

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 08.01.20 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

Present

Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)

P Boyle

P Ford

K Foreman

T Lowrie

D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

County Councillor G Sanderson (left at 7.20 pm)

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr V Pagan, and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December, 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 12th February and 11th March, 2020.
5. **County Matters – Update by County Councillor Sanderson:**
 - Some 100 electric charging points are to be installed in Northumberland.
 - It seems likely that the Northumberland/Tyne line (Ashington to Blyth to Newcastle) will be brought back into use.
 - Every household in Northumberland is to be offered a small sapling for planting.
 - £3.3m is being put into the Capital Budget to provide alternative means of power.
 - NCC Budget will also include funding to revamp Druridge Bay Country Park and Bolam Park café.
 - The improvements required at the entrance/junction of the Old Churchyard, off the A697, are to be included within the draft LTP for consideration.
 - The Clerk raised the issue of the Parish Councils request to NCC to provide a list of trees in the Parish which have a TPO attached. To date NCC has said that they cannot provide a list or map of those trees. She agreed to email Cllr Sanderson with this request and he agreed to take this further on our behalf.
 - The Clerk also informed him that quotes are now being sought to install a CCTV system at the MUGA and asked if funding, through members small schemes, was still available.
 - Cllr Lowrie asked Cllr Sanderson to raise the issue of installing better crossing points, for both cyclists and pedestrians, when improvement works on the A1 commence.

Cllr Sanderson left the meeting at this point – 7.20 pm

6. Update from PC Andrea Teasdale

In her absence, the Clerk read out an email supplied:

- Over the past month the main issue appears to be poaching in the area with reports of vehicles in fields and gates being left open allowing livestock to stray. Some vehicles have been uplifted from suspects who are known to be involved in the offences. The public are asked to report all incidents of poaching and any registration numbers of suspicious vehicles via the "101" phone line so that all incidents are logged correctly.

7. Finance

7.1 Authorisation of Payments – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 8th January, 2020, totalling £1,369.06.

7.2 Budget Monitoring – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of December, together with the account transactions for the year to date, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation.

7.3 Budget 2020/21 – Members considered the 2020/21 budget papers. It was unanimously agreed to set an expenditure budget of £40,125 and a precept of £21,760. This represents a 3.0% increase in precept over the previous year.

7.4 Two quotes received from Northumbria Fencing for works on the Moor (£1,125) and at Adamson Park (£385) were approved.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:-

19/04471/PRUTPO. Re works to Ash Tree at 8 Church View - PERMITTED

b) Review of Planning Applications: - None during the month.

c) The Clerk was asked to follow up the complaint made to NCC regarding the installation of radio masts at Wilding Place.

d) A complaint has been received about a driveway being constructed across Village Green land at Normandy Terrace. The Clerk was asked to contact Stephen Rickitt at NALC to enquire as to what can/should we do and to find out what the position is with current interpretation of the law concerning Village Greens. She was also asked to relay this issue onto Helen Lancaster at NCC to show the problems we are experiencing as evidence of why a Scheme of Management is necessary.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. Northumbria Fencing will consult with Mr Bell before any fences are removed for repair works in order not to mix any of his sheep with ours.
- ii. It was also agreed that Northumbria Fencing be asked to repair the Moor Trail signage etc.

- iii. Only large logs are now remaining on the trackside, the Christmas offer of free logs to residents was successful. Cllr Elliott will speak to the contractor to remove the large logs.
- iv. J Chisholm has been asked to remove brash but the recent bad weather has hindered the removal.
- v. He and Cllr Ford have reviewed old files and documents and the original agreement is mostly being adhered to given that time has moved on over the last 20 years or so.
- vi. The current grant funding agreement comes to an end in 2020 and the Clerk was asked to keep a watching brief for any renewal notices.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood)

Cllr Ford provided a written report which highlighted the following:

