

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 June 2026.

PRESENT Chairman: Councillor Craig Martin.

Councillors: Suzanne Brown, Margaret Caygill, Jackie Gregory, Maureen May, Patrick Driscoll, Dennis Hall, Chris Veitch.

County Councillor: Craig Martin.

Clerk: David Murrell.

One Resident

The Chairman commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone, particularly the resident.

Item 1. 26/58 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Darren Hawkes.

Item 2. 26/59 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Craig Martin declared interests as a County Councillor and as a Trustee of Park View Academy. Councillor Jackie Gregory declared an interest as a member of the North Lodge Remembrance Group. Councillor Chris Veitch declared an interest as Chairman of the North Lodge Remembrance Group.

Item 3. 26/60 Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor's report included the matters contained in his written report below -

Highways Safety Improvements, Picktree Village

Durham County Council will be doing a scheme of improving the road markings and signage throughout the village. Really glad that the Council are doing this following some of the concerns I've been raising.

The scheme will repaint the majority of road markings across Picktree Village. Along with replacing signage that has faded. To make the rules of the road clearer to those passing through.

I fully appreciate that this will not fix the real highways issues that you live with in Picktree Village.

It is deeply disappointing that Durham County Council refuse to put in place meaningful change.

They will not act on the day to day dangers we all see in our community.

I will continue to campaign and fight for highways safety measures for Picktree Village.

In addition, a) In reply to a question from Cllr Gregory re the speed limit on North Road, the County Cllr outlined the history of the campaigns for a reduction in the limit, b) In reply to Cllr Veitch re grass cutting standards and overhanging branches, the County Cllr advised that the budget for the County Council's Clean & Green Department had been reduced. However, he would take up with Clean & Green the matter of overhanging branches on the A693 causing pedestrians to have to leave the footpath to get past.

Item 4. 26/61 Adoption of Minutes of Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 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 Chairman.

Item 5. 26/62 Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised that he had no matters to report and invited any questions.

However, Councillors had no questions to put to the Chairman.

Regarding outstanding matters -

a) Re Minute 26/52 section b). Re the tree stump at North Road, a quote for its removal is to be obtained.

b) Re Minute 26/52 section c). Re litter on the north verge of Blind Lane, Cllr Gregory provided an update on the most recent reply from Clean & Green. Despite this matter being first raised in February, Clean & Green were still unable to give a date for the work to be carried out.

c) Re Minute 26/53 section e). Re plaques for the three trees in Vigo Lane, Councillors thanked Cllr Hawkes for arranging the collection of these from the manufacturer.

d) Re Minute 26/53 section h). Re new signage at Park View School, the Clerk advised that the County Council Planning Department had provided guidelines from which the Clerk had assessed that the signs were probably at the maximum size allowed although measurements had not been taken.

e) Re Minute 26/55 section 11b). Re an alternative venue for Council meetings, Cllr Hall had kindly carried out research which had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillors agreed that the current room at the School was not fit for purpose but none of the other possible alternatives were without issues. The Chairman kindly agreed to consult with the School to see if there was a more suitable space within the School. This matter is to be included in the July Agenda for a further discussion and decision.

Item 6. 26/63 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Communications and Media Development

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

Since the last Meeting in May there have been 7 posts. These were relating to the following and placed on our social media.

1. Activity Week Donation cheque presentation.
2. Float to Live - Water Safety in hot weather
3. BBQ fire safety message
4. Steam Fair at Lambton Park
5. Lego trail in Durham City
6. The new Durham Explorer bus service
7. Update for residents regarding commencement of work for Remembrance Artwork.

The 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

For all recorded crimes in the North Lodge Parish, please refer to Police.uk website.

Motorcycles seized on the Coast to Coast Track (C2C)

Officers' from the Motorcycle Section were on patrol alongside Chester-Le-Street Neighbourhood Team on the Coast to Coast cycle track following a rise in complaints about off road bikes and scooters using the route as a rat run. More details are on Durham Constabulary Facebook account. 3 Motorcycles were seized.

One adult rider was reported for no licence and no insurance.

Two juveniles were arrested (no further information will be released due to their age).

E- scooters

Want to avoid:

6 points on your licence (even if you don't have one yet)

A £300 fine

Your e-scooter being seized and crushed!

Don't use a private e-scooter on public roads or pavements.

There are currently no active rental schemes in County Durham and Darlington for e-scooters. The only way to use them legally is on private land, with the landowner's permission

Illegal Drug Supply

Recently, suspected criminals got an early morning wake-up call by officers across the region as Durham Police teamed up with colleagues from NEROCU and Cleveland Police.

The Police team included police officers, police dogs and drones. There were ten locations visited. The operation resulted in seven men, aged 21 to 43 and two women aged 43 and 56, arrested in relation to drug supply offences and exploitation.

Organised crime gangs prey on vulnerable people and bring harm into our communities for their own profit

Community Safety

Congratulations to PCSO Adrian Richards, based at Chester-Le-Street Police Station, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM). He has dedicated more than 23 years to tackling anti-social behaviour, problem-solving issues like shoplifting and dog fouling and providing summer activities for thousands of children.

Op Sceptre

Officers were out alongside police cadets as part of Op Sceptre, carrying out test purchase inspections to ensure retailers are following the law around knife sales.

Trained cadets under the age of 18 attempted to purchase knives at businesses across County Durham. Under the Think 25 policy, anyone who appears under 25 should be asked to provide valid proof of age before purchasing age-restricted items.

Police are pleased to report that all four businesses visited in Dalton Park, Chester-le-Street, Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe passed the checks, with every retailer refusing the sale of a knife to our cadets.

Worried about someone carrying a knife? Speak to police, a trusted adult, a teacher or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Operation Close Pass

Operation Close Pass is a nationwide campaign aimed at raising awareness among drivers and other road users about how to safely pass horses on the road. The initiative focuses on monitoring driving behaviour and educating motorists who fail to maintain the recommended speed and distance when overtaking horses and riders.

It's simple: pass wide and slow.

Reduce your speed to no more than 10mph when passing.

Allow at least 2 metres of space.

If unsure await instructions from the rider.

Vapes

Police are aware of community concerns regarding the use of illicit 'Mazza' vapes over recent days, particularly in the east of the county and amongst young people.

A 'Mazza' vape is often sold purporting to contain THC but commonly contain other dangerous and synthetic drugs and additives.

Police would like to remind parents and young people that illegal vapes and vapes of unknown origin can be extremely dangerous. It is illegal to sell vapes to those under the age of 18, or to buy a vape for anyone under the age of 18.

If you have any concerns about the supply of vapes to children, you can contact Trading Standards here:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-trading-standards-office>

Football World Cup - Drink and Drug drivers

Officers are asking drivers not to risk ending their own life or someone else's by driving under the influence.

Whilst the vast majority of drivers now accept that drink driving is unacceptable after it became illegal nearly seven decades ago, Police have seen a rise in those taking drugs and driving in recent years.

Drugs can also stay in your system for days after consumption, making it harder to tell if you're fit to drive.

If you're stopped by one of our officers on patrol during this World Cup season, that's probably the end of the game for your job and driving licence. You may end up with a criminal record. However, officers may well be visiting your family to break the news you have died because you were drug/drink driving.

Domestic Abuse

From Durham County Council -Football is about passion and community, but for some, high emotions can strain relationships. Domestic abuse is never part of the game. It can affect anyone.

This World Cup, Say no to foul play.

Confidential support is available, contact Harbour 03000 20 25 25 | myharbour.org.uk

Sexual Abuse

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual abuse call Durham Constabulary on 101, or dial 999 in an emergency.

If you're more comfortable reporting online, you can visit the police online reporting page here <http://www.durham.police.uk/.../rape-sexual-assault.../>

If you're not ready to speak to police, there are other agencies who can help:

The Meadows Sexual Assault Referral Centre provides free, confidential healthcare and compassionate support to people who have experienced rape or sexual assault. Call 0330 223 0099 or visit www.sarcdurham.co.uk

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line is available 24/7 and provides support for anyone who has been affected by rape or sexual assault. Call 0808 500 2222 or visit www.247sexualabusesupport.org.uk

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RSACC) offers free, specialist support to anyone who has experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives. Call 01325 354119, email info@rsacc-thecentre.org.uk

NSPCC - call 0808 800 5000, email help@nspcc.org.uk, or visit www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline - call 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk

Herbert Protocol / Dementia

When caring for someone you love, peace of mind matters more than anything.

Did you know around 7 in 10 people living with dementia may go missing at least once.

In 2026 so far, local police have received over 200 incidents reported to the control room that have been recorded under the Herbert Protocol.

Last year Durham Constabulary launched a new initiative; the "Dementia Wristband".

When an individual is signed up to the Herbert Protocol, they will be offered a wristband or hangtag. These are programmed to hold the individuals next of kin name and contact number, so in the event that they go missing and are located, we are able to return them home as soon as possible.

Officers are asking anyone who notices someone on their own, looking lost and confused, and wearing one of these bright yellow bands or tags to stop and help. Another valued tool is 'Tap your phone to get me home'. This is something everyone needs to be aware.

To refer a loved one into the Herbert Protocol, or to request a band or tag, if they are already on the Protocol, please contact; herbert.protocol@durham.police.uk

Recruitment

Fourteen new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have officially joined Durham Constabulary.

The recruits will spend four weeks completing their initial training, developing the skills and knowledge needed to support communities across the county.

From the end of June, they will move into neighbourhood teams across the force, working alongside experienced mentors as they begin their roles where you live.

To learn more about the above information and any other issues around the county, please use Durham Constabulary's social media accounts.

For non emergency telephone calls to the police, use telephone number 101

For emergency telephone calls to the police, use telephone number 999

Co Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS)

Phone, Float, Throw.

Open Water may look calm but it can be extremely dangerous. Even on warm days, the water can be cold enough to trigger cold water shock, affecting breathing and movement within seconds.

Currents can overpower even the strongest of swimmers.

There may also be hidden dangers like rocks beneath the surface.

Remember, 'Float to Live' if you do find yourself in trouble in the water.

Float on your back with your ears under the water and use your hands to help stay afloat.

Call for help and try to steer yourself towards the shore.

If you see someone in difficulty, phone 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service, tell the person to float on their back and throw them something that floats.

Knowing what to do if you see someone in trouble in the water could save their life.

Remember: 'Phone, Float, Throw.'

PHONE 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service. You can use the 'what3words' app to identify your location.

Tell the person in the water to FLOAT on their back with their ears under the water and to use their hands to stay afloat.

THROW rescue equipment, such as a life ring, to help them float.

Never enter the water to help a person or a pet in distress.

Prevent devastating wildfires.

Careless actions like discarding a cigarette or using a disposable barbecue can have serious consequences in hot and dry conditions, with wildfires spreading rapidly and placing people, property, and wildlife in danger.

Don't use disposable barbecues in open countryside, parks, and moorland areas.

Don't discard cigarettes, matches, or glass bottles, as they can ignite dry vegetation.

Keep BBQs well away from tents, caravans and anything that can catch fire.

Never place a BBQ on dry grass or other flammable surfaces.

Fully extinguish with water or sand.

Never put a BBQ in a bin until it's completely cool.

If you see a wildfire, call 999 immediately and ask for the fire and rescue service.

Tell the operator the location of the fire, the direction it is spreading, what is burning and if there is anything in immediate danger.

If you notice any suspicious behaviour or see someone intentionally starting a fire, contact the police immediately or report the information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or Firestoppers on 0800 169 5558.

Let's all work together to keep each other safe.

Dementia

Forgetfulness and confusion about how to use equipment like a microwave, or returning to old ways of using items such as putting electrical kettles on the hob, can pose a risk.

Other hazards include leaving gas or electric heaters near curtains and furniture or using them to dry clothes.

CDDFRS is urging families to check on their loved ones with dementia and ensure:

Working smoke alarms are installed in hallways, bedrooms, and landings. Install heat detectors in kitchens.

Remove clutter in the kitchen, check for unattended cooking, and install stove/gas shut-off devices.

Maintain at least a one-meter gap between heaters and furniture or curtains.

