

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 17.07.19 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

Present Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)
P Boyle
P Ford
K Foreman
V Pagan (Left at 9.30 pm)
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

W Gunn (Left at 8.05 pm)

2 Parishioners (Left at 8.20 pm)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr T Lowrie, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Boyle to his first meeting of Council following the co-option process.

2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th June, 2019 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and duly signed.

In addition, the Clerk highlighted that a change to the May minutes was necessary in order to correct a name on a planning application on p3 – change from “Greencroft” to “Wishaw”. The Chairman initialled the change and the website will be updated.

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 11th September and 9th October, 2019.

5. **County Matters**

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

- He has shown Cllr Elliott proposed drawings for traffic calming at the north of the village. Having carried out a number of trials recently, experts now believe that the plans will be more effective than extending the 30-mph zone but they will revisit the original idea if it is felt that the proposed approach is not working. Both he and Cllr Elliott agree that we should get on with the scheme and see how it works in practice.
- In June, NCC agreed to declare a climate change emergency. NCC has committed to reduce the Councils carbon footprint by 50% by 2025 and to work with Government to achieve carbon neutrality for the County as a whole by 2030. In addition, a multi organisation steering group has been set up which will bring forward an Action Plan for the next 3 years and Cllr Sanderson will be chairing this group.
- The work for the proposed pedestrian crossing is ongoing.
- The introduction of a pilot kerbside glass recycling trial is going ahead and if it is successful it will be rolled out across the County next year.

- Work is continuing on the refurbishment of County Hall and the new school on the adjacent site will be opening in September.
- The Parks improvement programme is proceeding well with a new bird hide being completed at Bolam Lake as well as other improvements to the site. A new play area at Plessey has also been created and the café at Druridge Bay will be refurbished over the winter period.
- Works creating the new car park at Morpeth Station will begin in October with the hope that this will be open to meet the new train services starting in mid-December. Other sites to provide additional spaces are also being sought for the town.
- The Love Northumberland awards process is now open.
- The Chairman has spoken to Cllr Sanderson about organising a village trip to see the Suez recycling plant in action.

6. Update from PC Andrea Teasdale

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

- The Community Speedwatch Volunteers have been in the area carrying out checks to address speeding issues.
- A trailer was reported stolen from Fairmoor which has not been recovered. A horsebox which was stolen from Widdrington was located in Ashington the same night with false plates. Members of the public are reminded to make secure any vehicles that are not being used by means of a locking device, or by taking a wheel off or by blocking them in.
- Several complaints have been received concerning scam phone calls which are being made purporting to be from HMRC or the Police. One man gave out his bank details and has lost £5,000. Members of the public are reminded not to give out any bank details and not to engage in a conversation and to hang up immediately.

7. Finance

7.1 Authorisation of Payments – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 17th July, 2019, totalling £5,178.43.

7.2 Budget Monitoring to 30th June – Members received and agreed the Accounts and Transactions file, including petty cash and bank reconciliation documents.

7.3 Electricity Contract Renewal – The Clerk had received correspondence from the independent broker as to electricity contracts for the MUGA and Village Green. As the consumption for both meters are so small it was recommended that the best option was to remain with British Gas as the council's provider for the next 3 years. Members unanimously agreed this recommendation.

8. Routine Items for Review

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

- 19/01453/ADE Advertisement for 1 hoarding sign – NCC REFUSED permission.

b) Review of Planning Applications: -

- 19/01453/ADE - Advertisement for 1 hoarding sign at West Moor Farm – LPC objects to this application on the basis that the sign is very large and incompatible with the rural location.
- 19/01668/FUL – Conversion of existing hemmel to single residential unit at Hemmel south of Fieldhead – Providing the building is re-constructed in accordance with the plans submitted, LPC has no objections to this application,

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

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

- Cllr Ford met with Janet from the RSPB on the 2nd of July for a walk round. The RSPB supplied the handbook on lowland heath management in order to get her opinion on our efforts and see if she had any suggestions. She thought we were doing well within the limitations of our resources. Cllr Ford was reassured that the RSPB only manages to keep its heathland by the use of permanent employed staff and volunteers working full time on the heaths!
- She did suggest we need more grazing, which perhaps could be focused in certain areas. However, a water supply could be a problem to cater for increased cattle – the cost of installing a water supply would need to be investigated.
- The brash needs to be pulled away from the heather into heaps for bugs or burning.
- Heather cutting maybe another option and she is going to find some information on how and when for us.
- There are hundreds of logs along the trackside for collection – this could be mentioned in the next edition of the Tree. The Clerk asked for advice as to whether people from outside of the Village could purchase logs – “yes” as long as a donation is made.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara’s Wood)

Cllr Ford provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- The paths were mown again last week; the regular mowing and usage is making a definite difference and the paths now look much more useable and inviting.
- A revised quote from Playdale for 5 items plus surface preparation has been received totalling £6,436.48 plus an additional £1,190.00.
- Cllr Ford met with Peter and Alison Fisher (woodland Trust advisor and botanist) last week to do a proper botanic survey of the field. What looked to her like grass, nettles and brambles turned into pages of names of different plants and it was really interesting to see the variety. The results will be written up as a spreadsheet and the exercise will be repeated annually.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- Mr Gunn has sprayed the weeds in Church View but the soft-pour surface is beginning to lift in places.
- Bark chippings have been ordered for Adamson Park and should be delivered next week.
- The bench opposite the shop, outside of the Forge is rotting and needs to be removed – Mr Gunn is to find out who owns the seat (names should be on the plaque).
- Mr Gunn has inspected all benches in the village – some have already been repaired/cleaned and he has cleaned the remainder.
- MUGA – the Clerk informed the meeting that the contractors had been on site putting in the line markings during the week. The installation team are coming back week commencing 29th July to re-roll the surfacing once the ground has settled. The Clerk was asked to issue a breaking news item to inform local residents of the situation.

- vi. The equipment (tennis nets etc) will be stored in the shed next to the MUGA. An entry system needs to be set up so that users can access the equipment. Cllr Boyle agreed to investigate key-pad and manual entry systems.
- vii. A list of regular users is to be compiled together with a list of equipment available which will be put onto the noticeboard.
- viii. The issue of the quality of the football goals was raised by a parishioner in attendance – football nets, similar to those previously used will be purchased.
- ix. The ROSPA inspection reports were considered and it was noted that the council should start preparing to replace the wooden equipment in Adamson Park and Church View.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.05 pm to allow parishioners to speak.

- i. Mr Chicken requested permission to hold a Longhorsley Festival, open air concert, on the afternoon of 17th August on the Village Green. Members had no objections to this proposal but suggested that he ensure that adequate insurance was in place and to contact NCC to check what licences/other arrangements etc. were needed.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.25 pm

8.5 Allotments – Cllr Ford and K Woods, the allotment officer, carried out a routine inspection of the allotments site in June. Various issues had been raised and Mr Woods had informed tenants of those issues. To date, most of the improvements had been made. Members considered the question of dogs being allowed onto the allotment site. All agreed that dogs should be allowed onto the site must that they must be kept on a leash at all times and not to cause a nuisance to other tenants.

The Clerk was asked to issue a letter to all tenants reiterating the rule about dogs on site and to also remind tenants that it is their responsibility to keep adjoining pathways clear of weeds.

Members agreed that Cllr Boyle be the Council representative with responsibility for allotment issues.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – nothing to report.

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Cllr Pringle informed the meeting that works were currently being undertaken at Archies Pond. However, the second pond, higher up, is also in need of some attention.
- b) Village Hall Door – The Chairman informed the meeting that the Committee had requested that the Fire Officer inspect the premises in order to ensure that it was properly managed in relation to fire issues. The outside door, which opens inwards, was inspected and found to be OK given the use of the facility. Drainage on the ramp was necessary to prevent water damaging the door
- c) Members noted that the proposed waterworks project in the village is still pending and were reassured by correspondence received that a full consultation will take place, probably in the Village Hall, prior to works commencing.
- d) Members extended they're thanks to Roger Stephenson and Kevin Woods for the work undertaken painting the stones etc on the Village Green.

- e) Members received a quote from Excel for the preparation of parking signs for the Village Shop layby. Once the signs are in situ it was agreed that the practice of issuing notice to parked vehicles be withdrawn. The shopkeeper should only issue notices to those vehicles which have been parked-up for most of the day.
- f) Cllr Pagan agreed to look at the pothole situation on the East Road and to report back to council.
- g) Adamson Park Sycamore Tree – there have been some negative comments made about the felling of the tree, however, most residents were aware of the substantial disease to the tree. The question was raised as to what to do with the remaining stump. The Clerk was asked to put this issue into the next edition of the Tree including a picture of the decay.
- h) The planting of replacement mature broadleaf trees in Adamson Park will take place in November.
- i) Thanks, were extended to those residents who assisted with the tidying-up of the area following the tree works.

8.8 LPC Website – nothing to report.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – The Clerk to write articles covering the Sycamore tree, wood available on the Moor.

8.10 Donation Requests – None received.

9. Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) Reivers Gate/Wilding Place – another set of questions regarding the play area has been received, but the issue is heading towards a conclusion.
- b) South Road Development – ongoing and nothing to report.
- c) East Road Development – ongoing. The Chairman has completed a standard questionnaire and the developers are looking into historic Village Green Rights.
- d) Stephenson’s Garage - ongoing.
- e) Kirkups Corner – ongoing.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – nothing to report.

9.3 Village Green Issues – ongoing.

9.4 Welcome Letters – one issued this month. The Clerk has issued a letter to 13 Church View.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Gov.UK email address – ongoing, nothing to report.

10.2 Review of Community Awards Process – deferred to September meeting. The Clerk has had the shield engraved and it is now in the Village Hall.

10.3 CCTV – ongoing, nothing to report.

10.4 Old Churchyard Junction – members noted the response received from NCC. Members also looked at the plans as supplied by NCC for the junction at Reivers Gate. It was noted that it was impossible to provide a “refuge” at the site. However, it was thought that the best plan was to install “SLOW” markings at both the North and South of the village and also to introduce

“count-down” markers at the North. Members unanimously agreed to go with this plan and revisit/review once installed. The Clerk was asked to confirm our acceptance with NCC.

11. Other Items for Information.

11.1 Cllr Ford had attended a celebration assembly at St Helen’s First school to give out tokens to the 3 winners of the “dog-poo” poster campaign.

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

- Members had been issued with correspondence from NCC containing feedback of LTP requests for 2019/20. Members were asked to consider any further requests for the 2020/21 LTP which will be considered at our September Council meeting.
- The meeting was informed about the open-topped litter bin situated along the cut running from the Church View play area southwards to Whitegates. Members decided that it would be appropriate to swap this bin for the spare closed-top bin. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Mr Gunn and Cllr Boyle to agree the location.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.