

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,
Lanchester on Tuesday 14 June 2011 at 7.15pm

Present Mr O Johnson (in the Chair)

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

Karen Gibson - Civil Contingencies Unit
Paul Rutherford - Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader
Stuart Liddle - Neighbourhood Warden

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mr A Nairn - family commitments
Mr D Lindsay - work commitments

The above apologies were received and accepted

158/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

159/11 Public Participation

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

160/11 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson
- (ii) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

161/11 Committees

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

162/11

Police Report

The police report gave information regarding incidents / crimes in the area for the period 26/04/11 – 24/05/11 as follows:

Number of community related calls 21

(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)

Burglaries 2

1 x garage on Durham Road
1 x plant nursery

Anti-Social Behaviour 14

4 x report of noisy exhaust of vehicle in Manor Grange
1 x report of tracks believed from off road vehicles in Chapmans Well
1 x report of suspicious behaviour of youths under bridge near Woodlands. Officer attended and seized small amount of drug paraphernalia. Area has historically been monitored and will continue to be.
1 x report of youths entering woods on Edge Lane. Police patrols now regular as now a PACT priority. Several fires since extinguished by officers and / or fire and rescue.
2 x reports of noisy parties at Manor Grange. Police attended when reported , no offences disclosed at that time. However drugs warrant recently executed at that address and several males arrested on suspicion of drug related offences.
1 x report of vehicle obstructing residents driving view when driving off driveway on Durham Road. Police attended, owner of offending vehicles seen and advised.
1 x report of suspicious youths under bridge near Railway Street
1 x report of noisy music at Alderside. Police attended – no noise in area at time of visit
1 x report of youths fighting in Front Street. Police attended, quiet on arrival.
1 x report of intoxicated female on Front Street. Police attended, female gone on arrival.

Criminal Damage, thefts of / from Vehicles / gardens 5

1 x vehicles damaged with a key at Briardene
1 x damage to door at Croft View
1 x theft of fencing wire from tractor inside cattle shed on Durham Road
1 x damage to unattended parked vehicle in Manor Grange by known person who was arrested
1 x damage to unattended parked vehicle in Durham Road by known person who was arrested

163/11

Neighbourhood Wardens

The Chair introduced Paul Rutherford the Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader and Stuart Liddle the Neighbourhood Warden for this area. Paul outlined the main duties of the Neighbourhood Wardens which includes dealing with environmental issues such as; dog fouling; litter; untaxed vehicles; graffiti and low level anti-social behaviour etc..The wardens do have the powers to remove vehicles and issue fines.

It is hoped that a new shift pattern shortly to be introduced will work well with Police shifts to give a full a coverage as possible. Wardens have radios, are in contact with and regularly attend meetings with the Police.

Stuart intends to drop off leaflets in the Parish with contact details of the Neighbourhood Wardens. It was also agreed to include a short piece on Neighbourhood Wardens in the next Parish Council newsletter.

Both Wardens emphasized the need for the public to phone in concerns and issues. Work is prioritised according to reporting and resources will be targeted to where the calls relate to. The contact number to report issues is 01207 693693.

Members informed the Wardens of the following concerns which would be investigated:

- Litter in Front Street
- Malton picnic area – no bin
- Graffiti on side of fence on Durham Road

It was agreed that the monthly Wardens report would be sent to the Parish Council.

Paul and Stuart were thanked for attending.

164/11

Community Flood Engagement

The Chair welcomed Karen Gibson to the meeting. Karen was appointed in February as the Community Flood Engagement Officer. Her remit includes raising awareness of flood issues and helping communities to be resilient to flooding. In addition she is tasked with recruiting more Flood Wardens and helping communities to formulate Community Flood Plans.

It was agreed that the way forward would be to arrange a public meeting with representatives from all relevant organisations/agencies to answer questions from the community. It was hoped that members of the public and businesses would attend the meeting.

