

Lanchester Parish Council

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,
Lanchester on Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 7.00pm**

Present Mr C Burton (Chair)

Mr M Clarke, Mr K Harrison, Mr P Jackson,
Mr A Myers, Mr K Leary, Mr B Gray, Mr A Nairn,
Mr S Walker, Mr B Glass,
Mrs A Cook,

Jane Le Sage - Durham County Council
Helen Johnson - Durham County Council
Richard Young - Observer

Apologies Mr O Johnson - work commitments
Mr D Lindsay - other commitments
Mr M Wardle - away
Mrs M Gray - other commitments

Members observed one minutes silence in respect of the anniversary of the events of 9/11.

210/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

211/12 Public Participation

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

212/12 Alternative KS4 Education Programme – Green School

Jane Le Sage – Educational Support Services Manager and Helen Johnson – Alternative KS4 Education Programme Manager from Durham County Council attended the meeting to provide an update to members and the public present on the above education provision at the Green School.

Jane informed members that work had been undertaken over the summer to equip the premises and make the facility fit for purpose. Attendance by the children had commenced on Monday 10 September.

Helen spoke about the education provision and distributed an information sheet (attached).

Members raised the following issues for discussion:

- Wish to see the facility succeed
- Concern around the dissemination of information in the early stages of the scheme
- The process for recruiting the community members to the Management Board
- Parking arrangements
- Community use of the building and what this may involve

Members of the public attended the meeting and the following comments were raised and discussed:

- Desire to use the green school facilities to enhance tennis opportunities. Also the offer of tennis coaching for the education provision
- Concerns that the school could have a negative impact on the village and result in an increase in crime
- Concern about the lack of consultation with the community about the proposals
- Happy that the building is to be used again and looking forward to working with the school
- Could the local shops and businesses benefit from increased trade

Jane and Helen stated their aim to work with the community of Lanchester and to address any initial problems that may occur.

Jane confirmed that a Management Group would oversee the operation of the facility, monitor progress and develop and maximise the use of the facility. The Group would consist of Head Teachers, Local Authority representatives along with two community representatives. It was hoped that the Management Group would be established before Christmas. All agreed that the process of recruitment for the community representatives needed to be clear and transparent. It was agreed that an article in the Village Voice could seek interested persons along with an article in the Parish Council newsletter if timescales allowed.

The Chair thanked the Officers and public for attending.

213/12 Amended Minutes

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

214/12 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

215/12 Committees

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 July 2012 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 Committee Meeting held on 25 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

216/12 Police Report

The police report gave information regarding incidents / crimes in the area for the period 28/06/12 – 21/08/12 as follows:

Number of community related calls 8

(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 2

1 x ground floor rear window of temporarily unoccupied dwelling at Alderdene forced open by unknown person and entry gained.

1 x rear door locks forced by unknown person and entry gained at dwelling in Lanchester Road

Burglary (other) 0

Anti-Social Behaviour 3

1 x report of 4 youths causing a nuisance in the area and thrown some water on a shop window. The 4 youths were taken home and warned in front of parents. The youths said the window got accidentally squirted with a water pistol.

1 x complaint RE water bombs thrown by children. All parties seen and advised by police.

1 x report of youths in woods having set a small fire in woodland off Officials Terrace. Police attended, youths spoken to, fire extinguished. Youths had been camping.

Criminal Damage**1**

1 x 9 large bales of hay slashed by unknown person on farm

Thefts**2**

1 x male had made off from petrol station and was later stopped by police. The male later returned and paid for petrol.

1 x female responsible for theft of wine and sweets from the Spar. The woman was spoken to and dealt with by police.

217/12**Correspondence**

- (i) **Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council - letter of thanks**
Resolved - that the letter be received
- (ii) **North Durham Academy - newsletter**
Resolved - that the newsletter be received
- (iii) **P3 – 20 year anniversary celebrations**
Members considered the invitation to this event
Resolved that:
 - (i) 4 tickets are requested
 - (ii) Sue Charlton is invited to attend
- (iv) **LINK – Annual Report and newsletter**
Resolved - that the information be received
- (v) **New Standards Procedures – Information session – 11 October**
Members considered attendance at the above training session
Resolved - that Ann Cook, Alan Myers and Sally Laverick attend

218/12**Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC)
(min 178/12)**

Resolved - that the PCC minutes be received

The next AAP meeting will be 12 September and the next PCC meeting will be 15 September.

Colin Burton gave an update on the progress of the working group in the AAP.

219/12**Code of Conduct (min 179/12)**

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 made some amendments to the code which was adopted by Lanchester Parish Council in July. It is therefore necessary to adopt this final version.

Resolved - that the Code of Conduct is agreed

220/12 Localisation of Council Tax Support

The Clerk informed Members of the requirement for Durham County Council to develop and implement a Local Council Tax Support Scheme from 1 April 2013. It is thought that this scheme may reduce the council tax base, a factor which the Parish Council would need to take into consideration when setting its precept.

The County Council will be considering a report on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme at its September meeting which includes proposals to offer protection to Parish Council in the case of any negative impact of the scheme.

More information will be presented to members as it becomes available.

Resolved - that the information be received

221/12 Flooding - Lanchester

Mike Gladstone informed Members that a meeting had recently taken place with representatives from the Lanchester Flooding Action Group, Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and Durham County Council. Areas discussed to reduce flooding included:

- Channelling water off Newbiggen Lane and Maiden Law Bank
- Flood proofing the wall along Smallhope Burn through the village

The organisations are considerably busy following the recent floods. It is intended to hold another meeting of these parties in about a month.

Members discussed the recently circulated Environment Agency report regarding the wall along Smallhope Burn.

Resolved - that the Clerk speak to the Environment Agency to clarify the actions and timescales from the report

222/12 Christmas Tree Lights – Village Green

Members discussed the replacement of lights in one of the trees on the Village Green and considered the samples presented. It was agreed that replacing one suitable tree as a trial would allow the council and

community to view the new LED product properly in operation before a decision was made on the remaining trees.

Resolved that:

(i) Durham County Council replace the lights in one suitable tree on the Village Green with 'warm white' LED lights at a maximum cost of £3000

223/12 Annual return 2011/12

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

224/12 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report I.

Resolved - that the report be received.

225/12 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

P Snowdon	Hanging Baskets	£261.00
Chester Le Street CVS	CRB check	£60.00
S Laverick	Salary (July)	£1115.75
D Maddox	Salary (July)	£374.79
Durham County Council	Pension (July)	£357.56
S Laverick	Salary (August)	£1115.75
D Maddox	Salary (August)	£374.79
Durham County Council	Pension (August)	£357.56
Talk Talk	Phone	£25.00
Smart Products	Play Equipment	£28.30
Talk Talk	Phone	£23.04
Durham County Council	Printing	£183.00
Durham Rural Com. Coun.	Room Hire	£3131.75
BDO	Audit Fee	£660.00
CCL Office Ltd	Stationery	£237.25
S Laverick	Expenses	£126.95

226/12 Chairperson's Announcements

There were no Chairpersons announcements.

227/12 Questions from Members – Information only

There were no questions from Members.

228/12 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 9 October 2012 at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 9.15pm