

LONGFRAMLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL VLLAGE MEETING

Meeting on: 2nd May 2017
Meeting at: Longframlington Memorial Hall
Meeting time: 6:45 pm
Present: Gillian Apthorpe (GA), Cllrs Graham Fremlin (Chairman) (GF), Diane Lakey (DL), John Munro (JM), Gillian Nelles (GN), Malcolm Ness (MN) Dave Wellden (DW),
In attendance Clerk, Garth Rhodes (GR)
NCC Cllr Trevor Thorne (TT)
24 members of the public

1) **Apologies for Absence :** None

2) **Welcome & Chairman's Report: –**

GF welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was so good to see such an excellent turnout. He explained that this was an open meeting with no fixed agenda. However, contrary to what many had believed this was not a meeting solely about Planning and Development. There was insufficient time devoted in the Agenda to deal with the many issues concerning planning.

2017/18 had been a challenging year with the Parish Council (LPC) having to fight difficult battles particularly regarding Planning and the repairs to the A697. It had been a hard winter with snow causing severe difficulties. Access and movement around the village had been problematic during this time and may have, in part, been due to a reduced level of service from NCC highways, as they had to respond to a high demand from across the County. He particularly wanted to thank those people including the farming community who had helped out during this period.

If there was a demand from residents to have a meeting regarding planning and development within in the near future this would be possible. Cllr Thorne indicated that he and representatives from the Planning Department would attend such a meeting.

Cllr Thorne asked if he could speak on the issue of planning. He reminded the meeting that he had written a piece in the Fram News saying that he believed the village had reached its limits in terms of development. The two applications for the Miller homes site for 39 houses and 29 houses had been turned down by the Planning Committee, only for this decision to be overturned by the Housing Inspector on the grounds that the original arguments for refusal were insufficient. The National Policy Framework indicates that no application for sustainable development should be turned down unless there are very strong arguments against this. Longframlington is having a large number of planning applications and many of these are getting through, but TT believed that the Planning Department were now getting the message that Longframlington was now full and that they were supporting the village in arguing that the original character of the village is being lost. The village has almost increased by 50% in the last two years. There had been a problem of withdrawing the original Core Strategy which had inaccurately proposed the need for 24,000 new homes in the County. The new plan will more accurately propose around 16,000 new homes. The Planning Department believe that it would be beneficial to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

GF informed the meeting that the Parish Council had turned down a proposal for a Neighbourhood Plan on four annual occasions, after taking expert advice, which had indicated there would be little value to the village whilst incurring significant cost and time. MN was concerned that the Planning Department had still to respond after many months on the LPC's comments on the Ecology report for the Miller Home development and felt that planning officers needed to adhere to the rules.

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GF then opened up the meeting and welcomed issues from members of the public.

3) Public Discussion Points:

Questions and Discussion points regarding Planning and Development raised by residents included:

- A number of residents expressed their serious concerns over the increasing levels of development in the village and a general feeling that the voice of the village was not being heard by the decision makers.
- Issues of increased traffic from construction vehicles leaving mud and creating potholes on the Rothbury Road. Why had LPC not made it a condition to keep construction lorries off the Rothbury Road. In reply GF explained that the LPC had objected to the development, once the application had been approved, the Parish Council were not part of the process for making conditions.
- A view that the village needed good publicity and post big notices in opposition to planning developments.
- How can an individual make a planning objection? Response: by way of the NCC Planning Website at <https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/>
- Suggestion that a Planning sub-committee be set up with representation from members of the public. Response: To be discussed by the LPC.
- The need for the village to learn from previous planning mistakes in order to inform future practice.

Other Issues raised:

- Concerns over the condition of the local roads and numbers of potholes
- Speeding on the Rothbury Road. Response: The PC had included this as one of its three main proposals for the NCC transport plan. Now believed that chicanes are the most effective traffic calming measure
- Any signs that the bus service will improve between Newcastle and Longframlington? Response that currently there is a lack of passengers using the service to support arguments for an increased service.
- Request to replace/improve the LED street lights on Cheviot Lodge as residents had difficulties seeing the footpaths and doors to their properties. Explained that LED lights are being used to reduce the levels of light pollution. The LPC could pass residents' comments to the Lighting Department on this matter if it was felt to be a significant issue.
- Bushes overhanging N0 26 Cheviot Lodge and the Rothbury Road opposite the Memorial Hall impeding passage. To be reported to NCC.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their attendance and participation at the meeting. He invited Longframlington residents to bring relevant matters to the Council for their consideration.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Garth Rhodes

Clerk to Longframlington Parish Council.

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