

# LONGFRAMLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**Meeting on:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017  
**Meeting at:** Longframlington Memorial Hall  
**Meeting time:** 7:00 pm  
**Present:** Cllrs Gillian Apthorpe, Graham Fremlin (GF) Chair, Diane Lakey (DL), John Munro (JM), Gillian Nelles (GN), Dave Wellden (DW)  
**In attendance** County Cllr Trevor Thorne (TT), one member of the public, Clerk: Garth Rhodes (GR)

- 1) **Apologies for Absence** – Malcom Ness (delayed en route from business in Leeds)
- 2) **Table Urgent Business to be discussed** in 18 below.
  - a) 2017 Parish and Town Council Election Costs: Longframlington Parish Council
- 3) **Declaration of Interests** – None
- 4) **Gifts & Hospitality** – None
- 5) **Community Police Report.** No Community Police presence. Clerk was asked to contact Community Police representative and ask that they attend the next meeting **Action: Clerk**
- 6) **County Councillors Report** – Cllr Thorne reported on the meeting of the full County Council held that day. Items discussed included

- Use of the land designated for the new county hall in Ashington. Possibility for a cinema or similar community provision. Refurbishment of the current County Hall to begin shortly.
- Appointment of a new Chief Executive - Daljit Lally
- Andy Johnston to stay on as Director of Education until a suitable replacement is appointed
- Additional money is already coming through from Government for the new Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside combined authority, (a new regional council covering the three local authority areas north of the Tyne) and is expected to total around £20m over the next three years. Money is earmarked for projects related to employment, housing (particularly rented accommodation) and industrial & business parks.
- Review of Active Northumberland which has a poor management history
- Arch Developments – Police are now involved in investigating issues of malpractice
- County Council has £30m in reserves
- The revised Core Strategy is likely to go out to consultation in February and will begin to have impact by the summer 2018
- With respect to Planning, it is important for Parish Councils that if they are to go against the advice of NCC officers then they need to have sound planning reasons. Recent objections by Longframlington PC did do this.
- Broadband Service provision in new estates is to be an integral requirement for planning applications
- A visit by a senior government minister to take place in early November to look at the excellent work of the County's Early Years Education.
- Awaiting developments on the Northumberland Challenge with respect to plans for new schools. Many rural schools are struggling for numbers. There are a significant number of failing secondary schools and Northumberland is in the bottom quartile within the northern region. It is hoped that money for educational developments will be available soon and that some of this will be used for secondary education.
- Many children with special needs are missing out with long waiting times for services. Middle school services are particularly stretched.
- Council meetings are being flooded with grandstanding questions from Councillors who are attempting to hinder council proceedings. The Council are to attempt to weed out these to allow for questions of genuine concern.

TT was very disappointed to hear that the Director of Planning, Mark Ketley, had not been in contact with GF to arrange the meeting between the Planning Department and the PC. He promised that this meeting would go ahead and agreed to approach Mr Ketley again.

Cllr Thorne was also quite disappointed with the outcome of the A697 roadworks. He had already expressed his disappointed to Highways. He had been told by them that this was to be a major resurfacing operation but it appears that Highways have only undertaken good work on fissures and failed areas. He was aware of many complaints from residents.

TT informed the meeting that he has made traffic calming measures on the Rothbury Road his priority for the Local Plan. He asked the PC to come up with a scheme for this. The unanimous recommendation from the meeting was for two chicanes to be placed at appropriate points on the Rothbury Road. The cost that NCC had quoted for installing chicanes was in the order of £15,000 per chicane.

- 7) **Minutes Of Previous Meeting** The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such.

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## Housekeeping Issues

### 8) Matters Arising Out Of Minutes -

- a) A697 Road Repairs – Members expressed considerable disappointment at the extent and quality of the recent repairs. Many residents and travellers to and through the village have noted their dissatisfaction to the Parish Council. It was agreed that a letter be written to Highways outlining our concerns and asking for a response regarding:
- 1. The extent of the work.** The Parish Council were under the impression, given the costs (£280,000) and significant disruption to the village and traffic, that this was to be a major resurfacing exercise, rather than a series of patchings. Residents were incredulous of the costs involved and councillors were particularly keen to receive some detailed financial accountability for the work.
  - 2. Issues concerning idle labour.** It was widely noticed that there was a considerable workforce on this job. Figures of 30 workmen and 26 vehicles have been reported. Many people wanted to know why so many of these workers were standing idle for significant periods of time when surely further areas could have been repaired.
  - 3. Outcomes.** No-one appeared to be satisfied with the final outcome of the work. Concerns included some of the patched areas and joints being irregular resulting in an uneven ride, tar on the move and fissures already appearing.
- b) Seating in bus shelter opposite the church. Bench has been received and installed. Item to be removed from the Agenda.
- c) Water leakage Rothbury Road opposite the Elms – Repair identified a well at the site. This has been diverted into the mains drainage. However, the leak continues. NCC have informed the Clerk that they will return to investigate this after the completion of the Longframlington A697 road repairs. If this is not done within a the next two weeks then the Clerk to write to Highways **Action: Clerk**
- d) Heavy Lorries Survey – It was agreed to allow a further week for councillors to undertake further surveys. **Action: All**
- e) Children playing on bikes and scooters on the road – Letter has been sent to Head of Chantry School who agreed to speak to the children in assembly and ask the Community Police Officer to mention it in his next visit to school. . Item to be removed from the Agenda.
- f) Bus Service information – Additional displays boards for bus information for the other side of the road at the two principal bus stops are now on position. Clerk was instructed on how to insert timetables and will be responsible for this forthwith. There is a small area vacant on each display board which the PC may wish to use for related information. NCC have provided a briefing note on the consultation which has been circulated to members. Item to be removed from the Agenda.
- g) Parish Website- Members were asked to complete the personal details proforma and return to Clerk ASAP

**Action: GN/DL/MN/JM/DW**

### 9) Meetings to Attend / Attended – None

### 10) Finance

- a) Notification of receipts in the month

11/10/2017	O Burleigh	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	26.18
12/10/2017	D Proctor	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	13.10
12/10/2017	B Conway	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	13.10
12/10/2017	B Veitch	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	13.10
19/10/2017	M Laidler	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	26.18
20/10/2017	J Parkin	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	26.18
23/10/2017	Y. Ellis	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	26.18
25/10/2017	A. Christie	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	26.18
28/10/2017	NCC	Small Business Rates Relief Refund	290.25
30/10/2016	P Hayles	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	26.18
10/10/2017	T Marrison	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	13.10
11/10/2017	A. Goddard	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	13.10
13/10/2017	E. Brennan	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	13.10
13/10/2017	A Hollands	Allotments Water Rates Second Half	13.10
		<b>Total</b>	<b>539.03</b>

- b) Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and Approval of Other Payments were approved

06/10/2017	Gavin Christie	Grass cutting	210.00
06/10/2017	Gavin Christie	Grass cutting (transfer to cemetery	-120.00
09/10/2017	NWG	Allotment Water Rates (second half)	314.21

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10/10/2018	British Gas	Electricity Sports Court (estimated)	8.96
20/10/2017	Realistic Futures	Country Bench (St Mary's Bus Shelter)	236.93
01/11/2017	Arkle & Sons	Allotment Wall repairs	48.00
01/11/2017	HMRC	PAYE	99.80
01/11/2017	Garth Rhodes	Clerk's wages and expenses	459.49
01/11/2017	LPC	Recharge Clerk's wages to cemetery (Sep)	-94.31
<b>Total</b>			<b>1163.08</b>

- c) Requests for donations -Community Action Northumberland (CAN). CAN requested a donation to support its continuing work in providing services and support to communities in Northumberland. The request was not granted. Proposed DW, seconded GA
- d) Bank Reconciliation to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

Balance per bank statements			£
	Community account		63894.17
	Business Saver		6074.05
Less unrepresented cheques			
Cemetery			0.00
Parish Council	101966	Realistic Futures	236.93
	101967	Arkle & Sons	48.00
	101968	HMRC	99.80
	101969	Garth Rhodes	459.49
	Dir Deb	British Gas	8.96
			853.18
Uncredited Deposits - Cemetery			0.00
Parish Council	NCC		290.25
	J Parkin		26.18
	A Christie		26.18
	P Hayles		26.18
	Y Ellis		26.18
			394.97
Balance per cash book 31/10/2017			69510.01
Balance per cash book	PC		51139.53
	Cemetery		18371.08
			69510.61
			£0.60 *

\*The £0.60 discrepancy is regarding an apparent difference in the bank statement record (£310.72) and cheque to G. Rhodes (£310.12). Bank have been informed and we await their action.

- e) Interim Internal Auditors Report 2017-18. Internal Audit completed. They were no queries and no matters to draw to the attention of the Parish Council. The auditor did suggest to the Clerk that the PC might want to consider the introduction of budgetary control report and Statement on Internal Control. The Statement on Internal Control was accepted but it was considered unnecessary to introduce any further budgetary control mechanisms.
- f) Additional Grass Cuts. To consider the NCC extra charge for 2018-19. The cost for the 3 extra grass cuts for next year: £1,112.55 was agreed. **Action: Clerk**
- g) Electricity Bill and Meter Sports Court. Electricity bills continue to be estimates. Reported to British Gas. They believe it is a faulty meter and are to replace it. The contractor has failed to attend on two occasions.

## 11) Village Activities –

Remembrance Parade	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> November. The payment to the Village Hall for the wreath was agreed.
Coffee Mornings:	Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November, URC
	Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> November, St Mary's Church
Toddlers Table Top Sale	Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November, Memorial Hall
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December at 4.00 p.m. Mince Pies and mulled wine would be available, if organist was required, Steve Buckley may be available. Agreed to purchase a replacement string of lights <b>Action: Clerk/GF</b>

## 12) Allotments

- a) Management - None
- b) Maintenance. JM had not repaired the hinges on the gate due to family illness. Will be done ASAP. **Action: JM**

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c) Water rates 2nd Half-Year – The following were outstanding:

Allotment	Size	Name	
8a	half	Mr Billy Wealleans	13.1
8b	half	Eileen Gallon	13.1
10a	full	Michael Weatherston	26.18
16a	half	Brent Taynton	13.1

It was agreed that if Mr Wealleans had not paid his bill by the closing date of 10<sup>th</sup> November, then his tenancy would be terminated.

**Action: Clerk**

### 13) King George V Playing Field

- a) The installation of the plastic tubing for the blue netting on the climbing frame was still outstanding. DW agreed to do this on 02/11/2017. **Action: DW**
- b) JM to chase up Iain Cairns regarding the drainage issues on the playing field. **Action: JM**
- c) Dogs on the playing field continue to be a problem. Cllrs should speak to people who offend and report repeating offenders to the PC. **Action: All**

### 14) Planning

a) Planning issues since previous meeting:

Ref No	Description	NCC Status	Parish Council Position **
16/04426/FUL	Land South Of Deneburn Rothbury Road Longframlington (39 houses)	Granted	See minutes from previous meetings for PC responses
17/03237/FUL	Otterstone, Rothbury Road – Retrospective: Removal tarmac and boundary wall to allow hard standing	Application	<b>No objection as long as the development has no impact on nearby properties</b>
17/03400/REM	Land West of Vicarage – Reserved matters application for access, landscaping, layout and scale	Application	<b>No Objection</b>
17/03503/VARYCO	Picklewood Cottage. Variation (9) on tenancy arrangements from holiday letting to long term tenancy	Application	<b>No Objection</b>
16/00762/VARYCO	Poultry Farm Atheys Moor Application for removal of condition 10 so temporary permission is made permanent allowing future continued use of the operation of the microlight airfield beyond 29 September 2017 on a permanent basis.	Application	<b>The applicant has not provided details of the increased usage and increase in aircraft movements during the 12 month temporary period. It is not clear whether there has been increased activity making it impossible to make a judgement on impact to the village. The Parish Council would recommend a further twelve month extension to the Temporary Approval in order that such data can be collected.</b>
17/03561/VARYCO	Land South East of Seaview. Variation of conditions to amend proposed house types	Application	<b>No Comment</b>
17/03662/FUL	Land East Of Longframlington Gardens – Erection of two units of holiday accommodation and certified touring caravan site	Application	<b>This would be a housing development in the open countryside in plain view across open countryside well outside the boundaries of the local settlements contrary to current national and local planning guidelines. The size and type of the proposed houses appear to be inappropriate as holiday accommodation and more suited to permanent residential dwelling or long term rental. The plans show the use of an existing access yet there historically there has been no access point, the current access has only recently been created and the parish council is unaware of any planning consent being sought. The B6345 is unsuitable for use by caravans as it is a narrow road with many tight and blind bends which have to be navigated with considerable care in a car without the added difficulties of towing a caravan, the carriageway to Swarland and Felton is particularly</b>

