

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,
Lanchester on Tuesday 8 September 2009 at 7.15pm

Present Mr O Johnson (Chair)

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

Mr R Young (observer)

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mrs A Cook - illness
Mr A Nairn - family commitments
Mrs P Glass - work commitments

The above apologies were received and accepted.

191/09 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

192/09 Police Report

PCSO Vanessa Gray attended the meeting and presented the police report.

Information regarding incidents / crimes in the area for the period
01/07/09 – 31/08/09 (two months) were reported as follows:

Rowdy Nuisance	19	Refers to reports of various rowdy behaviour in different areas of Lanchester – outside takeaways, within public houses, neighbourly disputes. No damage / offences disclosed in each incident. Parties suitably advised.
Vehicle Nuisance	2	Refers to 1 report of speeding vehicle in Alderside (keeper seen and warned by police) and 1 report of mini motos seen on Lanchester Valley Walk near Hurbuck Cottages (made off before police arrival)
Theft	7	report of attempted theft of tractor – male arrested (also believed in possession of drugs), hanging baskets stolen from dwelling in Durham Road, boiler removed by unknown person from insecure shed in Burnhopeside,

		rear number plate removed from vehicle parked in Maiden Law, lead stolen from roof of St Bedes School, insecure trailer removed from farm in Maiden Law, insecure cattle trailer taken from farm in Maiden Law
Burglary	1	Refers to money stolen from safe inside Dairy by unknown person(s) using fire escape and key to safe.
Vehicle Crime	0	
Criminal Damage	2	Refers to unattended parked vehicle in Victoria Terrace scratched by unknown implement / person – police patrols increased in this area due to other ASB incidents occurring. A fence pulled down from rear of dwelling in Broadoak drive by unknown person(s) – a new metal fence erected as a result of Victim Support and police / council ASB teams involvement.

Members informed PCSO Gray of the increase in cycling on footpaths during the summer holiday weeks, the theft of a gate from a nature reserve and a car accident on the village green.

OJ asked if there was any progress on Lanchester Arms. PCSO GRAY informed Members that officers from DCC have visited the site and will be requesting the owners to improve security. A meeting is to take place between DCC, Police and the owners to discuss the building.

A member of the public spoke and expressed concern about the Lanchester Arms and asked what the plans were for it. OJ outlined the planning permission that has been granted.

193/09 Public Participation

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

194/09 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

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

195/09 Committees.

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Finance, Development and General Purposes Meeting held on 29 July 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 Planning Meeting held on 29 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

196/09 Correspondence

- (i) **Durham County Council – Chairman of Durham County Council Support at civic receptions and events**
Resolved - that the letter be received
- (ii) **The Link News – Newsletter 3**
Resolved - that the newsletter be received
- (iii) **County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)**
Members considered nominations to the Executive Committee
Resolved - that the information be received
- (iv) **The Lanchester Partnership**
To receive correspondence regarding flooding in Lanchester
Resolved - that the letters be received
Members expressed concern that the latest very heavy rains had caused problems in certain parts of the village.
- (v) **Durham County Council**
Members considered information received regarding Community Secondary School Admission Criteria.
OJ declared an interest
Resolved - that the information be received
- (vi) **Durham County Council – Go Warm Initiative**
Resolved - that the information be received
- (vii) **Lanchester Lions – Bonfire and Fireworks display**
Members considered a request from Lanchester Lions for use of Kitswell ground and financial support for the forthcoming bonfire and fireworks display
Resolved that:
 - (i) permission be granted for use of the ground subject to the usual insurance, safety and maintenance conditions
 - (ii) financial support of £400 be given towards the event
- (viii) **North Pennines AONB Partnership – Annual review 2008 / 09**
Resolved - that the information be received
- (ix) **To consider information received from a resident regarding a neglected area in front of the Library**
Members discussed the area of land and agreed that it was untidy and needed addressing
Resolved that:
 - (i) OJ identifies who the area of land is owned by and work with officers from DCC to resolve the issue
 - (ii) the Lead Officers writes to the member of the public informing them of the action taken
- (x) **Invitation to attend NHS County Stakeholder Events**
Resolved - that MG attend the event
- (xi) **Public meeting to discuss local bus services and transport issues in Consett – chaired by Hilary Armstrong**
Resolved - that the information be received

197/09 Promotion of Film – The Age of Stupid (min 185/09)

Sonny Shepherd, a member of the public spoke. She outlined the film, the desire to show the film in Lanchester and invited all Councillors to attend the film which will be shown on October 11 at 3pm and 7.30pm.

