

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 13.11.19 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

Present Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)
P Boyle
K Foreman
T Lowrie
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

County Cllr G Sanderson

4 Parishioners

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Mr Michael Hall, the Treasurer of the Village Day Committee, presented a cheque to the value of £1,942.49 to the Council, to be used for the benefit of the Village. As the Committee is now wound-up, 3 tents were also transferred to the Council.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs P Ford and V Pagan and PC Teasdale.

2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th October, 2019 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and duly signed.

3. **Declaration of Interests** – None declared.

4. **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be the 11th December, 2019 and 8th January, 2020.

5. **County Matters – Update by County Councillor G Sanderson**
 - The are many problems with flooding and leaves on roads and pathways around the County – therefore we were asked to bear with NCC as lots of requests for work are currently coming in.
 - The problem at Lynemouth Beach, re landfill sites continues – where eroding barriers are exposing buried rubbish.
 - There is a big problem at Todstead due to landslips blocking roads and having to have traffic lights to ensure traffic can pass by.
 - Climate Change actions are still ongoing, with the aim to reduce carbon emissions' and to ensure that Northumberland is carbon-neutral by 2030. A Steering Group, comprising local organisations, has been established and the Draft Action Plan is out for discussion. The Plan will go to Cabinet in December before being considered by Council in January.

It is also hoped that by increasing electric charging points, in Northumberland, will assist those targets set. Newcastle University is helping NCC with this issue. Some of NCC's vehicles will be changed to electric-hybrids and an electric bin wagon will also be trialled.

- NCC is also trying to encourage residents not to use cars by increasing walking and cycle routes. More trees are also being planted to aid the environment.

Q. Will these issues be taken forward into Planning Policies?

A. Yes – experts are already assisting with new housing developments, for example exploring new insulation and heating techniques.

- Re-opening the North Railway line via Blyth and Cowpen is also being looked at in order to allow residents to access Newcastle by rail rather than by car.
- A solar power area in the car park at NCC has been established to provide power to County Hall.

Q. Could NCC do anything to encourage bus companies to provide a service later than 7pm at night from Morpeth through Longhorsley to Thropton?

A. NCC subsidise some local bus services provided by Arriva. Cllr Sanderson agreed to look into this issue.

Q. There is a flooding issue with water pouring out of the ditch beside the footpath on the Smallburn Road to Blackpool. Can NCC look at this area? The logs which had been blocking the ford/ditch have been removed.

- The extension of the 30-mph speed limit zone is now out for a traffic regulation order to be made – hopefully by early next year.

Councillor Sanderson left at this point of the meeting.

6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**

In her absence, the Clerk read out an email supplied:

- On 18th October, there was a report of a garage being broken into and 2 pedal bikes were stolen from the Smallburn Road area – residents are reminded to ensure property is fully secure with locks and security lights if possible.
- There have been several serious accidents across the area of late, one involving a deer the others due to hazardous road conditions due to the rain and leaves on the road – drivers are warned to take time and be extra careful.
- Reports of poaching have fallen due to the poor weather conditions – if you see anyone acting suspiciously take down the vehicle number and inform the police.

7. **Finance**

7.1 Authorisation of Payments – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 13th November, 2019, totalling £11,711.29.

7.2 Budget Monitoring – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of October, together with the account transactions for the year to date, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation.

7.3 Budget 2020/21 – Members noted and received the second version of the standstill budget statements. The revised taxbase supplied by NCC shows a slight reduction in the base, which would mean that on current estimates, some £8,320 would need to be financed from balances.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:- the following decisions had been received:

- 19/02684/FUL re single storey extension at South Birks – NCC GRANTED permission.
- 19/03974/HEGRMN re removal of hedgerow at South Linden Farm – Application WITHDRAWN.

b) Review of Planning Applications: -

- 19/03974/HEGRMN re removal of hedgerow at South Linden Farm – No Objections, but commend re-planting elsewhere on site.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. The installation of the firebreaks is completed.
- ii. Some sheep have been removed and currently there are 24 remaining on the Moor.
- iii. Brash is still to be removed and J Chisholm is looking at low level machinery, but the current weather means that the ground is very boggy in places.
- iv. Signage at High Barns has been removed. The Council now needs to determine on whose land the damaged fence lies. The fence is situated on the west side of the stream with the wires on the resident's side. If the boundary is the stream then the fence will be his.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood) – nothing to report.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. Mr Gunn informed the meeting that there were some damaged fence panels in both Adamson Park and Church View.
- ii. The MUGA shed needs extra security i.e. padlocks – it was agreed that a sign should be put onto the shed asking for current key holders to contact the Clerk in order for her to have new keys cut and distributed in the New Year.
- iii. It was agreed that the charge for MUGA Floodlight tokens should increase to £2 from the current charge £1.50 with effect from 1st December – the Clerk to write an article for the next edition of the Tree.
- iv. The Chairman and Cllr Boyle will meet at the MUGA to inspect those areas where flooding occurs.
- v. The Clerk informed the meeting that the balance of funding from LEADER should be into the bank account within 2 weeks as the final claim has now been agreed.

8.5 Allotments - nothing to report at this time.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – nothing to report at this time.

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Cllrs Boyle and Foreman attended a site visit to inspect the condition of the road surface on land adjacent to Albion House. The surface condition is mixed with some soft/uneven points and the whole area needs a new, proper surface. Residents are also parking on Village Green and thus the land is getting churned-up.

- b) The large Eucalyptus tree in the same area has been removed. On checking the planning portal, NCC granted permission for its removal in September. The Clerk was asked to investigate with NCC why we did not receive this application as it is in the Conservation Area and to ask for a list of all trees on a TPO in the Parish.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.05 pm to allow parishioners to speak.

- i. Tim Fish entered the meeting at this point to give members an update on the Archies Pond projects. He had previously circulated a report containing several options for the site. Members agreed that the project should be split into 3 separate projects for costing and funding purposes – those being:
 - a. Bird and Bat boxes
 - b. Improvements to the Pond and platforms/pontoons
 - c. Pathway improvements

Members also agreed that Mr Fish contact 3 contractors with the aim of getting quotations for the works. It was also agreed that the pruning of the large Hawthorns beside the track needed to be undertaken to allow any machinery to get access to the site – Cllr Boyle agreed to undertake this work.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.25 pm

8.7 Continued

- c) Flooding Issues – The Chairman and Cllr Pringle met with Martin King from NCC to discuss problems in the Village. NCC has agreed to check the gullies in the area both pre and post any adverse weather events and to ensure that they are running clear. The roads are also to be swept to reduce debris silting-up gullies. To ensure that the main line is free and clear he will arrange for the jetting of the main line from the field pond.
- d) Request for Salt Bins at Paxton Dene Ford – members asked the Clerk to find out the cost of acquiring and filling an extra bin. She was also asked to find out where the bin from Church View has been installed.
- e) The Clerk was asked to find out if the Tree Officer had changed at NCC as she hadn't received a response to recent emails.

8.8 LPC Website – nothing to add at this time.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – The Clerk to write articles covering: Free Logs for Christmas, increased price of MUGA tokens, Archies Pond projects and a list of services on the NCC website.

8.10 Donation Requests – Members agreed a £100 grant to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

9. Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) Reivers Gate/Wilding Place – ongoing and nothing to report at this time.
- b) South Road Development – ongoing and nothing to report at this time.
- c) East Road Development – ongoing and the land is currently on the market i.e. Rightmove
- d) Kirkups Corner – ongoing and nothing to report at this time.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – Cllrs Boyle and Ford met at Whitegates site to discuss any further amendments to the site appraisal. The following actions were agreed:

- i. Water Courses – “ Yes - an approximately 40 metre ditch on the northern edge of this plot”.
- ii. The site is suitable for arable farming as there is room for small agricultural machinery to be used.
- iii. Members agreed to add “some parts” into the statement thus “*The field has poor drainage and some parts become very muddy and boggy following heavy rain*”.
- iv. How is the site accessible from the highway – “Across a strip of land between the site and the highway through Whitegates estate, owned by the site owner.

9.3 Village Green Issues – an email has been received from NCC saying that Counsel’s Opinion has now been received but there are several complex areas to be digested in detail. LPC request is now next on their list and hopefully a meeting will be convened in the New Year.

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Gov.UK email address – emails have now been established for all members. However, whilst we are able to send outgoing emails, we cannot receive incoming emails. Pulsant are aware of the problem and are working to find a solution.

10.2 CCTV – The Chairman has drawn up a specification for the project and the Clerk has a list of 4 companies in the area who wish to quote for the works. Members agreed the spec and list of tenderers.

10.3 NCC Control of Dogs Consultation – members welcomed the proposal.

11. Other Items for Information.

11.1 Members were informed that a resident from Whincot had spent some time removing Ivy from the pavement along the A697 in order to help access the path. Members extended they’re thanks for her assistance.

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

12.1 NCC has issued correspondence regarding the next stages of the Local Plan, including dates for the examination hearings.

12.2 The Chief Officer of NALC will be coming to our December meeting to present the Council with a Certificate as the runner-up in the Local Council Awards Scheme.

12.3 The issue of three ham radio masts at a house in Davison Court was raised following a complaint by a resident – this is an issue for Planning Control.

12.4 The Ash tree behind 76 Church View was raised as residents wish the tree to be removed sooner rather than later. It was agreed to defer this issue until nearer the financial year-end in order to see what budget provision is remaining to carry out this work.

12.5 The issue of the footpath between Drummonds Close and the A697 was raised. Although residents have complained, members believe that the builders restoration following building works means that the path is better than it was before.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.