

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,
Lanchester on Tuesday 12 June 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 S Walker, Mr D Lindsay Mrs M Gray,

Sheila Palmerley - Durham County Council
Jane Lasage - Durham County Council

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mr A Nairn - other commitments
Mr B Glass - other commitments
Mrs A Cook - sick
Mr M Wardle - other commitments

The above apologies were received and accepted

145/12 **Declarations of Interest**

Alan Myers declared an interest in item 4.

146/12 **Public Participation**

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

147/12 **Presentation – Sheila Palmerley – Durham County Council Schools Places Strategic Manager**

The Chair introduced Sheila Palmerley and Jane Lasage from Durham County Council to the meeting to give a presentation and discuss proposals to operate a Durham County Council Alternative Education Programme at the Green School.

Please find attached the presentation at 'A' which gives information on the proposal.

Jane explained that the Green School as a previous education site would be ideal and they would wish to work with the community of Lanchester to develop this facility.

Following the presentation a discussion on the proposal took place. Members considered the proposal and asked questions about its operation and delivery.

Alan Myers expressed his concerns about the process by which the County Council reached its decision and the lack of consultation, and was not convinced that this offers the best solution for education of the pupils.

Members considered that members of the community may be concerned about the proposals. Members also stated the desire to protect the recreational facilities around the Green School.

A resident spoke about his concerns of the behaviour of the pupils and the problems this may cause.

Another resident referred to transport issues at the site and possible increase in trade for village shops.

Members discussed other possible uses for the site. Sheila informed Members and the public that the County Council has a statutory responsibility to provide education. This proposal has been discussed with all departments at the County Council. The County Council considers the premises to be suitable for this purpose.

Jane and Sheila confirmed their wish to work with the community. They offered to give regular updates to the Parish Council and other community groups as requested.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their comprehensive presentation and requested that the Parish Council be informed of any progress.

148/12 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

- (i)** the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 May 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson
- (ii)** the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8 May 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

149/12 Committees

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 30 May 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

150/12 Police Report

The police report gave information regarding incidents / crimes in the area for the period 24/04/12 – 23/05/12 as follows:

Number of community related calls 11

(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 0

Burglary (other) 1

A shed was broken into overnight in Victoria Terrace and a number of power tools taken.

Anti-Social Behaviour 4

1 x report of youths shining laser pens into private gardens from the Valley Walk. Officers carried out patrols of the area.

1 x report of persons drinking and male on roof of Spar shop. Officers attended and male at scene was warned.

1 x report that males had been swinging on chains on the village green. No permanent damage. Persons responsible spoken to by Officers.

1 x report of excess noise coming from commercial premises on Front Street. Officers attended and decided that noise levels were not excessive for the time of day.

Criminal Damage 5

1 x report of damage to window of Old Court House overnight.

3 x reports of damage to windows at The Deanery

1 x report of damage to wall at Lanchester Sixth Form College. To be confirmed whether this is damage or deterioration.

Thefts 1

1 x theft of a cash box from an industrial van from the forecourt of a local garage.

- 151/12 Correspondence**
- (i) Lanchester Adult Football Team - request to use the football field at Kitswell Park for the 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
 - (ii) Signs and seats on Front Street - to consider information received from a resident concerned about obstructions on a public footpath**
Members considered the information and agreed that this was an County Council Highways issue
 - (iii) Lanchester Heritage Walks Leaflets - letter of thanks from a resident**
Resolved - that the letter be received
 - (iv) Gateway Project - to receive an update on the project**
Members received an update on the project
- 152/12 Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC) (min 116/12)**
- The next AAP meeting will be 11 July and the next PCC meeting will be 23 June.
- 153/12 Code of Conduct**
- 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) are currently finalising a Code which will comply with these requirements. It is expected that this Code will be available by the middle of June.
- Resolved that:**
- (i)** the existing Code of Conduct is reaffirmed
 - (ii)** the new Code of Conduct is considered for adoption when it becomes available
- 154/12 Annual Training Plan 2012 / 13**
- Resolved** - that the plan be approved

155/12 Annual Report

Members considered the Annual Report

Resolved that:

- (i) the Annual Report be approved
- (ii) the Annual Report be printed externally at a cost of £183.00
- (iii) the Annual Report be distributed at a cost of £71.00

156/12 Lanchester Show

Members considered attendance at the show.

Resolved - that the Parish Council attend the show and take the opportunity to promote the Council and the Parish.

157/12 Internal Audit Report

Members considered the Internal Audit report.

Recommended - that the report be received

158/12 9 Month Bond

Members were informed that the current bond is due to mature on 6 July. Details of the next available bond have not yet been released.

Recommended that:

- (i) following maturity of the existing bond a further bond of similar time and size be sought
- (ii) approval be gained from the Chair and Chair of Finance of the new bond conditions

159/12 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report I.

Resolved - that the report be received.

160/12 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

P Robinson	Tree stakes	£14.40
Durham Rural Comm. Council	Photocopying	£946.51
Durham Rural Comm. Council	Photocopying	£181.44
M Young	Internal Audit Fee	£140.00

Talk Talk	Phone	£23.58
Vodafone	Phone	£18.44
S Laverick	Expenses	£99.46
S Laverick	Salary (May)	£1115.75
D Maddox	Salary (May)	£374.79
Durham County Council	Pension (May)	£357.56
Easifall	Safety Surfacing	£219.60
Sutcliffe Play Ltd	Swing chains	£407.35

161/12 Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair made reference to the hanging baskets now displayed throughout the village.

The Chair thanked Dennis Laycock, Ian Murray, Malcolm Laverick and the Clerk for organising the bunting on the Village Green for the Jubilee weekend.

162/12 Questions from Members – Information only

There were no questions from Members.

163/12 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 10 July 2012 at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 9.15pm