Ensure open fires have a fixed guard.

Check for worn-out cables.

CDDFRS also advise people to leave relatives' contact details in an obvious place such as the hallway or by a landline phone for the emergency services to find easily if there is an incident.

If you think you or a loved one needs a free Home Fire Safety Visit from our firefighters, please complete the Home Fire Safety checker to see if you are eligible:

<https://orlo.uk/jReAB>

Smoke alarms

CDDFRS recommends that you have one on every floor of your home and check them every week by pressing the test button until the alarm sounds.

If it fails to go off then you may need to change the batteries or replace the whole alarm if it is a sealed unit. Smoke alarms save lives, so it is essential that you have working alarms fitted in your home.

You can do a quick check to see how safe your home is here:

<https://orlo.uk/c3KGg#TestItTuesday>

To learn more about the above information or other issues in the county, please refer to CDDFRS's social media accounts.

For all emergency telephone calls to the Fire Service, use telephone number 999

Durham County Council (DCC)

Illegal Cigarette and Vapes

A shop owner was caught by DCC trading standards officers in possession and supplying illegal cigarettes and vapes. following a test purchase carried out by DCC's officers in July 2024

In August 2024, officers carried out an inspection of the business and vehicle and found:

964 packets of illegal cigarettes, 348 pouches of illicit hand rolling tobacco

71 non-compliant e-cigarettes. The owner has been ordered to pay more than £7,800

Recruitment

You can find details of all DCC's current vacancies, courses community based and volunteering, on the following website : <https://www.durham.gov.uk/CurrentJobVacancies>

To learn more about the above information or other issues in the county, please refer to DCC's social media accounts

To contact DCC by telephone, use telephone 03000 26 0000

In addition, a message of congratulations is to be sent to PCSO Adrian Richards on his awarding of a British Empire Medal. Posts will also be made on social media.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gregory for her report.

c) Finance

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

I have inspected the financial information for our Bank accounts, and as always I can confirm that everything appears correct.

The 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 provided on Saturday the 6th of June 2026. All shelters appeared to be in good condition. Seat cleaning was necessary, and so was extra trimming of the side bushes at the " Ambleside Court " shelter. In addition, various litter items were removed from the surrounds of the glass shelter in Picktree Village, and the " Lambton Worm " shelter needed a clearing of leaves from the inside.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Driscoll for his report.

e) Horticulture

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

Copy of Minutes of the Sub Group meeting dated 10 Jun 2026

Written by Councillor Sue Brown

Picktree Lodge flower beds. - Now planted. Maureen to ask gardener Stephen to plant a bedding plant border.

STONE Plinth - already planted.

Longdean Park Shrub Bed. Gardener to go ahead with planting.

Finance secured by County Councillor Craig Martin.

Summer bedding. Picktree village beds looking lovely.

Theft of cordylines and other plants already happened within Parish. Gardener has sent photos and also of tyre track across flower beds. Gardener patching as required

Tree plaques. These have arrived. They look very heavy but very smart.

Date to be decided for securing them with photo record including Stephen Makepeace.

Coronation bench Councillor Veitch to ask David Wales re plinth for bench.

Design needed for July meeting. Black composite with inscription dedication included.

Finance from Parish Council Community fund.

A.O.B. We need rota for availability for Chris for meetings Discussion re flower beds under trees south from Barley Mow roundabout. Poor show and it is unlikely that DCC will prune overhanging large trees. Could the Clerk investigate please? Also trees opposite North Lodge original entrance. Ownership needed. Who maintains these large trees?

The Chairman thanked Cllr May for her report.

f) Meetings of Partnership Organisations

No report was given.

g) Picktree Village

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

Picktree village flower beds are looking very colourful and an asset for our residents. Luckily as yet we have not suffered the theft of any of the plants unlike some in the Parish already seeing bare patches and tyre tracks over flower beds. This is disgraceful anti social vandalism and spoils the area we work hard to look as pleasant as possible. As usual my only issue is the usual behaviour of drivers and the damage to the road surface from very large commercial vehicles. I appreciate the action of improving road signage but can only deduce that effective penalty fines for at least speeding is the only meaningful deterrent. The concern and protests of residents will continue although DCC appear not to be listening. Thank you again to residents who clear litter that is a health hazard and unsightly.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Brown for her report..

h) Planning

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

W/E 22nd May.

No applications within the parish.

W/E 29th May.

No applications within the parish, however in Chester-le-Street North, the Queens Head proposed change to a children's nursery has been approved. Additionally, a new build has been approved in Blind Lane. It's the land to the Southeast of number 27. Thanks to David for spotting that the applicant has to pay an "Open Space Contribution" of £1739.10, under the Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, prior to habitation.

This prompted me to do a little more researching, and planning was originally applied for a detached bungalow and detached garage on this site back in February of 2008. Then extended in 2011.

Planning has now been passed for a 4-bedroom Dormer bungalow.

W/E 5th June.

No applications within the parish.

W/E 12th June.

No applications within the parish.

In addition, Cllr Gregory provided further details re the planning application history for the Blind Lane property.

The 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 all equipment appears to be in good working order at both Low Flatts and Merlin Drive.

I have reported a large tree branch lying in Merlin Drive and have asked for it to be removed.

The two trees in Merlin Drive urgently need the supporting stakes and ties removed to prevent further damage to the tree growth..This has also been requested.

At Low Flatts the much used Dog Litter bin is in a poor state and debris is falling out onto the play area. This urgently needs to be replaced.

A further reminder has been made regarding the new signs for these areas.

In addition, re the dog waste bin, the Clerk is to request a replacement from Clean & Green.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Caygill for her report.

j) Policy and Governance

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

NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY

Press release Neighbourhood Guarantee to improve villages, towns and cities (21 May)

Communities' ambitions will be backed by a new Neighbourhood Guarantee, meaning cleaner streets, filled potholes and other vital public services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/neighbourhood-guarantee-to-improve-villages-towns-and-cities> and see...

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/neighbourhood-guarantee-lga-response>

Meaningful devolution, backed by sufficient and sustainable funding for councils, is key to giving communities greater control over local priorities, the Local Government Association has said in response to the Government's proposal for a 'Neighbourhood Guarantee' that sets **clear expectations around the level of public services communities should expect to see.**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said the 'Neighbourhood Guarantee' would cover issues such as "cleaner streets, filled in potholes and other vital public services communities rely on".

It added that local leaders would be asked to work closely with central government to meet these expectations "and deliver real, tangible change people can see and feel".

People will be able to monitor whether the guarantee is being met in their area through new published data on the Local Outcomes Framework platform.

The Ministry also highlighted new Community Power Pilots that will see councils, community groups and residents co-design local services "so everyone has a voice in tackling the issues affecting them".

It also promised a crackdown on profiteering by private companies providing services to councils - "particularly those supporting vulnerable children in care" - and action to tackle the proliferation of vape shops and gambling premises on high streets.

Communities Secretary Steve Reed said: "People want to live in neighbourhoods where streets are clean and safe, the high street is vibrant, and core public services are available. But too often this isn't what happens.

"The Government's new Neighbourhood Guarantee sets minimum standards local people can expect to see and hold public services to account. And if things don't improve, **there are new powers to force change.** This is all about showing respect for the places people call home."

in addition, the County Cllr kindly agreed to ask the County Council how they will integrate the Neighbourhood Guarantee with Parish and Town Councils.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hall for his report.

k) Project Development, Business and External Relations

Cllr Martin provided an update on the timescale for the installation of the Remembrance Artwork. Councillors discussed the possibility of an inaugural event and agreed a maximum budget of £500 for this.

Councillors thanked Cllr Martin for his report.

Item 7. 26/64 Correspondence

From County Durham Association of Local Councils

Notification of AGM to be held on Saturday 24th October 2026.

Item 8. 26/65 Proposals, Reports and Requests for Consideration

a) The Annual Newsletter

Cllr May outlined progress to date. A draft Newsletter would soon be produced by the designer and printer. It was hoped that the completed Newsletters would be available for distribution in July. Councillors thanked Cllr May for all her work on this matter.

b) Quote for Festive Lighting

The Clerk advised that a quote of £543.54 + vat had been received from the County Council to attend to the Christmas Tree lights. Councillors agreed that the quote should be accepted.

