

# Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,  
Lanchester on Tuesday 10 July 2012 at 7.15pm

**Present** Mr O Johnson (Chair)

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

Richard Young - Observer

## **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence

## **171/12 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **172/12 Public Participation**

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

## **173/12 Andy Coulthard – Mid Durham Area Action Partnership Coordinator**

Andy Coulthard attended the meeting to discuss three issues. Simon Heney from Durham County Council also attended to contribute to the first item.

### **(i) Railway Paths Masterplan**

Three main areas have been identified:

- Destination seats – siting seats in locations where there are views or points of interest. Artwork or interpretation could be incorporated. It was suggested that these could be linked to the Heritage Walks Leaflets information.
- Signage – from the railway path to bring people into the village
- Wild Flower meadow – on land between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane. This is an area where the County Council will no longer cut the grass. Members looked at a plan outlining the land and identified an area of concern

being the Alderdene Burn and the culvert. Once a wild flower meadow is established it would require one cut a year. Information on costs for establishing, maintaining and managing the area are needed.

**(ii) Gateway project**

Andy Coulthard outlined the progress on the project. The final elements of the scheme include possible physical gateways on the A691 entering the village. Members considered various options and agreed that the feature needed to have impact to be effective and should be easy to maintain. Andy informed Members that a meeting of the Gateway working group would be arranged to further the project.

Members identified a problem with the speed of the traffic leaving the village. Andy agreed to request that Community Speed Watch attend these areas.

**(iii) Area Action Partnership – engagement exercise**

Andy Coulthard explained that every year the AAP through its forum meeting look at and set its work priorities. This year in an attempt to engage with a wider community feedback forms were being circulated for completion by groups and individuals with a target of 1600 returns (5% of population). Members agreed to complete and return the forms and to pass the forms to their community contacts.

**174/12 Minutes of the last meeting**

A member asked for the minutes to be amended to reflect his comments made at the meeting.

The Clerk explained that the purpose of the minutes is as a formal recording of decisions made by the Council.

**Resolved that:**

**(i)** the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 June 2012 be amended and re-presented at the next council meeting.

**175/12 Committees**

**Resolved that:**

**(i)** the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

**176/12 Police Report**

The police report gave information regarding incidents / crimes in the area for the period 23/05/12 – 21/06/12 as follows:

**Number of community related calls 10**

(These calls are outlined below. Other calls not listed refer to incidents such as road traffic collisions, stray farm animals, concern for safety reports, false alarm)

**Dwelling Burglaries 1**

1 x occupier disturbed two unknown males who had jemmied open UPVC kitchen window after attempting to gain access via rear patio doors.

**Burglary (other) 0**

**Anti-Social Behaviour 7**

1 x unknown youths reportedly banging on doors and windows of dwelling in Lee Hill Court. Regular police patrols have taken place and details taken from youths found in area. It is suggested that the community could consider making Lee Hill Court junction with Percy Place and The Garths a PACT priority so that multi agency attention can be given to this location.

1 x unknown youths reported throwing large rocks at rear of takeaway. Enquiries continuing regarding descriptions and suspects seen on CCTV and possible damage caused.

3 x reports of group of children 9 – 12 years reportedly causing anti-social behaviour whilst playing with football in street. Some children spoken to by Police and moved to grassed area. Parents of one child seen and advised. Other children traced and to be spoken to in company of their guardians. Derwentside Homes also investigating complaints.

1 x report of youths on roof of former 6<sup>th</sup> form college. Gone prior to police arrival. No damage caused. Security officer spoken to on site. Both security and police patrols are frequent. CCTV is installed on building. The community is requested to report any suspicious incident to the police. This building is due to be reoccupied in due course after repairs are carried out.

**Criminal Damage 1**

1 x two vehicles parked unattended outside dwelling on Lanchester Road were set alight by two unknown persons. Security upgraded at dwelling.

**Thefts 1**

1 x owner of vehicle returned to car to discover it had been moved and put in different position. Unknown persons had gained entry, moved drivers seat and attempted to steal vehicle snapping steering lock.

There was concern raised about the young age of some of the young people involved in the above incidents.

Information received from the Neighbourhood Warden was presented to members.

