

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 11.12.19 – The Church Room – 7.00pm

Present

Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)

P Boyle

P Ford

K Foreman

D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

S Rickett (Chief Officer NALC) left at 7.15 pm

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs T Lowrie and V Pagan, County Councillor Sanderson and PC Teasdale.

2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November, 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 8th January and 12th February, 2020.

5. **NALC Awards Presentation**

Stephen Rickett, the Chief Officer of NALC, presented a certificate to the Chairman in recognition of the Council being a Joint Runner-Up in the 2019 Star Council Awards. The Council was praised for innovation in Fund Raising by being a pilot for the sector using Crowdfunding as a means to secure funding for the MUGA refurbishment.

6. **County Matters** – The Clerk read out an email supplied by County Councillor Sanderson:

- He has asked about a later bus service to Rothbury as mentioned at the last meeting.
- The 30-mph extension which was eventually agreed to after some discussion last month is now in the system and work is expected to start in the Spring - the legal Traffic Regulation Order which is required does take quite a bit of time.
- He presented the Climate Change Action Plan to NCC Cabinet meeting yesterday and it was approved. This was first declared as an emergency back in June and promised to produce this plan by Christmas. Lots of work and expertise has gone into this and it has been pledged to halve the County Council carbon emissions by 2025.
- Included in the list of actions will be work around building regulations, increasing the amount of electric vehicle charging points around the County, and looking at encouraging more use of public transport, and more cycling and walking routes.
- NCC will also roll out a plan between now and 2025, to offer every household in the County a free sapling tree which will help in the tree planting programme.

- Work will continue to be done with partner organisations which will look in more depth at areas like Transport - replacing some of NCC diesel vans with electric ones and so on.
- NCC will also establish a Climate Change Commission which will involve academic expertise to advise on some of the very complex areas of work.
- Finally, NCC is struggling to keep up with pothole repairs - the excessive rain and now frosts are causing real problems but not just in Northumberland. Clearly, NCC will have to find more money!!
- The Chairman informed the meeting that he had visited the NCC recycling plant and had found the experience very interesting.

7. Update from PC Andrea Teasdale

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

- Reports of poachers in the Haredene area and further afield have been received.
- Scrap-men are an issue at the moment as they are stealing anything and everything from Widdrington and Hadston areas. The public are asked to take note of any suspicious registration numbers.

8. Finance

8.1 Authorisation of Payments – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 11th December, 2019, totalling £2,404.45.

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

8.3 Budget 2020/21 – Members noted and received the third version of the budget statements, noting that the only change was an additional £10 re the Mole Clearance contract.

8.4 The Clerk informed the meeting that the Grant Funding for the Moor and Old Church Wood had been received.

9. Routine Items for Review

9.1a) Planning Decisions:- none received during the month.

b) Review of Planning Applications: -

- 19/04471/PRUTPO re the reduction of lower overhanging limbs and branches to Ash tree at 8 Church View – No Objections made.
- 19/04573/HEGRMN re the removal of hedgerow at South Linden Farm - No Objections made.

9.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. A quotation to repair fencing has been received and accepted.
- ii. The Clerk had tried to establish who owns the fencing beside High Barns, however, all of the maps examined failed to show this information. Cllr Pringle was given a copy of the original land transfer document which set down the duties to be undertaken by the

Management Committee et al. He agreed to go through it and to ensure that everything stated was being carried out.

9.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood)

- Andrew Kirkwood from Defra had visited the wood to inspect the Sweet Chestnut trees which were part of the original planting and could be at risk of a virus. The results from the samples taken all came back negative. Cllr Ford informed him that all of the trees we were planting come from a local supplier, which he also checks.
- The quotations for the marker posts are still in progress.

9.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. Mr Gunn sent an email highlighting some vandalism to fencing at Church View.
- ii. Cllr Pringle and the Clerk met with a representative from LEADER to inspect the MUGA project. He was very impressed with the backboard signage on the basketball hoops which features all of the logos of the funding organisations.
- iii. The Clerk informed the meeting that all of the grant funding has now been received.
- iv. The Clerk was awaiting a letter of confirmation from the Trustees of Adamson Park to endorse her application for Pocket Funding to refurbish Adamson Park.

9.5 Allotments - nothing to report at this time.

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

9.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Members considered the email from a local resident about the poor state of the footpath between Drummonds Close and South Road. The Clerk was asked to contact Straughn's to obtain a quote for repair works.
- b) The Clerk informed the meeting that NCC could not provide us with a list of those trees with a TPO attached. She was asked to contact them again to ask for a map of trees in the Village with a TPO.
- c) The Clerk informed the meeting that she had finally got through to the Tree Officer and that corrective works to the tree on the A697 had been undertaken by NCC.

9.8 LPC Website – nothing to add at this time.

9.9 Longhorsley Tree – no articles are required at this time as there is not an edition in January.

9.10 Donation Requests – none received.

10. Items Carried Forward

10.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) Reivers Gate/Wilding Place – NWA has now confirmed that they are now happy with the Councils proposals as long as any equipment is removable in order for them to gain access to the pumping station underneath the area.
- 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.

10.2 Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the revised Correction of Fact document is now on the website.

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

10.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.

11. Other Agenda Items

11.1 Gov.UK email address – emails have now been established for all members. The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from one councillor that all is working correctly. Once this is received, she will sort out the links to personal email accounts and cancel the current contract with STRATO. She will inform councillors when everything is switched over.

11.2 CCTV – Copies of the specification have been sent out to the four prospective tenderers, the deadline for submission being the end of December.

11.3 Cllrs Elliott and Boyle will be undertaking the organisation of the lighting of the beacon on New Year's Eve.

11.4 Members considered the request for support of the Local Electricity Bill from Power for the People and duly endorsed the Councils support.

12. Other Items for Information.

12.1 The Clerk has received the latest edition of the Northumberland & Newcastle booklet.

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

None.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.