

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 09.10.19 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

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

Clerk G Turner

PC Teasdale

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr V Pagan and County Cllr G Sanderson.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September, 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 13th November and 11th December, 2019.

5. **County Matters**

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

- The Highways Policy Team has lost some staff and is currently recruiting – therefore we were asked to bear with NCC as lots of requests for work are currently coming in.
- The works at the new crossing point are currently being undertaken.
- NCC is carrying out an audit of the roads in and around Longhorsley in advance of working up next year's programme of road repairs. Members were asked to let him know of any specific areas/sections of roads that need to be prioritised.

6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**

- Rural Crime Week is currently taking place. Several operations, including poaching operations, are going ahead both during the evening and during the daytime too.
- There have been several reports of heating oil thefts as residents fill tanks to cover the winter period.
- There have also been reports of lead thefts, particularly from building sites.
- She has been monitoring the parking issues as reported at the last meeting. To date, pedestrian access has been allowed for but she will continue to monitor the situation.

- There have been several fatal accidents in the area and motorists are reminded to be aware of other drivers on the road, some of which are prepared to take unnecessary, dangerous chances.

7. Finance

7.1 Authorisation of Payments – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 9th October, 2019, totalling £43,710.26.

7.2 Budget Monitoring – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of September, 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 first version of the standstill budget statements. The revised taxbase should be supplied by NCC in time for the November meeting of Council.

8. Routine Items for Review

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

- 19/00924/S106A re Variation of S106 pursuant to CM/98/D/404 dated 22.05.2001 re Beech House, West Road – NCC REFUSED permission.

b) Review of Planning Applications: - None received this month.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- The recent periods of inclement weather had an adverse effect on the planned works to tidy and pile up brash, as the ground is too boggy to undertake this work.
- There are still many logs along the track – members decided to publicise “Free Logs for Christmas” in the December Tree.
- Kevin Woods has met with D Straughan to discuss the introduction of firebreaks.
- Steve Comber is to remove some sheep but they will be replaced.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara’s Wood)

Cllr Ford provided a written report which highlighted the following:

- The scheduled mowing of the rows between the trees and of the perimeter paths has been undertaken.
- The Tree Care event on 6th October was cancelled due to the inclement weather.
- The checking of each block of trees to ensure that all have large tree guards, are upright and not too weed infested will be carried out.
- Tim Fish will look at the order for the new marker posts.
- Andrew Brunt had observed a Common Redstart feeding 3 young – which is another new species to the area and usually considered to be a woodland bird.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that he had met with the contractors and installation team on 18th September to go through the snagging list. Most of the problems were

sorted out and rectified on the day. Members agreed to release the final payment of £8,113.30. The problem of the waterlogged area at the south east corner was discussed. The main problem lies outside of the MUGA area and this will be looked at during any other flooding works necessary within the Village.

8.5 Allotments

The Clerk had notified Mr Woods that greenhouses or other constructions were allowed up to the height of 6ft 6ins as per the tenancy agreements.

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

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) The Clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted Tyneside Tarmac Constructions about the various works needed in the Village. The Chairman met with representatives and the work was carried out promptly to everyone's satisfaction. Members therefore agreed to release the payment to cover the works.
- b) The Clerk had issued a report by Town & Country Tree Surgeons about the Ash Tree at the rear of Church View to all members. Following the remedial works undertaken by T&CTS members agreed with their suggestion to leave the tree for the time being but to monitor the situation.
- c) The Clerk was asked to contact the NCC Tree Officer for feedback about the trees on the A697.
- d) Members noted that NCC had begun the works to install a pedestrian crossing at Wilding Place.
- e) Flooding Issues – the Clerk had contacted an officer at NCC but received no response. Cllr Ford therefore raised this issue at the recent NCC Joint Parish and Town Council Conference and relayed contact information back to the Clerk. The Clerk has asked Martin King at NCC to meet with members to discuss the problem areas – she is awaiting his response.
- f) The Chairman and Cllr Pringle inspected the Haining area to see if they could identify why the area was flooding. They identified that the “throat” into the top of the Haining needs to be opened-up and Cllr Pringle was asked to contact J Chisholm to look at what needs to be done.
- g) Cllr Ford reported that the track/road beside the football pitch is getting churned-up by cars parking there. It was agreed that as the season is now finished, to monitor the area as it may recover naturally. The Clerk was also asked to contact the Chairman of the football team to let him know of the problems being caused by cars.
- h) Cllr Pringle reported that the ford on the Smallburn Road has been blocked by 3 large logs and the Clerk was asked to inform NCC.
- i) Cllr Pringle also reported that there were several large potholes along the Smallburn Road which require attention.
- j) The Clerk was asked to inform NCC about the re-siting of the litter bin which was outside Church View and is now in Whitegates, next to the post box.
- k) Cllr Ford informed the meeting that Tim Fish had installed a new step and some hardcore on the path between the Church View bus stop and Old Church Wood.
- l) Archies Pond – Cllr Ford and an officer of CAN had visited the area to establish if the project was something that the Wingates Windfarm Fund would be interested in funding. The Fund is keen to progress projects which include environmental works. The project would include new information boards, decking, pathways, bat and bird boxes, seating and edging works.
3 quotes would be required and she suggested Groundworks, W Straughan and Guthrie's of Durham. Tim Fish would be happy to meet with those companies to discuss the

specification. Quotes would then be sent to the Clerk for assessment. It was suggested that the winning company could also sort out the footpath camber problem at Old Church Wood.

- m) Members raised the issue of the Lamb-Man signage being erected on the Moor to advertise his business. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Bell to remind him that no signage is allowed in that area.
- n) Members thanked the Clerk for the work she had undertaken to secure funding for the MUGA and for the work undertaken in LPC being runner-up in the NALC Council of the Year Awards.

8.8 LPC Website – nothing to add at this time.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – The Clerk to write articles covering: thanking volunteers at the Tree Care Events, especially Tim Fish, NALC Council of the Year Awards and MUGA completion. The Clerk was also to remind users that no wheeled items were allowed into the area i.e. bikes etc.

8.10 Donation Requests – None received.

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 nothing to report at this time.
- d) Kirkups Corner – ongoing and nothing to report at this time.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – Cllrs Boyle and Ford agreed to meet at the Whitegates site to discuss any further amendments to the site appraisal.

9.3 Village Green Issues – ongoing and nothing to report at this time.

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Gov.UK email address – the domain request for the “.gov.uk” address has now been approved and accepted. The Clerk will now work towards establishing new emails for all members.

10.2 CCTV – ongoing, nothing to report at this time.

10.3 Longhorsley Village Day – members were informed that an extraordinary general meeting has been called to discuss the call for new volunteers to organise the event. Should no-one come forward, it is likely that the committee would be wound-up. Members agreed to accept any assets should this be the case.

10.4 Northumberland Local Plan: Consultation on Scoping Documents– Members received and noted the documents for Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations

10.5 NCC – Review of Definitive Map and Public Rights of Way – Members fully supported this application and the Clerk was asked to inform NCC.

11. Other Items for Information.

11.1 Members Duties – The Clerk was asked to circulate the list to Cllr Boyle with the additions of Allotment and MUGA representative added.

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

12.1 Adamson Park – members approved the replacement of the damaged fence posts and the replacement trees.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.