

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 12.09.18 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

Present Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)
P Brannan
P Ford
K Foreman
T Lowrie (Vice - Chairman)
V Pagan
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

W Gunn (Village Maintenance)
2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – County Cllr G Sanderson.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th July, 2018 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and duly signed.
3. **Declaration of Interests** – None.
4. **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be 10th October and 14th November, 2018.

5. **County Matters**

The Chairman read an email containing updates from County Councillor G Sanderson:

- The worst road edges along the East Road have been repaired and the feasibility work for the proposed extended 30 mph zone will be started in the next month or so.
- All of the grass verges were cut by the end of July and the weed spraying seems to have been improved judging by the comments received.
- NCC is working through budgets for next year and he is hoping to protect frontline services.

6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**

The Chairman welcomed back PC Teasdale to the parish meetings.

- Following various meetings, the damage to the tree behind Whitegates has been reported as criminal damage and will be investigated.
- The police have received a report of a break-in to a garden shed on 3rd September. Members of the public are urged not to confront individuals but to inform the police immediately. Residents are reminded to lock-up and make property secure and to be vigilant.
- Northumbria Police are currently looking at rural crime, staffing and associated funding requirements.
- Reports of aggressive door-to-door selling tactics have also been reported in the area. Again, residents are asked to report any incidents to the police.

7. Finance

- 7.1 Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 12th September, 2018, totalling £2,439.33.
- 7.2 Conclusion of External Audit 2017/18** – Members considered and endorsed the documents as received from PKF Littlejohn LLP, noting that “no concerns were raised and there were no matters arising” from the audit review.
- 7.3 Budget 2019/20** – Members were requested to bring to the October meeting any new projects to be considered during the forthcoming budget process. The Clerk will prepare a “standstill budget” for the next meeting.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Review of Planning Applications:

18/02087/AGTRES re Proposed changed of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling at Hemmel South of Fieldhead– Members had no objections to this application.

18/02389/FUL re Proposed demolition of single storey and replace with two storey extension at The Retreat, East Road – Members had no objections to this application. However, concerns were raised about the north-west corner of the property due to the narrow access and members requested more information as to how the lane will be kept in a “passable” state during works. Members asked for a condition to be applied for the applicant to restore the lane surface on completion.

b) Planning Decisions:-

18/01575/FUL re Steel portal frame building at View Law Farm – NCC GRANTED permission.
18/01666/FUL re Replacement dwelling at High Barns – NCC GRANTED permission.
18/02070/FUL re Extension at St Helen’s C of E School – NCC GRANTED permission.

- c) Letter from Resident re 18/00401/OUT – Members approved the draft response provided by Cllr Brannan and asked the Clerk to issue it.
- d) The Chairman informed the meeting about the recent Longframlington result whereby the Officers recommendation regarding a planning application was overturned by the Planning Committee.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. The Soay sheep appear to be thriving on the Moor.
- ii. The kissing gate for pedestrians has been installed.
- iii. The birch saplings need to be stripped out and the Clerk informed the meeting that this type of work was included within the grant remit.
- iv. Cllr Pringle is to speak to the log-man as to his donation in lieu of removing logs from the site.

- v. Piri-piri has once again been found in the old quarry and spraying is currently being organised.
- vi. The Wildlife Trust magazine and the Northumbrian have both featured articles about the Soay sheep and the wild ponies.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood)

Cllr Ford provided a written report covering:

- i. The new wooden name board is now in place and thanks go to Tim Fish for installing the sign.
- ii. Tree guards and stakes have been purchased in readiness for tree care events to be held on 20th / 21st October. Thanks to Tim Fish for collecting them and for collecting the strimmer.
- iii. The trees seem to be in good condition, although there may be some casualties due to the hot, dry weather.
- iv. The perimeter path will be mowed in September.
- v. The Picnic in the Wood event was sadly affected by the cool weather but thanks was extended to those who did attend.

8.4 Village Play Areas –

- i. The Clerk has submitted several grant applications for funding to refurbish the MUGA. Two quotes have been received and she awaiting a third. One of the companies is prepared to carry out maintenance on the current surface until the refurbishment is undertaken and as a budget was already in place members agreed £1,600 be approved.
- ii. The Clerk also informed the meeting that she had submitted a funding application to the Greggs Foundation for environmental works at Archies Pond.
- iii. W Gunn informed the meeting that a bolt had sheered-off play equipment in Church View play area and will send the Clerk a photo of the equipment so that she can order parts.
- iv. A loose kerb-stone located towards the edge of the Village Green was reported and the Chairman agreed to speak to the contractor to arrange repair.
- v. Vandalism was reported to the fencing at both Church View and the MUGA – the Clerk was asked to write articles for the Tree.

8.5 Allotments – Nothing to report.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – nothing to report.

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- i. Members agreed to monitor the litter bin outside of the Village Shop and will consider issues arising at the next meeting of Council.
- ii. Members considered an email from a resident regarding the overgrown trees and hedgerow on the East Road. Cllr Lowrie was asked to trim back the hedgerow and the Clerk was asked to respond to the resident informing him that Northern Electric has the general authority to cut back any trees which it believes could damage power lines.

8.8 New Website

The Clerk informed the meeting that all statutory notices regarding the conclusion of audit were included on the website. She had also included the results of the Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – The Clerk to write articles covering vandalism at Church View and MUGA play areas and the request for volunteers at Old Church Wood tree events.

8.10 Donation Requests – None received.

9 Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) Reivers Gate/Wilding Place – the Chairman informed the meeting that Cussins had appointed a new Director of Estates.
- b) South Road Development –The Chairman had received the final Heads of Term documents for signature. However, the design code was omitted and therefore the documents could not be signed. Once the documents have been amended to include the design code, the Chairman and Cllr Lowrie will sign-off the documents.
- c) East Road Development – ongoing.
- d) Kirkups Corner – Solicitors have been informed of the Village Green issue and negotiations will continue.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Brannan provided members with a verbal report which highlighted the following.

- i. Members congratulated Cllr Brannan and the Steering Group for bringing the LNP to fruition. Now that the Plan has been endorsed by the Referendum the various Community Action Points need to be progressed.
- ii. He has followed-up the Stephenson's Garage application with NCC's enforcement officer, who has checked the building works. One issue still needs to be established – that of whether or not the portacabin is a permanent or temporary structure. It has been noted that more cars are being parked-up on the grassed area which is Village Green land - It is NCC's responsibility to monitor the situation.

9.3 Village Green Issues – nothing to report.

9.4 Welcome Letters – Members noted that one letter had been issued to Freestone, West Road.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Members considered the format and rebranding of the Community Award scheme. It was agreed to include the presentation of the award at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. It was also agreed that the public be asked to nominate a person or group for the award. The new procedure will be announced in February confirming that any resident of the Parish can be nominated. The Clerk agreed to formulate a draft report incorporating the changes and bring to the October meeting for approval.

10.2 Members considered the Joint NCC and Town/Parish Council meeting on October 8th – it was agreed that no representative was required to attend and no issues need to be raised.

10.3 Members considered the invitation to the 5th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference to be held at NCC on 11th October – Cllr Ford and the Clerk to attend.

10.4 Members agreed to the proposal of joining the Armistice Centenary Bell Ringing on 11th November with both the Church bell and Longhorsley Tower bell being rung in unison. Cllr Ford to follow this issue up with the church.

10.5 It was agreed that the Clerk attend the SLCC training day on 25th September at Bedlington at a cost of £10.

11. Other Items for Information.

None.

12. Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the Agenda)

12.1 Cllr Brannan informed the meeting that he had not yet received a response from the NCC Tree Officer re the Ash Tree at the Old Church junction. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with NCC.

12.2 Cllr Lowrie asked that the removal and replacement of the Ash Trees on the East Road be included within the 2019/20 budget.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Items for the next agenda to the Clerk by COB Sunday 30th September, 2018