

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 21st April 2026.

PRESENT Vice-Chairman in the Chair: Councillor Suzanne Brown.

Councillors: Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory, Maureen May, Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall, Darren Hawkes.

Clerk: David Murrell.

The Vice-Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 26/33 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Craig Martin and Chris Veitch.

Item 2. 26/34 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Jackie Gregory and Darren Hawkes declared interests as members of the North Lodge Remembrance Group.

Item 3. 26/35 Report of the County Councillor

In his absence from the meeting, the County Councillor had provided the written report below -

Leisure Centre Funding Following Milburngate Sale

Owners of the incomplete Milburngate development have sold the site to another private sector company instead of the Council. I have called on the Council to explain how our new leisure centre in Chester-le-Street will now be funded.

Previous council cabinet members had committed that profits generated from the Milburngate project would be used to support the development of new leisure facilities. Something I fought hard for, to keep a new facility for Chester-le-Street firmly on the agenda. However, with the council stepping away from the scheme, questions remain about how those projects will now be delivered. Now that the council will no longer ultimately own the development and its profits, the question that needs answering: has the council got any plan to develop a new build leisure centre? We are currently stuck with ageing buildings and no clear plan for the future.

New Seating Camperdown Pocket Park

I've funded 2 new seats at the Camperdown Pocket Park using my Neighbourhood Budget. They are located in the North East area. A number of residents requested this because this section of the park gets direct sunlight for longest period time.

In addition, following receipt of a reply from the County Council to the formal complaint by the County Cllr re the apple tree at North Road, Councillors asked that the County Cllr pursues this, Councillors thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 4. 26/36 Adoption of Minutes of Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March 2026, 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 Vice-Chairman in the Chair.

Item 5. 26/37 Chairman's Report

In his absence from the meeting, the Chairman had provided the written report below -

With the resignation of Cllr Watson, I'd like to put on the record my thanks for the contributions they made to the parish.

Councillors thanked the Chairman.

Regarding outstanding matters -

- a) Re Minute 26/26 section a). A replacement table for the school conference room had now been provided without cost to the Parish Council and this was welcomed by Councillors.
- b) Re Minute 26/32 section c). Re litter on the north verge of Blind Lane, Cllr Gregory advised that this had still not been removed by the County Council. The Clerk will chase this up.
- c) Re Minute 26/32 section d). Cllr Gregory clarified that copying in the Crime and Community Safety Portfolio Holder to any emails sent to the Police, only applied to community matters.

Item 6. 26/38 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Communications and Media Development

In his absence from the meeting, Cllr Veitch had provided the written report below -

Since the last Meeting in March there has been posts relating to the following placed on our social media.

- 1.PACT Meeting 8/4/2026
- 2.Spring Time Clock change
- 3.Disposal of paint tins via Durham County Council
- 4.Community Speed Monitoring 26/3/2026
- 5.Durham County Council changes to bins and recycling
- 6.Horse riders on the road safety message
- 7.Community Speed Monitoring 20/3/2026
- 8.North Lodge Parish Council Litter pick
- 9.Changes in Law for attacks by dogs on livestock
- 10.PACT Meeting 25/3/2026
- 11.Safety advice to keep car locked and valuables out of site after recent suspicious activity.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Veitch for his report.

b) Crime and Community Safety

Cllr Gregory's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

Police

Crime

Please refer to Police.uk website for any recorded crimes for North Lodge.

Motorcycles on the C2C route.

Please report details to police, of any sightings of motorcycles or if you hear motorcycles on the C2C path. Reports can be made using the Durham police website or telephone 101.

Vehicle Security.

Residents are reminded to make sure their vehicle/s are locked when left unattended and all valuables are hidden or removed from the vehicle/s.

Community Safety

Speed monitoring in Blind Lane

A693 Blind Lane, Chester-le-Street- March 2026.

During the 6 visits to the site, 105 drivers triggered the safety cameras:

1 driver fell within our Process Level (Court action)

13 drivers fell within our Conditional offer level (fine and points)

91 drivers fell within our Speed Awareness Course level

To put this in some context, this worked out at about 18 triggers per visit with each visit lasting approx. 1 hour 24 mins.

PACT (Police and Communities Together).

A PACT meeting was held at the Lambton Worm pub on Wednesday, 8th April 6-7pm

A very interesting meeting.

The Residents and Parish Councillors who attended had an informal chat with police officers about community issues in North Lodge and Chester-le-Street.

Details of the next meeting will be advertised in due course.

All residents welcome to attend.

Operation Spotlight

Officers will be conducting extra operations on the roads as part of Operation Spotlight for the whole of April.

The national campaign targets those who use the roads for criminality including high-harm offenders as well as those who drive under the influence, without insurance, choose not to wear a seatbelt, use their mobile phones or speed.

The aim is to protect communities by disrupting criminal activity on the UK road network and reducing the number of people who are killed and seriously injured.

Operation Snap

If you use a dash-cam, helmet-cam, or have mobile phone footage of a driving offence, this can be submitted to police through Operation SNAP.

Footage can be submitted for any of the following offences:

Using a mobile phone.

Driving without due care and attention.

Failing to stop at red lights.

Crossing solid white lines, and dangerous overtaking.

Submissions of poor driving in general / failing to abide by road signs etc. would also be reviewed.

If you are submitting any clips, please make sure it is unedited, and logged as soon as possible as police only have 14 days to notify the driver. Please include some context of the incident.

Find more information visit the police website under Operation Snap, Durham Constabulary

Burglary

Thieves target your home with the specific purpose of taking of your car keys to steal your car.

These cars are often of high value and performance.

Keep your keys away from the front door, and out of sight.

Keep all windows closed and doors locked (especially at night) and always when away from the property.

If you have multiple vehicles, use them to block in one another making it more difficult to manoeuvre and consider using a device such as a visible steering or wheel lock.

Keep keys as far away from the car as possible, preferably in a Faraday bag (A Faraday bag is a signal-blocking pouch which blocks the signal between the key and the vehicle), to stop the thieves using a relay device.

If cost allows fit outside security lighting, consider an alarm and CCTV.
Use your garage - if you have a garage or outbuilding, please use it and lock your car away when not in use.

If you notice any suspicious behaviour where you live, call 101 or in an emergency call 999

Read more here <https://www.durham.police.uk/.../help-stop-two-in-one.../>

Cyber flashing

The sending of unwanted intimate images, is a crime.

It can happen to anyone, and it is never your fault, you are not to blame.

Police take cyber flashing seriously and understand it takes courage to talk to Police.

People who cyber flash can go on to commit more serious offences. Your report could stop this from happening.

If this has happened to you, report it to police on 101 or online at www.durham.police.uk

If anyone is in immediate danger, always dial 999.

Scams

Police want people in County Durham and Darlington to be aware of a scam potentially circulating in the area.

If you receive a telephone call from someone claiming to be your bank (and / or mention police) asking you to:

a) Transfer or withdraw money and/or b) Hand over your bank card and/or c) Have cash ready for collection.

Hang up immediately.

Your bank or the police will NEVER ask you to do this.

This is called courier fraud.

If you think you've been targeted or scammed, call your local police force or Report Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or report it online at <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>

If in doubt or you feel threatened, call 999 immediately.

Special Constables recruitment and other vacancies.

Special Constables recruitment is open now

<https://www.durham.police.uk/.../jobs/Special-Constable/>

For other vacancies

<https://www.durham.police.uk/.../careers/join-us/vacancies/>

Closing dates vary.

Please refer to Durham Constabulary social media accounts for more information on the above and other county matters.

For all non emergency calls to police, please use telephone number 101

For all emergency calls to police, please use telephone number 999

Co Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS)

Residential Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (RPEEPs)

The new regulations aim to improve the fire safety of disabled and vulnerable people in high rise and higher risk residential buildings.

Under the rules, the likes of building owners, landlords or managers will have to identify residents who may have difficulty evacuating without assistance.

The residents must be offered a person-centred fire risk assessment and can also agree an emergency evacuation statement.

With the resident's consent, building owners will share a essential information with CDDFRS including an indication of the assistance they may need to evacuate in the event of a fire.

Keep your pets safe

Keep your pets in secure area or room away from fire hazards when you're not at home.

CDDFRS crews have attended house fires started by pets, including a kitchen fire caused by a dog who jumped up and managed to turn on the hob, setting fire to items that had been left on the top.

Fortunately, the damage was only to the hob area and no one was injured. But it could have been so much worse.

Never leave pets unattended with lit candles.

Keep pets away from fire pits and grills.

Never leave anything on the hob and check your smoke alarms are working.

If there is a fire in your home, get out, stay out and call 999.

Safety at beaches, rivers and lakes.

If you get into difficulty in the water.

CDDFRS are urging people to remember to 'float to live.'

Float on your back.

Tilt your head back with your ears under the water and use your hands to help you stay afloat.

When you are floating, call for help or try to steer with your arms towards shore.

NEVER enter the water to try and help someone and instead follow the 'Call, Tell, Throw' guidance.

Call 999 and ask for the fire service or the coastguard if you are at the coast, explaining where you are.

Tell the person in the water to float on their back.

Throw them something that floats, such as a throw bag, and hold the end so you can pull the person in.

Free Home Fire Safety Visit

See CDDFRS website to see if you are eligible for a free Home Fire Safety Visit where you'll receive one of our new Safer Homes Booklets from crews.

The booklets are packed with safety tips and information on how to keep safe from fire.

Recruitment

CDDFRS are delighted to announce the appointment of Rob Cherrie as new Deputy Chief Fire Officer

CDDFRS are recruiting on-call firefighters. Please refer to CDDFRS website.

Please refer to CDDFRS social media accounts for more information on the above and other county matters

For all emergency calls to CDDFRS, please use telephone number 999

Durham County Council (DCC)

Scams

There has been a number of scams popping up across County Durham recently, so here's a quick heads-up to help you stay safe

QR codes for parking

Scammers have been sticking QR codes in car parks, making it look like you can pay for parking that way. **DCC council car parks** don't use QR codes for payment at all.

Fake card readers on machines

Some small, battery-powered card readers have been attached to parking machines and tariff boards. These are not legitimate. Please don't use them to pay.

Electoral register emails

DCC has reports of people receiving emails asking for extra documents for electoral registration. These are phishing scams, often sent from addresses like electoral@register-to-vote.electoral.agency (or similar).

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and double check before taking action.

For more details on current scams, visit:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/currentscams>

FREE 1-day basic life support for families course

Learn how to stay calm and act confidently in an emergency. No previous experience needed.

You will learn how to:

Assess an emergency safely

Perform CPR on adults, children and infants

Use a defibrillator (AED)

Help someone who is choking

Spot the signs of anaphylaxis

Use an adrenaline auto-injector (EpiPen)

Green lane, Spennymoor

16 April, 21 April, 1 May & 12 May

9am - 2:30pm

Want to book your place on the course? Call 03000 266 644 or email des@durham.gov.uk

More information:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/skillshelp>

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

From the 1st April, DCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) are operating summer opening hours, with most opening from 9am - 6pm.

For a list of our HWRC sites and more details on opening times, visit: www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc

Please refer to DCC's social media accounts for more information on the above and other county matters.

To contact DCC by telephone, please use telephone number 03000 26 0000

In addition, Cllr Gregory will approach PCSO Goodwill re the need to have the cycle lanes on North Road repainted.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Gregory for her report.

c) Finance

In his absence from the meeting, Cllr Veitch had provided the written report below -

I have inspected the financial information for our Bank accounts and the annual Statement of Accounts year ending 31.3.2026, supplied to me by the clerk. I can confirm that everything appears correct.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Veitch for his report.

d) Highways and Community Assets

Cllr Driscoll's report included the matters contained in his written report below -

The monthly bus shelters inspection was undertaken on Monday the 6th of April 2026. All shelters appeared to be in good repair.

There was a need for more significant seat cleaning after storm " Dave " over the weekend, which had disturbed the local birdlife. The glass cabinets needed a clean, but there was no significant storm damage to the shelters.

In addition, 1) the Clerk is now to ask the County Council to supply and install the three replacement seats for the Northlands, Lambton Worm and Kingsmere bus shelters, 2) re the litter bin at the Lambton Worm bus stop which is of poor appearance, the Clerk is to ask the County Council if they would be willing to install a replacement if the Parish Council were to contribute to the cost.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Driscoll for his report.

e) Horticulture

Cllr May's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

SUMMARY

Raised Flower Beds

These beds will shortly be emptied - in preparation for planting of Summer Bedding plants.

Picktree Lodge

Stephen Makepeace is in the process of forming two flower beds at the entrance of Picktree Lodge in preparation for planting the next season's plants.

Longdean Park Shrub Bed

Under discussion. The Parish Council has received Quote from Stephen Makepeace. Councillors need to agree cost at Tuesday's meeting.

Blind Lane Flower Beds

Extra Summer plants will be planted in these beds - to produce more colour.

North Road Shrub Beds

These beds will be assessed later in the year. Will be maintained at present.

Northlands Bus Shelter

Stephen Makepeace is in the process of cutting back shrubs around the bus shelter.

Tree Plaques

Please see email sent from Marmax Products showing design and Costings of plaques.

In addition, 1) The Clerk will submit the Neighbourhood Budget application for the refurbishment of the Longdean Park shrub bed, 2) Re the tree plaques, Cllr Brown reported on the chosen designs. Councillors agreed to the purchase of the plaques. Cllr Hawkes kindly agreed to organise the collection of the plaques from the manufacturer at no cost to the Council.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr May for her report.

f) Meetings of Partnership Organisations

Cllr May advised that there had been no recent meetings to attend.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr May for her report.

g) Picktree Village

Cllr Brown's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

As the spring weather continues the village is looking lovely and the colourful flower beds have been admired by residents who have commented favourably to the gardeners. The blight on the horizon remains the ugly black plastic fencing at the demolished bungalow site and the regular anti social behaviour of speeding vehicles passing through. Road signage is still not painted. We must be at the bottom of the schedule. A resident who corresponds with me about the traffic issues continues to request Sunderland City Council to offer advice. She will continue to complain and lobby for a solution near where she lives close to the Spire Hospital. Data seems to rule supreme in all Local Council planning and residents who pay council tax have their views ignored.

Thank you as ever to village residents who continue to do litter picks on the lane.

Councillors thanked Cllr Brown for her report.

h) Planning

Cllr Hawkes's report included the matters contained in his written report below -

W/E 20th March

No applications within the parish, however this may be interesting to you due to the extensive work that will be carried out.

Elvet, Gilesgate And
Shincliffe/City Of
Durham/
Strategic

DM/26/00566/FPA

Citrus (PBishops) Durham
Ltd

Prince Bishops
Shopping Centre
High Street
Durham
DH1 3UJ

Revised scheme
incorporating amendments,
for the redevelopment of the
existing shopping centre,
comprising partial demolition
of the shopping centre above
the existing mall level (Levels
5 and above) and erection of
replacement commercial
units (Class E), and purpose
built student accommodation
(Sui Generis) at Level 5 and
above, along with a new
outdoor public square and
public realm improvements.
External alterations to the
boat repair and maintenance
workshop including use of
external area to create
outside terrace (Class E),
external alterations to the
elevations of the retained
areas of the shopping centre
and car park, hard and soft
landscaping and other
associated works.

Louisa Ollivere
Committee

W/E 27th March

No applications within the parish.

W/E 3rd April

No applications within the parish, however there is work planned on Lamb Bridge, Lambton Park.

Lumley And West Rainton/Bournmoor/Strategic DM/26/00708/FPA

The Trustees of Lord Durham's 1989 Voluntary Settlement

Lamb Bridge Lambton Park

Engineering operation for drilling and grouting works for the stabilisation of Lamb Bridge

Laura Eden. Committee

W/E 10th April

There is one application within the parish, however it is only tree works.

North Lodge/
North Lodge/
East North

DM/26/00863/TPO

Mr Makhan Kang

Pad Panache
Picktree Lane
Picktree
Washington
NE38 9HH

T1 - Oak, Two small limbs to
be removed, also removal of
deadwood present within the
crown.
T2 - Maple, removal of small
lower limbs.
T3 - Oak, removal of the
limbs indicated within the
photo.
T4 - Beech, removal of the
small limbs indicated within
the photo.

Hugo Robinson
Delegated

W/E 17th April

No applications within the parish.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Hawkes for his report.

i) Play Areas

Cllr Caygill's report included the matters contained in her written report below -

On inspection both MERLIN DRIVE and LOW FLATTS play areas appear to be in good working order.

Thanks to Cllr Veitch and the Clerk for the new maps in the Noticeboards identifying the play areas within the Parish.

This should ensure everyone is aware of the locations.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

j) Policy and Governance

Cllr Hall's report included the matters contained in his written report below -

Government Policy: Update from March Meeting: 'Sheep Worrying' Legislation

New legislation:

Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/32>

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025, effective in England and Wales from **March 18, 2026**, strengthens laws against livestock worrying by introducing unlimited fines, expanding the definition of livestock to include camelids (llamas/alpacas), and enhancing police powers to seize dogs and gather evidence.