**177/12 Correspondence**

**(i) Allotments Association - minutes of their meeting**

**Resolved** - that the minutes be received

**(ii) Junior Football Team - request to use the football field for 2012 / 13 season**

Members considered the request

**Resolved that:**

**(i)** permission be granted for the 2012/13 season subject to the usual conditions

**(ii)** the football team be made aware of the current maintenance works and the fact that the field may be unavailable for part of the season

**(iii) Lanchester Adult Football Team 2 - request to use the football field for 2012 / 13 season**

Members considered the request and expressed concern about overuse on the new playing surface

**Resolved** - that permission is not granted for use by a second adult football team for this season

**(iv) County Durham Association Local Councils (CDALC) - nominations to the Executive Committee**

**Resolved** - that a nomination for David Bell for Vice President is put forward

**178/12 Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC) (min 152/12)**

**Resolved** - that the PCC minutes be received

The next AAP meeting will be 11 July and the next PCC meeting will be 21 July.

**179/12 Code of Conduct (min 153/12)**

Legislation requires that Parish Councils have in place a Code of Conduct which meets the requirements of the Localism Act.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have finalised a Code which will comply with these requirements

**Resolved** - that the Code of Conduct is agreed

Member were reminded of the requirement to complete and return the new Registration of Interest Forms previously circulated to them.

**180/12 Kitswell Park – Annual Play Inspection**

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

**181/12 Alternative Education Provision – Green School**

Members discussed the proposed provision at the Green School and the information that had been received from the County Council to date and feedback from some members of the community.

Members agreed that the management of the facility was key to its success along with the appointment of appropriate community representatives to the management group.

Members were informed that Helen Foster the new Programme Manager and Jane Le Sage from Durham County Council had asked to attend a Parish Council meeting to update the Parish Council on developments for the programme to be based at the Green School.

**Resolved that:**

- (i)** Jane Le Sage and Helen Foster attend the public council meeting in September to provide an update
- (ii)** a letter be sent to Jane Le Sage asking that the community be involved in the appointment of the community representatives on the Management Group

**182/12 Lynwood**

Mike Wardle informed Members that the Community Interest Company (CIC) has been strengthened following the appointment of three community representatives.

Derwentside Homes have appointed an architect and plans have been drawn up and are being considered. There are ongoing communications between the CIC and Derwentside Homes regarding the community space to be used for health related activities.

**183/12 Flooding - Lanchester**

Members discussed the recent flooding incidents in the village.

Mike Gladstone outlined recent work undertaken by a group of residents and organisations which included:

- Visits to those affected by the floods
- Creating a database of those affected by the floods
- Delivering leaflets to homes and premises with information on sandbag delivery and collection of flood damaged items

- Fundraising undertaken

It is hoped that the group will soon in be a position to offer help to those affected.

Mike Gladstone asked for information on anyone affected by the floods and welcomed contact from anyone who wished to be involved with the group.

Members thanked the Partnership for their help and advice.

Members also made reference to the valuable work undertaken by the emergency services and the County Council.

Reference was made to the Morpeth Insurance Model which may be of use to businesses and residents.

Members were advised to report any problems with drains / sinks to the Highways Action Line (HAL).

**184/12 Queens Head Car Park Wall**

The break in the wall at the back of the Queens Head car park was discussed.

**Resolved that:**

- (i) a letter be sent to the Environment Agency asking for feedback on the matter
- (ii) a letter be sent to the Queens Head asking them to re-instate the wall

**185/12 A691 – speed limit**

**Resolved** - that this matter be discussed at the next Gateway meeting

**186/12 Maintenance Progress Report**

Members considered the report.

**Resolved** - that the report be received

**187/12 9 Month Bond (min 158/12)**

Members were informed that following the recommendation at the last meeting, a £20,000 bond had been taken out for a 9 month period commencing 27 July at 1.7% gross interest.

**Resolved** - that this action be agreed

**188/12 Financial Information**

The Lead Officer presented report I.  
**Resolved** - that the report be received.

**189/12 Accounts for Payment**

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

AD Purves Landscaping	Grasscutting	£2574.00
C Wilson	Hollinside Play Area	£20.00
Talk Talk	Phone	£23.15
Naturescape	Plants	£280.00
Chester Le Street CVS	CRB check	£62.00
S Laverick	Expenses	£58.99
S Laverick	Salary (June)	£1115.75
D Maddox	Salary (June)	£374.79
Durham County Council	Pension (June)	£357.56
HMRC	Tax & NI (Apr – June)	£863.98
Top Banana	Leaflet Delivery	£71.40
PDL Services	Website domain	£130.80
T Gorman	Audit	£50.00
Tyne & Wear Play Assoc.	Play Inspection	£250.00
AD Purves Landscaping	Football Maintenance	£2820.00

**190/12 Chairperson's Announcements**

There were no Chairpersons announcements.

**191/12 Questions from Members – Information only**

There were no questions from Members.

**192/12 Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 7.00pm.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm