

# Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,  
Lanchester on Tuesday 12 May 2009 at 7.25pm

**Present** Mr O Johnson (Chair)

Mr C Burton, Mr K Leary, Mr K Harrison, Mr P Jackson,  
Mr N Fleming, Mrs M Gray, Mr S Walker, Mr B Gray,  
Mrs A Cook, Mr D Lindsay, Mr M Wardle, Mrs P Glass,  
Mr B Glass, Mr A Nairn

Mr R Young (observer)

**Apologies** There were no apologies for absence

## 100/09 **Declarations of Interest**

B Glass and OJ declared an interest in agenda item 16 as members of the Cricket Club.

## 101/09 **Police Report**

PCSO Vanessa Gray and Inspector Dave Turner attended the meeting. PCSO Vanessa Gray presented the monthly police report.

Information regarding incidents / crimes in the area for the period 01/04/09 – 30/04/09 were reported as follows:

Rowdy Nuisance	17	Refers mainly to youths congregating outside of shops, sometimes kicking football (no damage / most youths spoken to / CCTV regularly monitor locations before and during police attendance); 2 reports of drunken behaviour at a public house (offenders gone prior to police arrival); 4 reports of neighbourly disputes in Lee Hill Court, Manor Grange, Alderside and Ford Crescent – no offences / advice given; unattended small bonfire lit in woods off Officials Terrace (fire brigade attended); ongoing problem with school pupil historically going missing from foster home (social services dealing).
Vehicle Nuisance	1	Report of off road motorbike seen riding around Broadoak Drive and Lanchester Valley Walk. Vehicle left prior to police

Theft	7	arrival. Complainant requested to contact police with further sightings. Unattended, insecure quad bike stolen from farm; wooden gate stolen from Chapmans well nature reserve; decking removed from garden of private dwelling in Durham Road; tumble drier removed by unknown person / unknown means from outside side of property in Lee Hill Court; money stolen by unknown person (CCTV suggests female) from private bank account via bank card lost or stolen with purse from bus passenger (passenger advised against storing pin number with card); theft of cosmetics from pharmacy by two unknown females (enquiries continuing regarding vehicle registration / descriptions of offenders obtained).
Burglary	2	Refers to a private dwelling temporarily unoccupied (tenants away) having been broken into in Tow Law. Enquiries continuing regarding vehicle / persons seen in the area at the time. Crime prevention advice / window and internal alarms have been supplied to Landlord. Fuel can containing petrol removed from private dwelling in Tow Law – driver of vehicle and occupants traced – driver an innocent party, 2 male occupants seen and warned (not arrested) at request of complainant.
Vehicle Crime	1	Refers to speakers stolen by unknown person / unknown means, from secure vehicle parked in Deneside.
Criminal Damage	6	Damage to gate and stone pillar of private dwelling by unknown person / unknown implement; one report of broken window in community centre; outside layer of double glazed door at 6 <sup>th</sup> form college broken by unknown person during Easter break (college closed); paint stripper thrown over unattended, parked vehicle in Lanchester Road, Maiden Law believed as a result of historic fight between complainants son and another youth; window smashed by unknown person at library.

There has been an increase in young cyclists (mainly young children) using footpaths in the centre of the village. Youths and children when seen by PCSOs are being given words of advice re their need for less speed and riding with care and attention. Also they are being advised to use the Lanchester Valley Walk responsibly as a means to navigate through the village without going on busy roads. Enquiries are to be made with Cycling Proficiency trainers who can hopefully advise older

schoolchildren via the school system on how to navigate the roads safely. CCTV has been asked to monitor cyclists and advise PCSO's of their locations if possible. Children / youths are being given words of advice by PCSO's when seen at the newly launched bike track in Kitswell Park.

Inspector Turner introduced himself as the Neighbourhood Police Inspector. He outlined the area he covers and the goals set. He circulated the 'Policing Pledge' which places an emphasis on public satisfaction. Members were informed of a number of PACT meetings which were taking place monthly across the area and of the Neighbourhood and Farm Watch Week which was to take place in the week commencing 15 June. He also informed Members that the new office in Lanchester at Park House was due to open soon which would provide more opportunity for face to face contact with the public.

Members welcomed Inspector Turner and thanked him for attending the meeting.

**102/09 Public Participation**

The public participation policy was distributed for the benefit of the press and public present.

**103/09 Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved that:**

(i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

**104/09 Committees.**

**Resolved that:**

(i) the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 21 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

**105/09 Correspondence**

**(i) Durham County Badger Group**

**Resolved** - that the newsletter be received

**(ii) Durham County Council – Civic Service**

**Resolved** – that Members who wish to attend inform the Lead Officer

**(iii) Durham Rural Community Council – Calor Village of the Year**

Members considered whether to complete an application for the above competition.

**Resolved that:**

(i) an application be completed

- (ii) Lanchester Partnership be involved in the process
- (iv) **County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) – Changes to their constitution**  
**Resolved** - that the information be received
- (v) **Durham County Council – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)**  
**Resolved** - that the information be referred to the planning committee

**106/09 Annual Village Conference**

Members discussed the issues that were raised at the recent Village Conference:

- (i) **Concern from a resident at the amount of cycling on the pavements in the village.**

The Police report outlined to Members earlier in the meeting outlined the work that the police were undertaking in ensuring that cyclists and pedestrians remained safe in the village.

In addition Durham County Council had been consulted and offered the following advice regarding cycling on pavements. DDC state that the age that a child can safely ride on a road varies by age and ability of rider. DCC would not recommend a child rides on the road without relevant training and indeed DCC do not have the power to enforce this. DCC indicated that both primary schools in the village have undertaken bikeability training with children. DCC have suggested that they liaise with the schools to distribute information to all children about the dangers of cycling and the safety of pedestrians. They also agreed to place an article in Primary Times, a newsletter distributed through the schools outlining the same information.

- (ii) **Request from a resident for more consultation between police and the public and particularly with the CCTV in the village and its use by police.**

The Police report outlined to Members earlier in the meeting described how the CCTV is being used to address rowdy behaviour and cycling issues.

Inspector Turner also informed Members that he has asked the local authority to review the CCTV provision including their position and how they work and are maintained.

Members also welcomed news of the imminent opening of the new police office in Lanchester and the timetable of PACT meetings which will provide communication opportunities for the police and public.

**107/09 Kitswell Park Project (min 78/09)**

Members discussed the launch event on 25 April which had proved very successful. Photos of the event were distributed for Members to view.

SW on behalf of Stephanie and Charlotte Walker thanked the Council for asking them to officially open the event.

Members were informed that an independent inspection of the play equipment had taken place. This had identified a number of minor faults which the contractor had agreed to rectify. The report also identified a shortage of bins around the bike track and older play equipment.

**Resolved** - that the Lead officer look at the bin provision and report back to the next meeting with prices.

Members were also informed that at the last site visit with the contractor on 20 April a snagging list had been drawn up. Again the contractor agreed to address all items.

KH expressed concern at the soil level on the bike track and path and confirmed that the contractor agreed to look at this situation again in the Autumn.

The lead officer informed members that following heavy rain early in May the cycle path had flooded in a number of places. The contractor and Project Manager had visited the site and addressed the worst area. It is hoped that this problem will be alleviated once the grass has matured.

**108/09 Croft View Hall (min 79/09)**

A number of Members attended the meeting of Croft View Hall on 22 April and reported the details back to Members.

Members were informed that there was enthusiasm and a will to make the hall successful but unfortunately at the moment limited money was available. All agreed that it is a valuable facility which could prove useful to children and young people in the village.

**Resolved** - that Members continue to attend meetings and report back to Council

**109/09 Insurance Renewal 2009 / 10**

**Resolved** - that the insurance premium from Allianz be accepted, the level of cover provided having been accepted as sufficient.

**110/09 Quarterly Newsletter**

Members discussed the draft newsletter which had been distributed prior to the meeting

**Resolved** - that the Newsletter be approved for distribution in May

**111/09 Annual Report 2008 / 09**

Members discussed the draft Annual Report which had been distributed prior to the meeting

**Resolved that:**

- (i) the Annual Report be approved for distribution in June
- (ii) the Lead Officer confirm distribution costs for the Annual report

**112/09 Area Action Partnerships (AAP) – Parish Representation**

CB declared an interest and left the room.

The two nominations for the vacancy on the AAP were discussed.

**Resolved** - that Lanchester Parish Council nominate Colin Burton as first choice for the position on the AAP Board

**113/09 Lanchester Partnership – Report**

Members considered the recently published 'Working with Young People in Lanchester' report.

**Resolved that:**

- (i) the report be adopted as a working document
- (ii) the report be referred to the Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee

**114/09 Lanchester Cricket Club**

Members were informed that the cricket club had been unsuccessful in their application to 'Awards for All' for funding towards the proposed practise nets.

The request by the Cricket Club to a phased funding for the development of the practise nets was discussed.

Members agreed that the cricket club provided great opportunities for young people. However Members also felt that the resolution made by the Council in November should stand, that being that ' monies be approved towards the specified project subject to the cricket club raising their contribution'.

**115/09 Financial Information**

The Lead Officer presented report D.

**Resolved** - that the report be received.

**116/09 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved** - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

S Laverick	Salary (April)	£944.09
D Maddox	Salary (April)	£392.90
County Durham Pension Scheme	Pension (April)	£313.03
* British Red Cross	Donation	£20.00
C Wardle	Time banks work	£100.00
* Lanchester Brass band	Donation	£40.00
CDALC	CiLCA mentoring course	£170.00
S Laverick	Expenses	£84.92
Lanchester Cricket Club	Score Board installation	£536.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual membership	£133.00
Talk Talk (Opal)	Phone (Direct debit)	£15.43
Allianz	Insurance	£604.62

**\*RESOLVED** - that the council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the above expenditure which, in the opinion of Lanchester Parish Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure

**117/09 Chairperson's Announcements**

There were no announcements

**118/09 Questions from Members**

There were no questions from members

**119/09 Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 9 June at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 8.45pm