

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 10.06.20 – held virtually via ZOOM – 7.00pm

Present Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)
P Boyle
P Ford
T Lowrie
D Pringle (arrived at 19.10)

Clerk G Turner

4 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs K Foreman and V Pagan, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20th May, 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 8th July and 12th August, 2020.
5. **County Matters** – County Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance on the evening,
6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**
In her absence, the Clerk read out an email supplied:
 - During the lockdown period things had been relatively quiet in the area. However, over the last couple of weeks there has been an increase in people visiting the area for walks and exercise. She reminded everyone that the 2m social distancing rule was still in operation.
 - Because of the good weather, many people have been out gardening and she reminded the public to be vigilant and to secure property and equipment to prevent thefts.
 - There have been issues in the Hadston and Alnwick areas with scrap metal vans entering properties and removing any items lying around. There is a current investigation into some thefts as the offenders were filmed and posted on Facebook – hopefully this will deter perpetrators from returning. If any members of the public see suspicious people or vehicles in the area, they should take note of the registration number and inform the police.
 - Poachers are also on the increase and any details such as registration numbers should be taken – the new rural crime team begins work next week.
 - The caravan parked adjacent to Normandy Terrace has now been removed.
7. **Finance**

- 7.1 Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 10th June, 2020, totalling £2,352.73.
- 7.2 Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of May, together with the account transactions for the year to date, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation.
- 7.3 Final Accounts 2019/20** – members received and approved the Annual Governance Statement.
- 7.4** Members agreed the need for the Clerk to upgrade to a paid version of ZOOM to allow meetings to last more than 40 minutes.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:- none received.

b) Review of Planning Applications:

20/01242/FUL re change of use from shop to 2 dwellings together with a further dwelling within the site at Belmont, East Road – comments had been circulated to all members before OBJECTIONS forwarded to NCC on 3rd June.

20/01490/VARYCO re variation to materials and external appearance at Eastgate and Westgate - comments had been circulated to all members before OBJECTIONS forwarded to NCC on 4th June. Further to comments received from members of the public, it was agreed to add our significant concerns regarding the loss of privacy to neighbouring premises due to the balcony/veranda overlooking them.

Members unanimously agreed the protocol of the Chairman assimilating all planning comments and then circulating a draft notice to all members before sending to NCC

- c)** Members asked that the Clerk chase up enforcement action with NCC Enforcement Officer concerning the Aerial Masts at Wilding Place stating that a retrospective planning application is necessary or the masts should be removed.
- d)** Kirkups Corner – an email had been received from a member of the public who is interested in purchasing the land to be developed and he was also in attendance of the meeting. The new proposal was to build a single storey property which would be better suited to the plot. Members reiterated that the calculated fee payable for access rights over the Village Green land had been determined by precedent from a previous planning application.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. The trail signposts are to be replaced, and the pathway needs to be widened as foliage is encroaching onto it. Cllr Ford reminded the meeting that previously volunteers had strimmed/cleared the path. Northumbria Fencing operatives have walked the Moor Trail to see what is needed to be repaired and will be contacted to chase up the work.

- ii. 30 sheep are now grazing on the Moor with 2 black and 6 brown sheep being added to the existing stock.
- iii. The Clerk has scheduled a meeting of the Moor Committee via ZOOM for 17th June.

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

- i. The oak trail marker posts have been installed and look very good; the starter post is along the path to the left of the name sign. The trail makes a small loop and then goes anticlockwise round the whole field, all clearly marked. Several favourable comments have been received and the Boot camp man is also interested in the trail.
- ii. The trees are all in leaf now and looking better for the recent rain.
- iii. There is a good variety of birdlife and an interesting article about them in the June copy of the Tree.
- iv. James Chisholm has mowed the paths and between the rows.
- v. The gate from the main road onto the cemetery track had moved so that it was not possible to shut it; Bob Paterson has fixed it.
- vi. Two requests for tree dedications have been received; trees have been chosen and have been/will be tagged, hopefully donations will follow. The Clerk confirmed that both donations have been received and paid into the bank account, totalling £55.00.
- vii. The wood, while remaining natural, does now look like a well-used public amenity, rather than new trees in a field, thanks to all the volunteers who contribute to this project.
- viii. A Barn Owl has been spotted flying down the rows of trees.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. Members considered details of picnic tables provided by the Clerk. It was agreed to purchase 3 brown round tables and 2 brown round tables for Adamson Park and Wilding Place respectively. It was also agreed that a litter bin would be required for Wilding Place and each park would receive a set of junior swings.
- ii. Members considered the maintenance report provided by Mr Paterson and agreed that all necessary repairs be made to the fence panels, weeding and cleaning of algae to be undertaken, debris to be removed from MUGA and surface brushed in readiness of the relaxation of COVID regulations. It was also agreed that logs should be removed from the Haining ditch.

8.5 Allotments – nothing to report.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – the Village planters have been planted-up.

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. He will provide a quotation asap.
- b) Members revisited the quotation provided by Straughan's prior to the COVID situation. Members agreed to the MUGA works at the North gate (£485) and repairs to the footpath linking Drummonds Close and the A697 (£756). However, due to the current planning

application at Belmont, members decided to defer the resurfacing of the lane until after the application is determined.

- c) Members considered the email received regarding excavation materials at West Common/Northern Ark Nursery. Upon investigation, the owners are trying to divert water from fields, which causes problems on the West Road, into a ditch – therefore no action is needed.
- d) Cllr Pringle reported that there are 2 dead trees on public land – it was agreed that he and Cllr Boyle remove them.
- e) It was also reported that car parking at the Common is causing problems, also some members of the public had a picnic and left rubbish lying. It was agreed to put this item onto the next Agenda in order to discuss parking/signage at the site.
- f) There was a report of fly tipping at the layby on the East side of the A697 north of the Village. The Clerk was asked to report the incident to NCC.

8.8 LPC Website – nothing to report.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – the Clerk was asked to write articles covering new equipment at Adamson Park and Wilding Place, the flower planters, more sheep on the Moor, repairs to the footpath at Drummonds Close and dog bag dispensers.

8.10 Donation Requests – none received.

9 Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) Reivers Gate/Wilding Place – it was agreed to move this item into 8.4 above.
- b) South Road Development – solicitors met last Friday to review legal documents and modified plans have been submitted for the SUD station.
- c) East Road Development – The issue of pathway to cross the Village Green is now being considered.

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 – one issued this month to Rest Harrow.

10 Other Agenda Items – none.

11 Other Items for Information -

11.1 The meeting was informed that the Local Plan will have further consultation hearings and it was noted that this issue has now been in progress for some 8 years.

12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the Agenda) – none.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.