

## **Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 12.02.20 – The Church Room – 7.00pm**

### **Present**

Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)

P Boyle

P Ford

K Foreman

T Lowrie

V Pagan

D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

County Councillor G Sanderson (left at 7.20 pm)

1 Parishioner

1. **Apologies for Absence** – PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 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 11<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.
5. **County Matters – Update by County Councillor Sanderson:**
  - NCC is rapidly progressing the Climate Change Action Plan with funding allocated to both Capital and Revenue budgets, including appointing a new Climate Change Officer, and providing a free sapling to every household in Northumberland.
  - It seems likely that the Northumberland/Tyne line (Ashington to Blyth to Newcastle) will be brought back into use.
  - A review of the NCC Fleet, some 740 vehicles has taken place with a view to changing over to electric vehicles. This conversion will be much easier for smaller vehicles (cars and vans) but will be more challenging for the larger vehicles in the Fleet such as Gritters, Snow Ploughs and Refuse Wagons. A £500k budget has been introduced to fund 30 or so rapid chargers in the county. Other methods of charging are being investigated such as charging from lampposts. All agreed that some Government targets appear to be impossible and that timescales should be realistic.
  - Glass recycling trials are commencing. NCC is also encouraging more people to visit the recycling plants.
  - A study is underway to look at the volume of traffic using the West Road.
  - Funding from his small schemes budget for the MUGA CCTV system has been agreed with £3,400 being approved.

- The Chairman raised the issue of the LTP being published but that the Longhorsley Schemes could not be separately identified. Cllr Sanderson informed the meeting that the schemes were included within the global budgets for the county.
- Some £15m has been set aside to spend on rural roads and pavements.
- The Chairman raised the issue of NCC Planning not responding to requests for further information regarding the planning application 20/00107/FUL which referred to reserved matters for South Road – SUDs and drainage pond. No supporting documents and explanations as to what the application was for had been issued – therefore members could not make an informed decision about the application. Cllr Sanderson agreed to speak to officers at NCC with a view to arranging a meeting to sort out the various issues.

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:

- Several reports of anti-social behaviour around the county have been received.
- There are also issues of poaching across the whole area – but a lot of incidents are not reported. Residents should contact 101 and report ALL issues so that perpetrators can be identified.

## 7. **Finance**

**7.1 Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, totalling £3,555.60.

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

**7.3 Internal Audit 2019/20** – members approved both the Review of Internal Audit and Internal Audit Checklist documents for 2019/20.

**7.4 Annual Risk Assessment 2019/20** – members approved the document.

**7.5** The Clerk informed the meeting that the Asset Register to the end of March 2020 will be brought to the next meeting of Council.

## 8. **Routine Items for Review**

### 8.1a) **Planning Decisions:-**

19/04573/HEGRMN. Re: Removal of 50M of hedgerow at South Linden Farm - GRANTED

### b) **Review of Planning Applications:**

20/00094/HEGRMN Re: Removal of 20m of hedgerow South West of Cragside Mews – no Objection provided that the equivalent length of new hedgerow is planted elsewhere.

South Road Reserved Matters – as discussed in point 5 above, concerns re the lack of information for this application were raised. Members objected as there was no evidence to support where the water run-off would go. The availability of the existing ditch to cope with

any additional water was questioned. Members would prefer a pipe to carry the excess water to the Paxton Dene Burn.

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

## 8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. The Moor area is very wet underfoot at present.
- ii. Chisholm & Son has tidied up brush on the Moor and a further area of flailing has been identified to the North of the track.
- iii. The Moor trail is temporarily closed due to lack of signage.
- iv. Both the ponies and sheep are doing well.

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

- i. She has contacted the company, Robin Watson Signs, and the oak trail marker posts should be ready at the end of next week.
- ii. We have been successful in obtaining 420 saplings, suitable for a hedgerow, from the Woodland Trust, at no charge. They will arrive in November and the plan is to prepare the site in the late summer ready for planting, volunteers will be sought!
- iii. She and Tim Fish met James Chisholm in the wood to discuss management of the non-planted areas. The long grass is becoming rank and smothering any other plants, so we would like to remove the top level, possibly by harrowing. Orchids have been seen along the eastern field edge and it is hoped they will return with less competition. We would also like to try scarifying a small section on the eastern side between the fence and path to try growing wildflowers to see how well it works with a view to having a wildflower meadow. James is assessing the best equipment to use and will submit a quote.
- iv. The Old Church Wood information leaflet has been proof read, amended and sent to the printers. Thank you to Glyn Scott and Alan Etchells.