The aim of the public meeting which is planned for September would be to:

- provide information
- sign up Flood Wardens

- formulate a working group
- consider a Community Flood Plan
- consider extending the service for other types of emergencies

Karen would be available to support the community and to help to test the Community Flood Plan.

Members identified the following current issues:

- Gullies blocked with leaves
- Drains on Maiden Law bank need rodding
- Camber of Front Street encourages water into the shops and houses
- General blocked drains which require regular attention

Karen said that communities would be expected to work with agencies to address the problems. In addition schemes may require joint / match funding.

Members expressed concerns over whether the Parish Council would be expected to part fund schemes.

Karen was thanked for attending the meeting.

165/11 Correspondence

- (i) **Durham County Council Parish and Town Council Sub Committee of the Standards Committee – offer of training/support**
Resolved - that Members contact the Clerk if they wish to receive training
- (ii) **Link Newsletter**
Resolved - that the newsletter be received
- (iii) **Durham Police Authority - Police Priorities for 2011 / 12**
Resolved - that the information be received
- (iv) **Lanchester Partnership – The Friends of Longovicium**
Invite to the launch of the new booklet
Resolved - that the invite be received
- (v) **Local Government Boundary Commission**
Electoral Review – draft recommendations
Resolved - that the information be received

166/11 Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC) (min 137/11)

Members were informed that the AAP AGM had taken place on 18 May. A new Chair had been appointed and a schedule of meetings agreed up to May 2012. The AAP Annual Report had been approved which highlighted the main achievements of the year. Members were informed

that the Gateway project features were currently being installed in the Parish.

The next PCC meeting will take place on Saturday 18 June and will include a presentation on the County Durham Plan by Durham County Officers.

167/11 County Durham Plan

Members discussed the recently circulated consultation documents for the next stage of the County Durham Plan.

168/11 Roadside Verges

Members discussed the roadside verges in the Parish and were reminded that during work on the Locality Map document the roadside verges had been identified as a problem. In some cases the roads had been reduced to a single carriageway and visibility at entrances and turnings was poor.

Resolved – that a letter is sent to the County Council outlining the concerns of the Parish Council

169/11 Family Activity Day

BG declared an interest as a member of Durham Wildlife Trust.

Durham Wildlife Trust in partnership with the Parish Council would like to hold a Family event in Park House Play Area. The event would provide educational activities and would be held on Saturday 6 August.

Resolved - that permission is given for the event

170/11 Annual Report

Members discussed Members personal information in the notice board on the Village Green. Following discussion it was agreed to retain the current information.

Members discussed the draft Annual Report.

Resolved that:

(i) the Newsletter be approved for distribution in June

(ii) Top Banana be used to distribute the reports throughout the village

171/11 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report F.

Resolved - that the report be received.

172/11 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

PC World	Stationery	£145.14
S Laverick	Salary (May)	£1103.56
D Maddox	Salary (May)	£374.79
S Charlton	Salary (May)	£1674.50
Durham County Council	Pension (May)	£357.56
Talk Talk	Phone	£25.25
Vodafone	Phone	£25.53
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual membership	£151.00
ATG	Bollard maintenance	£180.00
Argos	Greenhouse	£104.94
PDL Services	Website	£100.80
British Wool Marketing Board	Shearing Course	£560.00
Stanley Travel	Coach Hire	£175.00
Stanley Travel	Coach Hire	£125.00
Stanley Travel	Coach Hire	£175.00
S Laverick	Expenses	£42.89

173/11 Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair referred to the success of the recent event to celebrate the Village Green improvements. An article had appeared in the Northern Echo and a post event press release had been sent to press contacts. Members were pleased with the substantial amount of funding that had been received for the project.

The Chair also announced the sad news that Alan Dawson who had made the recently installed tree seat had died. It was agreed that a sympathy card be sent to the family.

174/11 Questions from Members – Information only

PJ expressed concern that following the recent consultation, the decision had been taken by the County Council to remove the free school bus for faith schools.

Resolved - that a letter is sent to the County Council asking for clarification on the result of the consultation and the decision taken

175/11 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 12 July 2011 at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 9.15pm