

## **Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 12.06.19 – The Church Room – 7.00pm**

**Present** Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)  
P Ford  
K Foreman  
T Lowrie  
D Pringle  
  
Clerk G Turner  
  
4 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr V Pagan, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and duly signed.
3. **Declaration of Interests** – Members were reminded of the email issued by the NCC Monitoring Officer reminding them to review their declarations to ensure that they were up to date.
4. **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be the 17<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

### 5. **County Matters**

In Councillor Sanderson's absence the Clerk read out an email supplied:

- NCC announced its commitment to Climate Change and to halve the carbon footprint of the County Council by 2025 and to establish an Action Plan to help deliver progress. A group will be set up to produce the Action Plan which will include a number of organisations and Cllr Sanderson is to be the Chair.
- The surface dressing works on the East Road will be carried out on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June with a letter-drop to local residents.
- The work for the proposed pedestrian crossing is ongoing.
- The Clerk has not received a response to emails or telephone calls made to NCC Highways regarding Old Churchyard signage/road markings. She will email again next week and copy Cllr Sanderson into the email.

### 6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**

In PC Teasdale's absence, the Clerk read out an email containing an update:

- It has been relatively quiet since the last meeting. However, there are still incidents of poaching across the area – mainly gates being left open allowing livestock to get out of fields. Extra patrols are being carried out to address this issue.
- Across the region reports of thefts from outbuildings and garages continue to be reported. Residents are reminded to ensure that property is securely locked at all times.
- No further reports of incidents have been reported in the Longhorsley area.

- Cllr Pringle informed the meeting that he had received reports of adults smoking cannabis in the Church View playground – the Clerk was asked to inform PC Teasdale.

## **7. Finance**

**7.1 Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, totalling £4,233.12.

**7.2 Budget Monitoring to 31<sup>st</sup> May** – Members received and agreed the Accounts and Transactions file, including petty cash and bank reconciliation documents.

## **8. Routine Items for Review**

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

- 19/00703/FUL Construction of parking area at Lyndhurst, South Road – NCC GRANTED permission.
- 19/01142/FUL Construction of barn at Land West of Hill View – NCC GRANTED permission.
- Cross Cottage Planning Appeal – Appeal DISMISSED

**b) Review of Planning Applications: -**

- Wishaw – LPC submitted that it had no objections to this application but made note of the size of the proposal based on the sheer mass of the project. Several objections have now been received from neighbouring properties and the Planning Officer is hoping to do a site visit and will be taking a closer look at the application.

## **8.2 Moor Management Scheme**

Cllrs Pringle and Ford provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- Cllr Ford attended a course on the Moor, accompanied by representatives of various organisations. A member of Flexigraze (ponies and sheep) was also in attendance. Evidence that the sheep had successfully eaten birch on a large strip of the Moor was seen as good practice.
- It was also noted that seeds from certain trees were blowing onto the Moor.
- It was suggested that half a dozen Highland Cattle would prove beneficial.
- Brash is taking nutrients out of the soil. Some organisations are finding that by pulling the brash off the heather and leaving it to rot was successful.
- The Management of Longhorsley Moor was seen as working well and therefore we are considered to be a low risk.
- J Chisholm has been asked to remove brash at a cost of approximately £200 – which was unanimously approved.

## **8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood)**

Cllr Ford provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- She and Mr Fish had met with a representative from Playdale, which specialises in outdoor gym equipment. Various options were discussed and quotations were requested.

- ii. Mr Fish has measured and marked out a 1km route around the wood.
- iii. J Chisholm has mowed the paths on the site.
- iv. A recent survey has highlighted that a lot of birds are visible on site.

**8.4 Village Play Areas** – the Clerk informed members that the new surface on the MUGA has been laid, and finishing off is still required e.g. line markings, sanding, basket hoops and signage still to be completed. The works should have been completed this week – unfortunately due to the exceptionally bad weather, the project has fallen behind anticipated targets. The old carpet matting is to be taken away by the end of this week. It was agreed that a notice be placed on the gates to inform users of the revised completion date.

**8.5 Allotments** – the Allotment Officer is concerned about neglected plots on the site and dogs being allowed to roam the site off-lead. It was agreed to hold a formal site inspection with Cllr Ford, the Allotments Officer and the Clerk being in attendance. The Clerk was asked to write to all tenants advising of the site visit and to remind tenants that dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

**8.6 Plants & Flowers** – The Clerk confirmed that the 3 new planters are now in situ and thanked Cllr Lowrie for transportation of the planters from his business premises to the Village. It was pointed out that the frame of the old planter in Church View had been thrown into the hedgerow and needed to be removed.

#### **8.7 Village Maintenance Issues**

- a) Mr Gunn was asked to carry out an inspection of the seats in the Village as some were in need of maintenance/attention.
- b) The meeting was informed that there was a problem with weeds/greenery on Drummonds Close.
- c) The stones surrounding the Village Green were in need of painting. A group of volunteers were interested in undertaking the work and members approved the purchase of masonry paint.
- d) Members were given a list of bin locations which Mr Gunn had compiled, in order to ensure that none were missing from the list.
- e) Archies Pond Refurbishment – following comments made at the Annual Assembly of the Parish meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May, the Clerk was asked to contact J Chisholm to organise the dredging of the pond by the end of August. Cllr Pringle informed the meeting that the Scouts were no longer interested in undertaking work at the site. He also had found the mentioned coping stones which had been knocked-off the wall and were lying on the other side – he will arrange for them to be restored.
- f) The footpath and associated works at the Lonnen are still under investigation.

#### **The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm to allow parishioners to speak.**

- i. Mr Matheson of The Retreat on East Road addressed the meeting. He has planning permission to build an extension to the back of his property. Work is to commence in September and he wanted to let members know that it will require closing the lane to vehicles (the closure is likely to last 3 to 4 months). He has spoken to several of his neighbours to inform them of the works. Members suggested that he should speak to all of his neighbours, including the Shoulder of Mutton as delivery vehicles need to be made aware. It was also suggested that temporary signage “no through road” signs are erected to warn motorists.

- ii. Mr Ellerbrook of Greencroft on West Road addressed the meeting. He and several of his neighbours had great concerns regarding the planning application for Wishaw. Concerns were regarding the potential size of the project and the effect it will have on the footprint of the site and of the effect on trees. The Chair informed the meeting that he had spoken with the NCC Planning Officer and that a site visit is planned and that the Planning Officer will be looking at the application closely. Mr Ellerbrook also invited LPC members to visit the site.

**No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.20 pm**

## **8.7 contd**

- g) The poorly Sycamore Tree in Adamson Park was discussed. Town & Country Tree Surgeons had provided a quotation for the planned works totalling £880 plus VAT. Members agreed the quotation and asked that the Clerk contact T&CTS in order to co-ordinate dates with Cllr Pringle, JP Garden Services et al. The Clerk was also asked to remind T&CTS to apply to NCC for a 5-day notice.
- h) Cllr Elliott had spoken to a local contact regarding having a metal contained installed at the MUGA in place of the current wooden shed. The cost of which would range from £1,300 to £2,000 depending on size. The container would need to blend into the surroundings so as not to cause offence to neighbouring houses. This item was deferred to a later date.

## **8.8 LPC Website**

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had added all of the Finance and Governance documents as required by External Audit. She had also added a Correction of Fact statement under the Neighbourhood Planning area regarding Robson's Field.

## **8.9 Longhorsley Tree** – Cllr Ford to write articles about the effectiveness of the sheep on the Moor and the proposal to introduce a track around Old Church Wood. The Clerk to write articles covering Archies Pond works, the 3 new planters and the Sycamore tree.

## **8.10 Donation Requests** – None received.

## **9. Items Carried Forward**

### **9.1 Housing Developments in the Village**

- a) Reivers Gate/Wilding Place – nothing to report – documents still with NWA.
- b) South Road Development – The Chair and Vice-Chair had met with the developer about the outstanding issues, and had discussions with the Planning Officer:
  - How to access the estate by foot from the Shoulder of Mutton car park. A suggestion had been made that the developer would install a footpath. However, the Chair said that LPC would be taking a firm stance on this issue until a safe walkway was made across the highway.
  - Materials to be used – LPC had wanted stone to be used on those properties facing into the Village for aesthetic purposes. The developer is against this proposal and the Planning Officer agreed with the developer. Members insisted that the trees are retained on the boundary.
  - The introduction of a Play Area – the developer is thought to be considering giving LPC a dowry so that we can sort out what play equipment we thought necessary. It is now being suggested that the dowry be used to purchase the trim trail equipment for the adjacent Old Church Wood.

- The affordable housing numbers have been agreed together with the siting of the houses at the NW corner of the site.
- c) East Road Development – nothing to report.
- d) Kirkups Corner – nothing to report.
- e) Stephenson’s Garage Planning Enforcement query – the planning application is currently being circulated. Members will ask NCC Planning the question about the location of the structure and its impact on Village Green land.

**9.2 Neighbourhood Planning** – nothing to report.

**9.3 Village Green Issues** – ongoing.

**9.4 Welcome Letters** – one issued this month. The Clerk was asked to send out a letter to 13 Church View.

## **10. Other Agenda Items**

10.1 The Clerk informed the meeting that the delay in progressing the .gov.uk domain was due to the fact that the officer handling this issue at Pulsant had been off for a number of weeks on compassionate leave. He was now back to work and is taking this issue forward.

10.2 Review of Community Awards Process – deferred to July meeting.

10.3 Councillor Vacancy – NCC Electoral office had confirmed that an election had not been called for and therefore the council should look at co-option. Members were informed that Peter Boyle had confirmed his interest in being put forward for co-option and members unanimously agreed to this proposal. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Boyle to begin the process.

10.4 CCTV – members agreed to the draft protocols as supplied by the Clerk in principle. The Chairman is currently compiling a specification which will be used to inform tenderers. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received correspondence from the Village Hall Committee confirming that they agreed to the siting of the equipment to be placed inside the Village Hall.

## **11. Other Items for Information.**

11.1 The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received the May edition of the City and County publication from Northumberland & Newcastle society

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

None

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.