

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,
Lanchester on Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 7.15pm

Present Mr O Johnson (Chair)

Mr K Leary, Mr K Harrison, Mr S Walker, Mr B Gray,
Mr C Burton, Mr A Nairn, Mr M Wardle, Mrs A Cook,
Mrs P Glass

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Mr D Lindsay | - hospital |
| Mr B Glass | - illness |
| Mrs M Gray | - other commitments |
| Mr N Fleming | - work commitments |
| Mr P Jackson | - work commitments |

The above apologies were received and accepted.

224/09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

225/09 Police Report

PCSO Vanessa Gray was unable to attend the meeting, but had forwarded the police report which the Lead Officer read out.

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

| | | |
|----------------|----|--|
| Rowdy Nuisance | 11 | refers to; 5 reports of anti-social behaviour in Lee Hill Court – banging on windows, stone throwing at dwelling (foot patrols regular and youths in area stopped and details obtained); 1 report of known male seen acting suspiciously outside public house having been barred (no offences disclosed); youths trespassing on outdoor sports facilities in school grounds in Kitswell Road (patrols regular – no other incident since); female seen and warned by Police having followed complainant home after verbal argument; |
|----------------|----|--|

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| | | rowdy nuisance on Lanchester Valley Walk (no offences disclosed); neighbourhood dispute over parking in Victoria Terrace (all parties suitably advised); rowdy youths in car park near Hallgarth Terrace (no offences disclosed – youths using area as a short cut) |
| Vehicle Nuisance | 0 | |
| Theft | 0 | |
| Burglary | 3 | refers to 2 separate incidents at the same public house (entry via jemmying isolated rear wooden door) and 1 report of a dwelling in Cadger Bank broken into via breaking a pane of glass in the front door to access door lock when occupant asleep (minimal items stolen) |
| Vehicle Crime | 0 | |
| Criminal Damage | 2 | refers to a shop's metal shutter damaged and suspected by youths playing with them; a parked unattended vehicle in car park of public house (whilst owner at work there) subjected to slashed tyres and gouged paintwork (suspect known to owner but no evidence to substantiate) |

Residents parking vehicles in Newbiggen Lane are trying to keep to agreed areas in order to allow pedestrians to cross the road at certain locations. Both police traffic management and Council Highways Dept have recently carried out site surveys both for parking and speed issues along the stretch of Newbiggen Lane. Providing no vehicle parks immediately on the bend causing a hazard or obstruction, residents are within reason being allowed to park half on the footpath of the straight section providing suitable areas are left for pedestrians to cross the road. The footpath leads into a 'dropped kerb' i.e. a parking bay – where parking here is legal. Recently however several unmarked emergency medical vehicles were needed to be parked in Newbiggen Lane having needed emergency access to a dwelling. Any parking / pedestrian issues raised need to be discussed with the residents in order to agree a practical solution – rather than enforcing police fixed penalty tickets which will only aggravate the situation and not solve the long term problem. Please direct any concerns to PCSO Gray.

Parking problems in Victoria Terrace: residents have been suitably advised that parking spaces cannot be reserved, and it is on a first come first served basis that vehicles can park (providing legally). Residents in this location have been advised to amicably discuss their requirements amongst each other and agree a suitable plan that benefits those residents with the most needs (such as needing a parking space near a persons own dwelling for medical needs). It is no longer possible to apply through the Highways Dept for residential disabled parking bays so community spirit and common sense is being called upon.

Members asked that thanks be passed to the Police who attended the Calor Village of the Year regional judging event on 30 September

226/09 Public Participation

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

Mrs Clarkson distributed pictures of damage to her property and spoke about the ongoing problems with the cricket club and in particular with balls damaging her property. She explained that the problem had been on going for 23 years.

Resolved - that the item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting

227/09 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

228/09 Committees.

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 14 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

(ii) the minutes of the Finance, Development and General Purposes Meeting held on 30 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

(iii) the minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 6 October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

229/09 Correspondence

(i) **Durham County Council – County Durham Local Development Framework – Preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement**

Members considered their involvement in the planning system.

Resolved - that the Lead Officer write to the County Council with the following comments from Members:

(i) the Parish Council would wish to be fully involved with the preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement

(ii) the Parish Council would wish to remain a consultative body for planning issues

(iii) the Parish Council would request that the Village Design Statement be retained as supplementary planning guidance

(iv) with regard to engaging with developers the Parish Council would like to debate the issue further and respond at a later date
(v) Members would wish to make the following general comments about planning: training on planning matters for Parish Councils would be beneficial; concern about the small number of applications being heard at Committee; the poor quality of some plans and drawings; the timescale on considering planning applications is often an issue

- (ii) **Durham County Council (Min 204/09)**
Members considered the response to the request for gully cleaning
Resolved - that the letter be received
- (iii) **Durham County Council (Min 171/09)**
Members considered the response to the concern over condition of highways
Resolved - that the letter be received
- (iv) **The Lanchester Partnership – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment**
Members considered the request for information
Resolved - that the Lead Officer write to The Lanchester Partnership with the following comments from Members:
(i) the Parish Council has not been informed of the sites that have been designated
(ii) no consultations have taken place between the Parish council and the County Council over the decisions to designate the sites
(iii) Lanchester Parish Council will defend the conservation area and the village development limit and seek to ensure that the Village Design Statement is retained as supplementary planning guidance
- (v) **Durham County Council – Annual Report – Overview and Scrutiny**
Resolved - that the report be received
- (vi) **The Boundary Committee – Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Durham County Council**
Members considered the draft recommendations
Resolved - that the Lead Officer writes to the Boundary Committee supporting the Lanchester division
- OJ and CB left the meeting
MW took the Chair
- (vii) **The Lanchester Partnership – letter of congratulations**
Resolved – that the letter be received with thanks
- (viii) **Durham County Council – County Durham Young Offending Scheme - tackling youth crime through community work**
Resolved - that the Lead Officer writes with suggestions of possible work opportunities
- (ix) **EDF wind farm – Parish Councils Funding Steering Group**
Resolved - that the Lead Officer sends a letter of agreement to Esh Parish Council

- (x) **Booklet – ‘It Takes All Sorts’**
Resolved - that a number of copies of the leaflet are requested for the the library

230/09 Area Action Partnerships (AAP) Board and Parish Council Committee (PCC) (min 198/09)

The Lead Officer informed Members that a report was being presented at the AAP meeting on 14 October recommending that the AAP purchase 2 x speed units and reclaim some of the cost from the Parish Councils. Some Parish Councils have agreed to the contribution towards the speed units and some have yet to hold their meetings. There is a meeting of the PCC on Saturday 17 October where more information will be forthcoming.

231/09 Quality Status

Members were informed that Lanchester had achieved Quality Council Status and that the presentation of the certificate would take place at the County Durham Association of Local Councils AGM on Saturday 31 October at County Hall.

232/09 Bus Shelters and Seating on Durham Road

Members discussed the condition of some of the bus shelters and seating in the Parish.

Resolved that:

- (i)** the County Council be informed of the poor state of the bus shelter on Durham Road with a view to it being cleaned
- (ii)** the County Council be asked to provide a bin near to the bus shelter
- (iii)** the County Council be asked if they have any proposals for the replacement of this bus shelter
- (iv)** confirmation of the ownership of the public seats on Durham Road and in front of Deanery Farm be sought
- (v)** the public seats on Peth Bank and on Ford Road be checked

233/09 Local Councils Charter with Durham County Council

Resolved - that the Lead Officer writes to the County Council informing them that the Parish Council are in agreement with the document

234/09 Christmas Light Switch On

Members discussed the forthcoming Christmas Light Switch on event and agreed a date of Saturday 28 November at 6.00pm. It was agreed that the event would celebrate the Parish Councils achievement of attaining Quality Council Status. In addition it would provide the

opportunity to distribute the cheques to community groups from the prize money from the Calor County Village of the Year success at a presentation ceremony accompanied by buffet supper. As in the past, local school children would be invited to help officially turn on the lights and the brass band would be invited to play on the Village Green.

Resolved that:

(i) the above arrangements be agreed and the Lead Officer commence organising the event

(ii) the working group from the Calor Village competition decide on the distribution of monies from the prize money to village groups

(iii) the quote from the County Council of £1819.00 for work on the lights and erecting motifs be accepted

235/09 NALC Local Council Awards 2009

Members discussed the NALC Local Council Awards

Resolved - that the Parish Council submits an application in several categories

236/09 North Rural Summit – National Housing Federation

Members discussed the training opportunity at the above event.

Resolved - that MW attend the event at a cost of £62.50 and report back to a future meeting

237/09 Annual Return 2008/09

The Lead Officer went through the papers returned from external audit. External audit confirmed that no matters had come to their attention which gave cause for concern.

The Lead Officer outlined that External Audit did refer to the level of fidelity guarantee that the insurance covered and suggested that the council formally review this.

Resolved that:

(i) the Annual Return be approved and accepted

(ii) the level of Fidelity Guarantee be referred to the Finance and Development Committee for consideration

238/09 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report G.

Resolved - that the report be received.

239/09 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

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|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| S Laverick | Salary (Sept) | £989.50 |
| D Maddox | Salary (Sept) | £392.90 |
| County Durham Pension Scheme | Pension (Sept) | £330.96 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | Tax & NI (July – Sept) | £774.50 |
| BDO Stoy Hayward | External Audit | £632.50 |
| Durham County Council | Printing (Parish Plan) | £417.00 |
| Broadgate Farm | Hanging Baskets | £931.50 |
| Durham County Council | Lease – Kitswell Park | £75.00 |
| Opal | Phone | £18.37 |
| Viking Direct | Stationery | £59.57 |
| Durham County Council | Lease – Park House | £40.00 |
| C Wilson | Rent – Hollinside | £20.00 |
| S Laverick | Expenses | £61.72 |

240/09 Chairperson's Announcements

There were no Chairpersons announcements

241/09 Questions from Members

CB presented a letter which outlined that following the showing of the film 'Age of Stupid', a working group had been formed to look at addressing environmental issues. The working group would like the Parish Council to be involved in developments.

Resolved - that the letter be included on the agenda of the next meeting

MW asked that the Parish Council formally request information from the County Council on the number of residents of Lynwood over the last five years who are from Lanchester and Burnhope.

Resolved - that a letter requesting the information be sent to the County Council

242/09 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 10 November following the PACT meeting which will commence at 7.15pm

Meeting ended at 8.45pm