Members discussed financial support for the film.

Resolved - that financial support of £150 be given towards payment of the film fee

198/09 Area Action Partnerships (AAP) and Parish Council Committee (PCC) (min 168/09)

CB informed Members of the recent meetings that have taken place and the progress to date. Members were also informed of the potential for joint working and purchasing across the 10 Parish Councils in the AAP area. In particular CB outlined a possible scheme to purchase traffic speed units (SIDs) collectively to address the issue of speeding on rural roads, a concern shared by all local Councils.

Members in principal were in favour of joint working and shared priorities between Parish Councils. There was concern that Parish Councils could begin subsidising areas that are a DCC responsibility.

Resolved - that agreement in principal be given to purchasing the speed units pending more information being received on costs and contributions from each Parish Council.

This resolution was carried by a majority of 11 to 1.

199/09 Calor Village of the Year Competition (min 172/09)

Members were informed that following the recent judging of the County Durham competition in August, Lanchester had received confirmation that they had won the County Durham competition and were through to the North Regional final which is to held on 30 September.

Resolved that:

- (i)** the Lead Officer writes to DCC environmental services to ensure that the village is looking its best for the judging
- (ii)** a press release celebrating the County success is distributed

200/09 Handyperson – Progress Report (min 138/09)

The Lead Officer presented report E.

Resolved that:

- (i)** the appreciation of Members be passed to David Maddox on the work undertaken to date.
- (ii)** the report be received

201/09 Kitswell Park Bike Track

Members were informed of the additional works required at Kitswell Park Bike Track which included drainage and additional top soil. A price had been received from G & B Civil Engineering of £3288 and further prices were being sought.

Resolved that:

- (i)** the works be carried out
- (ii)** the work be awarded to the best value organisation

202/09 Training – County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership

The latest courses from the above training provider were discussed. It was clarified that Members attending courses would need to pay for the sessions.

203/09 Speed of Traffic – A691

Members considered the information received from DCC giving details of their latest speed survey on Durham Road. Members were concerned to note the extent to which vehicles were speeding on this stretch of road.

Resolved - that a letter is sent to DCC requesting that the proposed temporary speed visor to be located on Durham Road be changed to a permanent speed visor.

204/09 Blocked gullies in the Parish (min 165/09)

Members considered the problem of blocked gullies in the Parish and identified several areas for concern.

Resolved that:

- (i)** a letter is sent to DCC Highways Section informing them of the location of blocked gullies
- (ii)** Members continue to identify blocked gullies during the winter months

205/09 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report G.

Resolved - that the report be received.

206/09 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

S Laverick	Salary (July)	£942.87
D Maddox	Salary (July)	£392.90
County Durham Pension Scheme	Pension (July)	£312.48
Opal	Phone	£17.92
S Laverick	Salary (August)	£942.67
D Maddox	Salary (August)	£392.90
County Durham Pension Scheme	Pension (August)	£312.48
National Assoc. Local Councils	Quality Status Fee	£115.00
PDL Services	Website	£67.85
Durham Rural Comm. Council	Room Hire	£2746.58
Opal	Phone	£22.13
Wybone	Bin	£266.71
Npower	Electricity	£516.40
Npower	Electricity	£22.61
Olivers Tree Services	Tree work	£655.50
M Wardle	Refreshments	£12.65
S Laverick	Expenses	£81.92
T Gray	Locality Map Design	£260.00
A Shepherd	Film Fee Donation	£150.00
Lanchester Lions	Donation	£400.00

207/09 Chairperson's Announcements

Resolved – that under the powers contained in Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

208/09 Questions from Members

There were no questions from members

209/09 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 13 October at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 9.45pm