

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 11.09.19 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

Present Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)
K Foreman
T Lowrie
V Pagan
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

W Gunn

PC Teasdale

4 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs P Boyle and P Ford, County Cllr G Sanderson.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th July, 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 9th October and 13th November, 2019.

5. **County Matters**

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

- The County's Climate Change Action Plan is continuing. It is hoped that a public meeting will be held in October to discuss the draft Action Plan, with the finalised version going to Council in January.
- The new school next to County Hall is up and running and work will begin on the old Goosehill site next week in preparation for the construction of a new car park, which will hopefully be completed next year.
- The works to introduce a new car park at the Station will begin this month.
- Weeds have been a problem given the wet and windy weather this year – a further spray will be undertaken if needed.

6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**

- There has been an increase in poaching in the local area, with a couple being arrested in Stannington, who appeared to be on drugs and were very aggressive. A container in Hebron had also been broken into and the public were warned to be aware of anyone acting suspiciously.

- There have been several reports received of scrap-metal men being out and about in the area, who are taking items off drives and leaving items not wanted as fly-tipping.
- A car had its tyres slashed in Drummonds Close.
- Parking issues continue to be reported in the Drummonds Close area. The Police have approached Karbon homes to ask if drive ways could be made to solve the problem – unfortunately, at present, funding is unavailable to create drives next to properties.
- Members informed PC Teasdale of a received report of cars parking on pavements/footpaths beside the post box, opposite the shop, causing residents to walk on the busy road to get access.

7. Finance

- 7.1 Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 11th September, 2019, totalling £7,645.46.
- 7.2 Conclusion of External Audit 2018/19** – Members received and endorsed the Conclusion of Audit documents received from PKF Littlejohn LLP, noting that there were no issues arising during the audit review.
- 7.3 Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of August, together with the account transactions for the year to date, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation.
- 7.4 Budget 2020/21** – Members noted the Clerk’s request that any new projects should be brought to the next meeting in order for them to be considered during the budget process.

8. Routine Items for Review

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

- 19/01668/FUL Conversion of existing hemmel into a single residential unit at Hemmel South of Fieldhead – NCC REFUSED permission.
- 19/01225/FUL Extension to residential property at Wishaw, West Road – NCC GRANTED permission following modifications.
- 19/01086/FUL (Retrospective) Siting of a prefabricated office and store at Land North West of Heatherlaw West End Garage – NCC GRANTED permission.

b) Review of Planning Applications: -

- 19/02684/FUL Internal alterations and single-story extension at South Birks – Members had no objections to this application.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- A meeting of the Moor Working Group had taken place on 8th August.
- It had been agreed that brash is to be removed from the heather and piled-up in readiness for burning.
- Logs have been taken to the side of the track and the Clerk was asked to put this into the next issue of the Tree.

- iv. Grazing – the local farmer has been inspected and passed for cattle grazing on the fields.
- v. Increased grazing was considered – however, due to the shortage of an adequate water supply in the area, this would not be likely happen.
- vi. Cllr Pringle has been contacted by the local NFU to inform him that DEFRA is wanting to stop all burning of heather on peat moors.
- vii. The spraying of bracken and piri-piri was discussed – unfortunately it is now too late in the season to carry out this work.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood)

Cllr Ford provided a written report which highlighted the following:

- i. The trees are growing well and appear to have appreciated the regular rainfall during the summer.
- ii. The next scheduled mowing of the rows between the trees and the perimeter paths will take place this month.
- iii. Two Tree Care events are planned for next month on Sunday 6th and 13th October between 10am and 12 noon, where each block of trees will be checked to ensure large tree guards are in place, they are upright and not too heavily weed infested. Any failures will be noted for replanting.
- iv. She applied to the Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund for money to purchase 8 wooden marker posts for the 1km trail around the edge of the wood. She was pleased to announce that this application has been granted in full.
- v. A project to renovate the footpath adjacent to Old Church Wood, from the bus stop, was discussed. Cllr Pringle agreed to speak to Northumbria Fencing.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. The Clerk informed the meeting that she and Cllrs Boyle and Pringle, had inspected the MUGA and had forwarded a snagging list onto the contractor. The installation team manager together with a contractor representative are coming to the site on Wednesday 18th September to look at the problems which had been highlighted. Due to the Clerk being on Annual Leave, Cllr Boyle has agreed to meet the team on 18th September. Members agreed to the proposal to pay £40,566.48 on account, withholding £8,113 until the problems are sorted.
- ii. Mr Gunn informed the meeting that the bark chippings were currently out of stock but will be put into Adamson Park when received.

8.5 Allotments

Mr Woods notified the meeting that he had received a request from a tenant to erect a greenhouse on site. Members were minded to approve this request subject to the Clerk verifying that this was in line with the tenancy rules and regulations.

8.6 Plants & Flowers

Mr Woods informed members that the new flower planters were all in situ and many compliments had been received during the summer period. He informed the meeting that many of the flowers were now past their best and requested that a further amount be added to the flower budget for 2020/21 in order for him to replant the tubs as and when required. Members unanimously agreed to increase the budget to £200.

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Mr Gunn informed the meeting that he had cleared several large pieces of wood off the highway and had removed several branches from a tree just south of the renovated

bungalow on the A697. It is believed that a large lorry or hay wagon had clipped the tree causing the branches to break-off. Cllr Pagan agreed to look at the location of the tree and to let the Clerk know in order to determine who has the responsibility for the tree – the property owner/LPC or NCC.

- b) Mr Gunn informed the meeting that the new stickers from the children's art work project have now been placed on all litter bins in the Village. The "please close the gate" signage has also been installed on the gate at the Old Church entrance.
- c) Mr Gunn reported that there was a damaged sign on the A697 on the site of the MacMillan Daffodil plot. Members agreed to look at the sign and to replace it if necessary.
- d) The email from a local resident reporting parking issues on pathways had been discussed earlier in the meeting when PC Teasdale was present.
- e) Members considered the emails reporting flooding issues during the recent spell of bad weather.
 - Cllr Pringle had inspected the ditch on the southern most boundary at Harelaw. Members agreed that as this ditch was on Moor land Cllr Pringle should speak to K Monaghan to ask if he could undertake any cleaning-out/preventative works.
 - The Clerk was asked to contact NCC Flood Prevention section in order to arrange for gullies to be cleared adjacent to Archies Pond and along the West Road.
 - Some children have left some logs in the Haining and the Clerk was requested to ask Mr Gunn to have them removed.
- f) Various repairs were requested to potholes and minor footpath works. The Clerk was asked to contact Tyneside Tarmac Construction to see if they would be willing to come and inspect the jobs and provide a quote for the works.
- g) A report had been received of a protruding manhole cover at Coronation Terrace which was thought to belong to NWA. The Clerk was asked to report the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.15 pm to allow parishioners to speak.

- i. A resident requested that the seat located between Church View/Whitegates bus stop (West side) needs to be cleaned.

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

8.8 LPC Website – the Clerk informed the meeting that all of the necessary Conclusion of Audit of Accounts documents were now on the website.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – The Clerk to write articles covering the Tree Care Events, wood available on the Moor and new stickers on litter bins.

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) Stephenson's Garage – NCC approved the siting of the office on privately owned village green as to refuse would be detrimental to the existing business. The Chairman was assured that this would not set a precedent for any future requests. This issue can now be deleted from future Agendas
- e) Kirkups Corner – ongoing and nothing to report at this time.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – ongoing and nothing to report at this time.

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 official order form has now been signed-off.

10.2 Review of Community Awards Process – Members thought that the event had been well received. The only alteration necessary was the wording on the form: change from *Nomination* form to **Voting** form.

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

10.4 LTP – members considered projects for 2020/21 and agreed to the following:

- i) Improvements to the pedestrian crossing/refuge area on A697 at Whitegates as the refuge area is too small thus causing pedestrians using the refuge area to feel very threatened during times of busy traffic on the A697.
- ii) To reiterate the need for passing points/pull in areas along the Smallburn Road.

10.5 Gifts and Hospitality Policy and Form – members considered and approved the proposed documents.

10.6 6th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference – it was agreed that Cllr Ford attend this event.

10.7 NCC polling District Review – members considered the documents but had no comments to make at this time.

10.8 Environment Agency & Water Licensing – members considered correspondence received but had no comments to make at this time.

11. Other Items for Information.

11.1 Members were notified of the NCC Local Plan Examination Hearings.

11.2 Members were informed that the Clerk had the latest Northumberland & Newcastle Society booklet.

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

No business was raised.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.