## 8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. Adamson Park – the Clerk informed the meeting that she had just been informed that the council had been unsuccessful in receiving funding from the Pocket Parks Scheme, which had been oversubscribed with only 18% of the total applications being approved.

The Clerk put forward a proposal that rather than revamping the whole area, new pieces of equipment should be replaced and installed on an annual rolling programme. Members unanimously endorsed this proposal.

Members approved the Partnership Agreement and the Clerk will now send the document to the Trustees for consideration.

- ii. The Clerk informed the meeting that she was ordering a new set of 5-a-side netted goals for the MUGA.

## 8.5 Allotments – the Clerk informed the meeting that the tenancy for allotment number 3 has now been taken by J Pringle.

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

## **8.7 Village Maintenance Issues**

- a) Members considered a request to relocate the recycling bins in the Village Hall Car Park to the corner at the left side of the entrance. There is a problem of broken glass being left on the surface and as children and dog walkers pass this area there was a need to relocate. The Village Hall committee had considered this request but refused on the grounds that the proposed new location is not suitable. Another proposal to relocate the bins to the rear of the car park was put forward. Cllr Boyle agreed to look at the area to see if this was feasible.

The Clerk was asked to find out who is responsible for the bins at NCC and to liaise with Cllr Boyle. Once Cllr Boyle has looked at the area the Village Hall Committee will be consulted.

- b) Members looked at the information provided by Tikspac regarding dog poo-bag dispensing stations. Currently, there are 3 dispensers in Longhorsley and members agreed to purchase 3 replacements at a cost of £99 each.
- c) Members considered the quotation for various improvement works from Straughan & Son and approved:
- MUGA North Gate £485
  - Footpath Drummonds Close to A697 £756
  - Track at East Road and Shoulder of Mutton £1,133.00
  - Removal of overgrown shrubs £180.
- d) Members considered the artwork for dog signs at the Common provided by Spotty-Dog and approved the purchase and installation of 3 signs at a cost of £395.
- e) Cllr Ford was asked to arrange replacement trees in Adamson Park (3) and up to 6 replacement trees for the area where all of the Cherry trees had been removed.

## **8.8 LPC Website – nothing to report.**

## **8.9 Longhorsley Tree – the Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Community Award 2020, CCTV project at MUGA, Footpath improvements at Drummonds Close and the Community Wood Information Leaflet.**

## **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 had been duly signed.
- b) South Road Development – as discussed under 8.1b.
- c) East Road Development – it was agreed to remove this heading until such time as something happens.
- d) Kirkups Corner – it was agreed to remove this heading until such time as something happens.

### **9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – nothing to report at this time.**

### **9.3 Village Green Issues – The Chairman and Clerk have been invited to a meeting at NCC on 16<sup>th</sup> March to review progress concerning Counsel Opinion.**

### **9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.**

## **10. Other Agenda Items**

- 10.1 Gov.UK email address – the Chairman was still experiencing problems with access to emails via Outlook – he will continue to progress this issue.
- 10.2 CCTV – the Chairman is meeting with the successful tenderer to look at the area and arrange installation. As mentioned under point 5, Cllr Sanderson will provide £3,400 funding from his small schemes budget.
- 10.3 Northern Powergrid request to bury cables at Stonehaven and Normandy Terrace – members considered this request and as the land mentioned is Village Green and therefore until a Scheme of Management is in place permission could not be refused, the Clerk was asked to inform Northern Powergrid of this fact and ask for a Wayleave.
- 10.4 Road adjacent Belmont and Hawthorn Cottage – the Clerk was asked to respond to the resident and solicitors informing them that this road is an important walkway and a public right of way for residents gaining access to the Shoulder of Mutton / traffic crossing area and includes the access to Belmont. The Parish Council do own the land in question but it is registered as Village Green and therefore “not for sale”. However, should new owners wish to use the area for access during times of building works, it is expected that any damage to the area will be restored as the Council has been left with a hefty bill to repair the area following recent works to remove trees etc.

## **11. Other Items for Information.**

- 11.1 The latest edition the CPRE booklet has been received should anyone wish to read it.

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

- 12.1 Members considered the draft Adamson Park Partnership agreement as circulated by the Clerk. It was agreed to endorse the document and the Clerk will now forward it onto the Trustees for their comments.
- 12.2 Members received an email from prospective purchasers of 4 Normandy Terrace re access over Village Green land to the property and also to the field behind. The Chairman agreed to respond to this issue.
- 12.3 Cllr Boyle raised the issue of flooding on the bridle path heading west towards Wingates. He was asked to contact Martin King at NCC as this was NCC land.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.