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			unsuitable and the carriageway to Longframlington is frequently used by large tractors and equipment from established farms and agricultural enterprises. The need and sustainability for such a development is also doubtful as there are many holiday cottages in the area and there is an easily accessible certified touring caravan site just outside Longframlington on the A697 close to the junction of the A6345 which rarely has more than two of its five caravan pitches occupied at any time.
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**\*\* Parish council position – this is the decision the councillors have come to that they wish to be communicated to NCC. Coloured areas show where something has changed from the previous PC meeting**

- b) **Update and agree next steps with regard to Planning Issues in the village and meeting representatives from the Planning Department.** - GF informed the meeting that he had on several occasions been in contact with the Planning Department concerning the development 17/01107/FUL Land North West of Lightpipe Farm as the developer was in contravention of conditions for planning approval. He had received an apology from NCC for not stopping the work sooner. They had issued advisory notices to stop the work which had not been enforced. However the work had been stopped for one day until a Construction Method Process had been agreed and put in place. The developer has yet to undertake any work to improve the footpaths and road improvements at the junction with the A697. However, they have now contracted this work to NCC and therefore allowed to proceed with building. The views of the meeting were that GF had put many hours into this issue and that more should have been done by our County Councillor and Planning Officers to keep a watching brief on this development. It was agreed to wait for the NCC Planning Department to contact the Parish Council with respect to the forthcoming Planning meeting.

## 15) Action Plan – November 2017.

- a) Review of internal policies & procedures to check that existing policies & procedures are fit for purpose & up to date  
**Action: GF/ Clerk**
- b) Allotments - carry out inspections.  
**Action: JM**
- c) Play equipment. It was agreed that GA and DL would research, source and propose suitable alternative to mini-slide which the Parish Council would purchase. A figure of around £5k was suggested. With respect to a replacement for the climbing frame, it was agreed to ask for donations to fund this. An item to this effect to be inserted in the Fram News report  
**Action: GA/DL**
- d) FramNews Report – GA agreed to write this. Items to be included:
- Replacement Play equipment
  - Christmas Tree lights ceremony
  - A697- disappointment regarding road repairs.
  - Light a Life Hospice event
- Action: GA**

**Main Issues** – These issues are allocated a longer time for discussion

**16) Heating Oil Club.** It was agreed not to promote this as there were other cheaper alternatives

**17) Hospice Care Light up a Life 2017** – Hospice Care North Northumberland invited the PC to take part in a 'Light up a Life' event and provided some publicity material. It was agreed to promote this in the next Fram News report.

## 18) Any Urgent Business

- a) 2017 Longframlington Parish Council Election Costs. The overall cost was £688.21 consisting of two payments: April 2018 - £344.11 and September 2018 £344.10. This will need to be taken into account when preparing for the 2018-19 Budget/Precept.  
**Action: Clerk**

## 19) Agenda Items For, and Date Of Next Meeting

### Items for Action Plan for December for consideration at the meeting:

- Allotment – Produce Invoice Letters for 2017. Consider a holders meeting with PC to discuss any ideas, issues etc.
- Discuss and formulate next year's action plan

**Date of the next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 8.59 p.m.

**Garth Rhodes: Clerk to Longframlington Parish Council**

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