

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 20.02.19 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

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

Clerk G Turner

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – T Lowrie (Vice - Chairman), County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January, 2019 (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 13th March and 10th April, 2019.

5. **County Matters**

In County Councillor Sanderson's absence, the following article was read:

- Due to the decision not to proceed with the building of a new Council HQ in Ashington, maintenance is now being carried out on the existing County Hall building.
- A new school is currently being built beside County Hall, to replace the old Goosehill first school.
- Once the move is made the old school will be converted into a new car park, providing much needed additional longer stay spaces.
- Additional car parking spaces are also planned at the railway station.

6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**

In PC Teasdale's absence, the following email was read:

- Information is sought as to why trees have been pulled out of the ground in a private field.
- Ongoing issues have occurred at Longhorsley First school during the building works. Several thefts of building supplies have taken place together with people being seen taking items from the skip. Local residents are asked to phone 101 or 999 if they see any suspicious activity.
- Issues of poaching continue to be a problem and associated thefts have taken place at Longwitton, with items being taken from unsecured sheds and gardens.

7. **Finance**

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 20th February, 2019, totalling £2,046.53.

- 7.2 Budget Monitoring Statements to 31st January** – Members considered the budget monitoring statements, full accounts file, petty cash and bank reconciliation papers.
- 7.3 Internal Audit 2018/19** – members considered, approved and endorsed the following documents:
- a) The Review of Internal Audit – including the appointment of G Kennedy as the internal auditor for 2018/19
 - b) Internal Audit Checklist for 2018/19
- 7.4 Annual Risk Assessment** – members considered and approved the Annual Risk Assessment document for 2018/19.
- 7.5 Asset Register** – members considered and approved the Asset Register for 2018/19

8. Routine Items for Review

- 8.1a) Review of Planning Applications:** - no applications have been considered since the last meeting.
- b) Planning Decisions:-** no decisions had been received since the last meeting.
- c)** Members were informed that building works had commenced at Lyndhurst (South Road), including what appeared to be foundations and a possible access onto the A697. The Clerk was asked to check the NCC planning portal as no papers had been received concerning this work.
- d) Carried forward queries –**
- i) no update had been received from the planning enforcement officer for the Stephenson's Garage site (Cllr Brannan agreed to follow-up)
 - ii) Cross Cottage appeal – final date for comments is 22nd February.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. Logs are still available at the trackside.
- ii. The sheep are thriving on the Moor but no sight of ponies during the last inspection.
- iii. The kissing gate is quite narrow – Cllr Pringle is to remove some rails/slats.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood)

Cllr Ford provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. Members agreed the “no increase” quotes from J Chisholm for the mowing of paths and inter-row mowing.
- ii. The metal gate has now been repaired.
- iii. The Clerk was asked to order 200 trees and 450 guards and stakes for planting in March.
- iv. LPC has now received the Tree Charter and the toolkit has also been received.
- v. Dobbie's Garden Centre has some conifers available FOC.
- vi. Members were informed that a sewage connection is required across Old Church Wood land – it was suggested that the developer should use the line of the derelict path and restore it after the works are completed.

- vii. Reports have been received about cars parking in the track leading off the A697 to the Old Churchyard, which could hinder funeral cars. The Clerk was asked to obtain an A3 sign stating “No Parking – Access required at all times”

8.4 Village Play Areas – the Clerk informed members that the LEADER Board was meeting that night to discuss the bid for grant funding for the MUGA refurbishment.

8.5 Allotments – nothing to report.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – nothing to report.

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) The Clerk had received an email from Chisholm’s regarding the dredging works at Archies Pond. When the original quote was prepared during the summer of 2018, the site was dry, whereas currently the site is under 8 inches of water. It was agreed to delay the works until the summer 2019 and the Clerk to speak to Greggs to explain the delay.
- b) Chisholm had also prepared a quote for the filling-in of the potholes on the lane/track behind Adamson Park - £350. Members agreed that this work should be undertaken as soon as possible.
- c) The tree works on the A697 South was complete and the tree on Whitegates had also been maintained. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Gunn about keeping the ivy surrounding the trees under control.
- d) The sycamore tree in Adamson Park has been inspected and although sound, it was advised that the tree be crowned, cleaned and balanced – it was agreed that the Chairman speak to T&CTS to arrange for this work to be undertaken.
- e) Members considered the placement of a grit bin at Wilding Place. It was agreed to relocate a spare bin from Church View and the Chairman agreed to pursue this with County Councillor Sanderson.

8.8 LPC Website

Nothing to add at this time.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – the Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Community Award nominations, Tree planting events and not to feed the wild ponies on the Moor.

Mr Etchells mentioned that there were problems concerning the M1 bus – timetables had been verified but no-one has seen this bus for a while. No-one at NCC can confirm or deny that the bus is still running.

The Clerk was asked to find out the cost of dog-waste stencils and paint in order to highlight problem areas.

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 at this time.
- b) South Road Development – members were informed that the original outline consent was granted in 2015 and is therefore coming up to its time limit. The Chairman had been

informed that renewal is now required and that the proposer is now going for full planning consent. All agreed that the design code was of utmost importance.

- c) East Road Development – members were informed that the contracts for the sale of the land were now being negotiated.
- d) Kirkups Corner – the Chairman informed the meeting that the land registration process was now complete.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Brannan talked through the CAPs document and updated members as to the progress being made.

9.3 Village Green Issues – members received the email from NCC outlining that a barrister had now been appointed and legal opinion was now being sought.

9.4 Welcome Letters – no letters sent this month.

10. Other Agenda Items

- 10.1 The Clerk informed the meeting that she had forwarded to Pulsant the proforma in order for them to register the site with the government to obtain the .gov email domain.
- 10.2 Members received an email from a local resident regarding clean-up days and the request for traffic warning lights for a support vehicle. The Clerk was asked to reply to the resident and to let her know about the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign. The Clerk was also asked to find out the cost of warning triangles and to remind the resident that she needs to keep in touch with Cllr Ford in order to co-ordinate dates for events so that they do not fall on the same date as the tree planting events.
- 10.3 Members received the email re: Rothbury Community Hospital engagement request – no action was required at this time.
- 10.4 Members received the letter from NE War Memorials Project – as there were no memorials in the Village no action was required at this time.
- 10.5 Grit bin request at Winding Place – please see above 8.7 (e)

11. Other Items for Information.

The Clerk informed members that she had received the latest edition of the Northumberland and Newcastle Society newsletter.

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

- 12.1 Members received an email from a visitor to the Village regarding parking issues at the shop layby. The Clerk was asked to reply to the visitor stating that there is a sign present and the time limit is intended to ensure the viability of the village shop. Alternative car parking can be found at the Village Hall if needed.
- 12.2 Members received correspondence from Northumberland Pride giving the date of 1st June for marches and events in the county.
- 12.3 Members received correspondence from NALC and NCC regarding the National Pay Award and as LPC was part of the National Joint Council approved the documentation.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.