

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 08.07.20 – held virtually via ZOOM – 7.00pm

Present

Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)

P Boyle

P Ford

K Foreman

T Lowrie

V Pagan

Clerk G Turner

G Kennedy (Internal Auditor)

3 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr D Pringle, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10th June, 2020 (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 12th August and 9th September, 2020.
5. **County Matters** – County Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance on the evening.
6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale** - PC Teasdale was not in attendance on the evening.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 8th July, 2020, totalling £2,598.86.
 - 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of June, together with the account transactions for the year to date, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation.
 - 7.3 **Internal Audit 2019/20** – The Internal Auditor, G Kenney, was in attendance to present his audit report and signed-off page 3 of the AGAR 2019/20.
 - 7.4 **Final Accounts 2019/20** – Members received and approved the AGAR and supporting documents including the Explanation of Variances, Bank Reconciliation and Notice of Public Rights.

Mr Kennedy left at this point of the meeting.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:- none received.

b) Review of Planning Applications:

20/01626/TREECA – Works to trees in the Conservation area at Dawn Cottage – members had no objections.

20/01659/FUL – Removal of double pitch roof and construction of first floor front extension with Juliette balcony at Callaly Cottage – members had no objections to this application.

20/01685/ADE – Installation of a freestanding pole mounted directional sign at land south east of Forget-Me-Not Holiday Park / north of West Moor Farm – members OBJECTED to this application as the signage was considered to be inappropriate for this rural location.

20/01490/VARYCO – Eastgate and Westgate alterations – members were asked to review this amended application and the revised plans which have been submitted following objections from LPC et al.

c) Aerial Masts at Wilding Place -the Clerk had sent an email to the planning officer following the June meeting – to date no reply has been received. She was asked to chase up this issue on a regular basis.

d) Wilding Place Field Access – the Chairman informed the meeting that additional documents had recently been added to the planning portal.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Members received the Minutes of the Committee which was held on 17th June, 2020.

Cllrs Pringle and Ford had met with J Foggon to discuss clearing the problem birch at the site. A quote was received for £200 per 8hr day, with 4 days' work being envisaged as a start and the situation to then be reassessed.

They also had met with several Tree Surgeons to obtain quotes for the removal of the heaps on the Moor. Most had suggested using a mulcher – this would need to be done with care as the heaps were proving to be a good bird and small animal habitat.

She has spoken to a representative from the Northumbrian Rivers Trust regarding a water supply on the Moor. A suggestion was made to use water from the burn to create a pond.

Cllr Boyle raised the issue of a resident being chased by cattle on the Moor. There is a right allowing the grazing of cattle – it was agreed to obtain signage to advise walkers to be careful and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Ford as to the wording required.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood) Cllr Ford provided a written report which highlighted the following:

- i. A representative from Northumbria Rivers Trust has been looking at the condition of streams and rivers in the local area. As LPC does not own the strip at the Old Church going down to the stream he suggested that the Trust could help with the following actions:

- To plant some 600 trees near to the graveyard.
- To assist with the planting of the boundary hedge by providing additional plants
- To create a new wetland area in the corner of the woodland.
- The Trust would also be able to help with works at Archies Pond

Members unanimously agreed to accept the Trust's offer of assistance.

- ii. The WI will be holding their summer outing in the wood on 6th August and will choose 25 trees to dedicate.
- iii. The grass pathways will be mown soon.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. The Clerk has met with representatives from Creative Play and Kompan to discuss the equipment for Adamson Park and Wilding Place. She has also submitted a funding application to Wingates Community Fund.
- ii. Members considered the maintenance report provided by Mr Paterson.
- iii. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Annual ROSPA inspection had taken place and the reports are similar to last year.
- iv. COVID19 and re-opening of play areas – new signage in keeping with government guidelines has been introduced together with signage at the MUGA for “no bikes”. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the noticeboard at the MUGA to be refurbished.
- v. A key register is currently being compiled to ensure that everyone know who and where certain keys can be found.
- vi. Cllr Boyle has looked at the CCTV system to familiarise himself with the workings. He looked at the system to try and identify recent dog-fouling perpetrators but couldn't see anything useful/usable.

8.5 Allotments – The Clerk reported that K Woods had collected the annual rents for last year.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – nothing to report.

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Mr Coulson has visited the Village and met the Chairman on site, to look at areas requiring pothole repairs. As the quote is some £10.k it was agreed to defer until funding can be sourced. The Clerk was asked to remind Cllr Sanderson to see if he could assist with funding or ask NCC to do the work.
- b) Car Parking on the Common – it was agreed to hold a site visit on 15th July at 6pm. The Clerk was asked to invite Mr Archibald to attend.
- c) The Clerk read out an email received from the Chairman of the Football team in response to our email regarding the site and TLC required. The Clerk was asked to inform him that funding may be available from the Wingates Community Fund to help buy a storage container.
- d) Fly tipping at the layby on the East side of the A697 north of the Village has been cleared.
- e) Grass Cutting Issues at Wilding Place – The Chairman gave the background to the Development for those members of the public present. It is a complicated issue as there are 4 separate legal owners of the communal areas:
 - NCC responsible for the adopted areas and verges
 - Castle and Coast Housing re Davison's Court area
 - LPC for the play area site and a strip of land
 - A private owner (Dowson) for the land containing the field access

The Clerk has written to NCC in order to find out exactly what land is on their plans for grass cutting and will contact Castle and Coast Housing for their plans too.

In the meantime, members agreed that A. Allen of Davison's Court could temporarily continue to cut the grass at £10 per cut until such a time as this issue is resolved.

8.8 LPC Website – nothing to report.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – there is no edition in August.

8.10 Donation Requests – none received.

9 Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) South Road Development – nothing to report.
- b) East Road Development – nothing to report.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – nothing to report at this time.

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

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.

10 Other Agenda Items:

10.1 Members received the consultation document “Model Member Code of Conduct” and agreed that no response was necessary.

10.2 The Clerk informed the meeting that our current email hosting provider, Pulsant, would be ending this service at the end of October. The Clerk will bring a report of alternative providers to the August meeting.

10.3 The Clerk had received correspondence from Azure Print and Design stating that it will cease trading at the end of June. The Tree is currently being printed by Millfield Media at a slightly higher cost. However, the paper quality is better and coloured copies are cheaper. It has been suggested that the current Azure printers might form their own company and keep current clients. The Tree board are looking into all options and will bring a summary to the September meeting.

11 Other Items for Information – none.

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

12.1 A couple of advertising signs had been put up at the bus stop and by the traffic lights – both should be removed. The Clerk was asked to formulate a policy for signage in the Village and bring to the next meeting for consideration.

12.2 The A1 dualling consent order is being considered.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.