- The paths are clear but very muddy in places.
- The local school received 30 trees to plant – 10 birch, rowan and cherry. 2 cherry trees have been planted near each of the 3 benches around the perimeter path and 4 near the picnic tables, with the birch and rowan trees being planted to fill in the gaps of the trees near the Old Church.
- A donation of £60 had been received from Mr and Mrs Douglas for 4 dedicated trees.
- Cllr Ford has reviewed the formal agreement documenting terms and conditions for the maintenance of the Wood. The last 200 trees are required in 2020 but she suggested that some 420 hedgerow plants, sourced from the Woodland Trust, be planted instead. This was unanimously agreed.
- Mr Fish has made several cuttings/tracks into the bramble bushes to improve the habitat for butterflies.
- All present agreed that the Information leaflet prepared by Cllr Ford was a good idea and that it should be distributed with the Tree. Mr Etchells was asked to get a quote from Azure for 1,000 coloured leaflets.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. Adamson Park – the Clerk has completed an application form for £25k from the Pocket Parks fund. She had contacted a Trustee of Adamson park for permission to apply. It was agreed that the Clerk draw up a formal scheme of management for the area and bring it to the next meeting for approval. Once approved, a meeting will be arranged between Council and the Trustees.

8.5 Allotments – the Clerk was asked to verify if a vacant plot has come about as it was thought that a tenant had left the site.

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

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Members considered a request to move the speed camera down towards Church View/Whitegates region. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Sanderson to ascertain what the status/plans for the camera are.
- b) Members noted that the hairdressers at Albion House is closing.
- c) A report of problems with the surface at the Lonnen had been received together with overgrown trees. NCC will look at cutting back their portion of the Lonnen with the Village Walking Group willing to look at the remainder. It was agreed to put this item onto the project wish-list for future consideration.
- d) Cllrs Elliott and Boyle had undertaken a review of various areas including:

- Top of the Haining which needs to be widened to take water away from the pathway area faster. It was agreed that Cllr Pringle would speak to J Chisholm about this work.
- MUGA North West Gate – it was suggested that a kerb be installed under the gates to prevent water ingress from the Haining footpath. It was agreed to contact Tyneside Tarmac for a quotation.
- MUGA South East Corner – there is a problem with water not being able to escape and one solution would be to install a drain at the corner – it was agreed to contact K Monaghan for advice.
- Path from Drummonds Close to A697 – the path gets waterlogged and muddy and is in need of a full re-construction. The Clerk was asked to chase up a request to Straughan’s to come and give a quote.
- Land to the North of Albion House – the track is in very poor condition and in need of repair. It was agreed to ask Tyneside Tarmac for a quote.
- The Clerk was asked to contact NCC to ascertain where and how many grit bins they service in the Parish.
- The Clerk was also asked to look at various options for dog-bag dispensers as the current one in operation does not issue single bags as they come out in “clumps”.
- The Clerk was asked to order 3 dog-poo signs and associated posts to be erected at the common,

8.8 LPC Website – members were issued with the latest set portal analytics for information.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – the Clerk was asked to write articles covering the change of email addresses, and the problem of dog fouling on the Common, with Cllr Ford writing an article re Old Church Wood to include planting a new hedgerow along the southern boundary, volunteers to assist with planting, tracks into brambles and school planting trees.

8.10 Donation Requests – none received.

9. Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) Reivers Gate/Wilding Place – the legal documents covering the transfer of land to the Council have been received. Members duly approved their signing and asked that the dowry of £15,000 be clarified together with the date on the documents 2019 should now be 2020. The Clerk informed members that any documents need to have the date filled in full i.e. 01/01/2020 not 01/01/20 as extra digits could be added to “20” thus changing the year.
- 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 – 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 – all members have now confirmed that the new email addresses are now working i.e. are receiving and sending emails. The Clerk will now cancel STRATO and ask Pulsant to ensure that usernames are in full and forward to personal emails if so wished,
- 10.2 CCTV – the Clerk confirmed that the specifications had been sent to the 4 tenderers, with only one returned. Cllr Elliott agreed to go through the documents to ensure that it meets the specification and subject to that being agreed, members accepted the tender from Atom - £3,400.

11. Other Items for Information.

None.

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

None.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm.