr Martin advised that he had previously circulated an update on the Drum Artwork project.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Martin for his report.

### **Item 7. 22/99 Correspondence**

- 1) From the Redeemer Church, Chester-le-Street  
email of introduction.

The Church had provided a message for consideration for posting on the Council's Facebook and Twitter pages, and this was agreed by the Chairman and the Clerk in accordance with Council Policy. Councillors agreed to invite a representative of the Church to discuss if there could be any partnership community projects.

- 2) From County Durham Association of Local Councils
  - a) email re Durham County Council consultation on community engagement.
  - b) email re Durham County Council consultation on an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

Councillors were asked to submit comments to either Cllr Gregory or the Clerk, who together will consider a submission on behalf of the Parish Council.

- 3) From Durham County Council  
email re possible tree planting at Picktree Lodge.

- 4) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
  - a) Application for tree works (TPO-CLS-1) at Hollydene, North Lodge.
  - b) Application for erection of 2m high gated entrance and 1.8m high wall with coping stones to replace existing timber panel fence and piers, at 5A North Lodge.

### **Item 8. 22/100 Proposals, Reports and Requests for Consideration**

#### **a) Road Safety on the A693**

Councillors Gregory and Waugh outlined recent parking issues in Blind Lane although Cllr Gregory advised that it was not illegal to park there. Councillors discussed the issues and agreed that more evidence, including the opinions of residents, should be gathered before proposing any action. In the meantime, a message is to be sent to the Traffic Management Officer advising of concerns and that evidence is being gathered.

#### **b) North Lodge Remembrance Group**

Cllr Veitch provided an update on the activities of the Group. There will be a memorial service on 11<sup>th</sup> November, details to follow. Re proposed artwork within the Parish, the Group will soon be meeting with the artist and it is hoped that there will be a proposal to put before the Parish Council in the next few weeks.

#### **c) Budget: Forward Planning**

Portfolio Holders were asked to provide by mid-December, costed proposals for consideration for the 2023/24 budget.

**Item 9. 22/101 Payment of Accounts**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Salaries	£ 524.34	Salaries October 2022	
Expenses	£ 100.00	Expenses October 2022	
Zoom inc	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription - Oct 2022	£ 2.40
ANS Group Ltd	£ 39.86	Monthly Subscription - Oct 2022	£ 6.64
Poppy Appeal	£ 400.00	Donation	
Makepeace Landscapes	£1022.40	Horticulture	£170.40
<b>Total of Above Payments</b>	<b>£2100.99</b>		

**Payments Made by Debit Card**

<b>TO</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Post Office Ltd	£ 34.20	Postage Stamps	
XL Displays Ltd	£ 81.78	Display Cabinet	£ 13.63
<b>Total Card Payments</b>	<b>£ 115.98</b>		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

**Item 10. 22/102 Other Matters for Information**

Councillors agreed with Cllr Waugh who was pleased that the personal addresses of Councillors had been removed from the noticeboards and replaced with Council email addresses.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

## North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries November 2022	
Expenses	£ 100.00	Expenses November 2022	
Salaries	£	Back-dated Salary Rise Apr-Oct inc	
Zoom inc	£ 14.39	Monthly Subscription - Nov 2022	£ 2.40
ANS Group Ltd	£ 39.86	Monthly Subscription - Nov 2022	£ 6.64
DSJ Property Services	£	Noticeboard and Removing Graffiti	
Your Web Services Ltd	£ 90.00	Hosting of Domain Name	£ 15.00
Makepeace Landscapes	£	Horticulture	£
<b>Total of Above Payments</b>	<b>£</b>		

### Payments Made by Debit Card

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Pity Me Nursery	£ 45.00	Daffodil Bulbs	
Ryman	£ 10.00	Printer Paper	£ 1.67
<b>Total Card Payments</b>	<b>£ 55.00</b>		

### Balance to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Balance b/f	£63437.48	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - Oct 2022	<u>£ 2100.99</u>	Treasurers Account	£ 2529.81
	£61336.49	Instant Account	<u>£59154.35</u>
Deduct Card Payments for month	<u>£ 55.00</u>	Total	£61684.16
	£61281.49		
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 2.67</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	£ 400.00
	£61284.16		
Balance c/f	£61284.16		£61284.16

One cheque not yet presented -  
£400.00 cheque number 1525 dated 18/10/2022 for donation payable to Poppy Fund