Press release:

New law comes into force to protect farm animals from dog attacks (18 March)

New law now in effect strengthening protections for sheep, cows and other farm animals saving farmers thousands of pounds each year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-comes-into-force-to-protect-farm-animals-from-dog-attacks>

Related Material

Statutory guidance **The Countryside Code** (26 May 2023)

Responsibilities for visitors to the countryside and those who manage the land.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

Commentary

A new law came into effect on 18 March that will see farm animals in England and Wales get stronger protection from **dog attacks**. **The maximum penalty for livestock worrying has increased. Livestock worrying, occurs when a dog you own or are in charge of chases, attacks, or causes distress to livestock on agricultural land.** The aim is to prevent livestock death and injury, which will save farmers thousands of pounds each year.

The fine has increased from **£1,000 to an unlimited fine** and police now have **powers to seize and detain a dog** where they have reasonable grounds to believe it has attacked or worried livestock and that there is a risk it could do so again.

A survey of farmers from the National Sheep Association found that almost four in five (87%) sheep farmers experienced a dog attack on their flock in 2024. Many have reported multiple incidents.

Recent National Farmers' Union research found that the cost of livestock worrying has risen by 10% from the previous year. This has now reached almost £2 million. The Midlands alone saw an estimated £438,000 worth of livestock harmed by dog attacks, followed by the Southeast at £330,000.

The police will now have greater powers and can investigate incidents more effectively.

These powers include **entering premises** to secure evidence or animal DNA. Alongside this, **courts will also be able to require offenders to cover the costs of seizing and caring** for a detained dog.

These changes will reduce the emotional and financial strain placed on farming communities from these dangerous attacks. This will not only save animals but save farmers from around £6,000 a year from replacing animals.

While these incidents can unfold in moments, they leave lasting damage, harm businesses, affect livelihoods and cause considerable stress in rural communities. The new law brings much needed stronger powers to address the problem.

Advice to dog owners:

Follow [The Countryside Code](#) when visiting country areas

Any dog is capable of livestock worrying - always keep dogs under control and in sight

It is good practice to keep dogs on a lead when walking in rural areas where livestock are kept, but let go of the lead if chased by cattle

Always follow local signs

Report any incidents of livestock worrying to the police or local farmers

Ensure dogs cannot escape from homes or gardens near livestock fields

Actions Taken:

Since the last meeting steps have been taken to publish key messages on the Council's social media outlets.

New Planning Proposals: Council Planning Committees:

Open consultation Planning committee reform: draft regulations and guidance (26 March)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-committee-reform-draft-regulations-and-guidance>

Consultation outcome Reform of planning committees: technical consultation (26 March)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultation>

Commentary

The Government has confirmed plans to bring forward a **national scheme of delegation for planning decisions**, in its response to a consultation on the proposals.

Writing in the response published on Thursday (26 March), the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), also committed to limiting the size of planning committees to **13 members**.

Alongside a national delegation scheme, the consultation also proposed requiring separate, smaller planning committees for strategic development and mandatory training for planning committee members.

In its response, the Government said the national scheme of delegation would ensure planning committees work as "*effectively as possible and focus on those applications for complex or contentious development where local democratic oversight is required*".

It added that the two-tier structure is intended to give "greater clarity and consistency" about who in a local planning authority will make planning decisions.

In its consultation, the Government proposed a delegation scheme made up of two tiers, Tier A and Tier B.

Planning Decisions by Delegation:

The consultation said that Tier A applications should "*generally be technical in matter, or about minor developments*" and would include the following types of applications for officer decision only:

- applications for planning permission for:
 - Householder development
 - Minor commercial development
 - Minor residential development
- applications for reserved matter approvals
- applications for s96A non-material amendments to planning permissions
- applications for the approval of conditions
- applications for approval of the BNG Plan
- applications for approval of prior approval (for permitted development rights)
- applications for Lawful Development Certificates
- applications for a Certificate of Appropriate Alternative Development

Planning Decisions by Planning Committee:

Tier B applications to be decided by committees should meanwhile involve:

- 20 Applications for planning permission not in Tier A
- 21 Notwithstanding Tier A, any application for planning permission where the applicant is the local authority, a councillor or officer
- 22 Section 73 applications to vary conditions
- 23 Review of mineral planning conditions

In its response, the Government reiterated its support for the list of applications included under Type A, but introduced a small change in approach to reserved matters applications and said it would move applications for medium residential development to Tier B.

Turning to planning committee sizes, the Government committed to a maximum cap of 13 members. It said this would strike the right balance between fair political representation and ensuring resilience in the decision making function "*whilst achieving the policy aims of creating smaller more professional committees*".

The Government said it has now prepared draft regulations setting out the detailed arrangements for the national scheme of delegation. It has also published draft statutory guidance to support local authorities in implementing the regulations.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Hall for his report.

k) Project Development, Business and External Relations

In his absence from the meeting, Cllr Veitch had provided the written report below -

I spoke to Graham Hopper on 8.4.2026 and he has informed me the Artwork is now complete and he is awaiting confirmation from DCC as to when the concrete base will be installed thus allowing the Artwork to be sited. The lease is progressing with the solicitors and DCC corresponding accordingly. The project is still on course for the end of May 2026.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Cllr Veitch for the report.

Item 7. 26/39 Correspondence

- 1) From Npower Business Solutions
Summary of important information re electricity supply.
- 2) From Durham County Council
Feedback Response re apple trees on North Road.

Item 8. 26/40 Proposals, Reports and Requests for Consideration

a) The Annual Newsletter

Cllr May outlined progress to date and repeated the request that all items for inclusion should be submitted by mid-May. Councillors discussed the editorial balance of articles.

Councillors thanked Cllr May for all her work on this matter.

b) A Defibrillator for Picktree Village

In the absence from the meeting of Cllr Veitch who is leading on this project, this item was deferred to a later meeting.

Item 9. 26/41 Requests for Donations

a) The Police Activity Week

The Clerk had previously circulated to Councillors this request for a donation. Councillors discussed the request and agreed to make a donation of £250.

b) Friends of the North East War Memorials Project

The Clerk had previously circulated to Councillors this request for a donation. Councillors discussed the request and agreed to make a donation of £50.

Before the next item, the following resolution was passed -

(Resolved - That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw).

The Clerk also left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Item 10. 26/42 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM The Clerk's Annual Appraisal

The Chairman and the Clerk had carried out the Annual Appraisal and the Chairman had produced a Report which was advised to Councillors who agreed to the Chairman's recommendation to note the Report.

The Clerk then returned to the meeting and was thanked for all his work.

Item 11. 26/43 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 664.76	Salaries April 2026	
Expenses	£ 115.00	Expenses April 2026	
Makepeace Landscapes	£ 1976.51	Horticulture April 2026	£ 329.42
Durham County Council	£ 392.08	Advert of Open Space Notice	
Cty Dhm Assn of Local Councils	£ 571.17	Annual Subscription	
Office Durham PCC	£ 250.00	Donation	
North East War Memorials Project	£ 50.00	Donation	
Total of Above Payments	£ 4019.52		

Payments Made by Debit Card and Direct Debit

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
ANS Group Ltd	£ 46.25	Monthly Subscription - April 2026	£ 7.71
Npower Business Solutions	£ 169.13	Power for North Road Tree Lights	£ 8.05
Inkfactory.com	£ 13.98	Ink Cartridges	£ 2.34
Total Card and D/D Payments	£ 229.36		

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 26/44 Other Matters for Information

a) Cllr Caygill advised that there was a fallen tree at the open space between the North Lodge and Picktree Lodge estates. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

b) Cllr Caygill advised that the dog waste bin at Low Flatts play area was overflowing. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

c) Councillors agreed with Cllr Hawkes that PCSO Goodwill's attendance at the recent PACT meeting, on her day off, was praiseworthy.

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2026.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 664.76	Salaries April 2026	
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Cty Dhm Assn of Local Councils	£ 571.17	Annual Subscription	
Total of Above Payments	£		

Payments Made by Debit Card and Direct Debit

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Inkfactory.com	£ 13.98	Ink Cartridges	£ 2.34
Total Card and D/D Payments	£ 229.36		

Balance to 31st March 2026

Balance b/f	£35063.60	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2026	<u>£14959.27</u>	Community Account	£ 1230.73
	£20104.33	Commercial Instant Access	<u>£28881.34</u>
Deduct Card and D/D Payments	<u>£ 934.24</u>	Total	£30112.07
	£19170.09		
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 13.73</u>	Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
	£19183.82		
Deduct Bank Charges	<u>£ 5.75</u>		
	£19178.07		
Add Grant Received	<u>£10934.00</u>		
	£30112.07		
Balance c/f	£30112.07		£30112.07