Item 9. 26/66 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026

Councillors discussed the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statement.

(Resolved - to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026).

Item 10. 26/67 Approval of the Accounting Statements for 2025/2026

Councillors discussed the Accounting Statements for 2025/2026, copies of which had been previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Statements.

(Resolved - to approve the Accounting Statements for 2025/2026).

Councillors thanked the Internal Auditor and the Clerk for their work on the Governance and Accounting Statements.

Item 11. 26/68 Review of the Chairman's Allowance

At this point, the Chairman left the meeting with Vice-Chair Cllr Brown taking the Chair. Councillors discussed the Allowance and agreed that the amount of payment should be increased by £24 per annum with immediate effect.

(Resolved - to increase the Chairman's Allowance by twenty-four pounds per annum with immediate effect).

At this point, the Chairman returned to the meeting and thanked Councillors for their deliberations.

Item 12. 26/69 Review of the Clerk's Salary and Expenses

At this point, the Clerk left the meeting. Councillors discussed a) the Clerk's salary and agreed that it should remain linked to the national agreement and b) the Clerk's expenses and agreed that the amount of payment should be increased by £3 per month with immediate effect.

(Resolved - that the Clerk's salary is to remain linked to the national agreement and that the amount of the Clerk's expenses is to be increased by three pounds per month with immediate effect).

At this point, the Clerk returned to the meeting and thanked Councillors for their deliberations.

Item 13. 26/70 Payment of Accounts

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£ 664.76	Salaries June 2026	
Expenses	£ 115.00	Expenses June 2026	
Makepeace Landscapes	£ 2144.51	Horticulture June 2026	£ 357.42
Makepeace Landscapes	£ 924.00	Refurb of Picktree Lodge Beds	£ 154.00
Craig Martin	£ 209.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
Marmax Products Ltd	£ 331.20	Plaques for Vigo Lane Trees	£ 55.20
Total of Above Payments	£ 4388.47		

Payments Made by Debit Card and Direct Debit

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
ANS Group Ltd	£ 46.25	Monthly Subscription - June 2026	£ 7.71
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 585.27	P.A.Y.E.	
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 250.89	Employer's N.I.C.	
Post Office Ltd	£ 43.20	Postage Stamps	
Ink Robot	£ 32.85	Printer Cartridges	£ 5.47
Total Card and D/D Payments £ 958.46			

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 14. 26/71 Other Matters for Information

- a) Cllr Caygill advised that, due to illness, the Art Society might not be able to provide any further artwork for now.
- b) The County Cllr and Cllr Caygill had both reported to the County Council tree debris on North Road but this had not yet been removed. The County Cllr kindly agreed to follow this up.
- c) Cllr Gregory reported that there were many weeds around the base of the artwork alongside the Park Road North/Picktree Lane roundabout. The County Cllr kindly agreed to request clearance by the County Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

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

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
Salaries	£	Salaries July 2026	
Expenses	£ 118.00	Expenses July 2026	
Makepeace Landscapes	£	Horticulture July 2026	£
Durham County Council	£ 815.00	Legal & Surveyor's Fees re Artwork	
Total of Above Payments	£		

Payments Made by Debit Card and Direct Debit			
TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
ANS Group Ltd	£ 46.25	Monthly Subscription - July 2026	£ 7.71
Total Card and D/D Payments	£		

Balance to 30th June 2026

Balance b/f	£73274.72	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - June 2026	<u>£ 4388.47</u>	Community Account	£ 3430.41
	£68886.25	Commercial Instant Access	<u>£67219.34</u>
Deduct Card and D/D Payments	<u>£ 958.46</u>	Total	£73274.72
	£67927.79		
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 29.21</u>	Deduct cheque not yet presented	<u>£ Nil</u>
	£67957.00		
Deduct Bank Charges	<u>£ 7.25</u>		
	£67949.75		
Add Grant Received	<u>£ 2700.00</u>		
Balance c/f	£70649.75		£70649.75