

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 11.03.20 – 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

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – County Councillor G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February, 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 April, Annual Parish Council Meeting 13th May and the Annual Parish Assembly 20th May, 2020. *It was noted that dates may change in response to the Corona Virus situation.*
5. **County Matters** –
 - The Chairman raised the issue of potholes in the track south of St Helen's Church – all agreed that Tarmac was the best solution and that Councillor Sanderson be informed as this could be undertaken by NCC with LPC paying a contribution towards the cost.
6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale**
In her absence, the Clerk read out an email supplied:
 - The theft of heating oil and gas in the area seems to have stopped but any thefts should be reported via 101 to ensure that it is recorded.
 - Reports of poaching in the area continue, fortunately, some offenders have been recorded on mobile phones and this will be used in evidence to support prosecution.
 - Further afield several containers have been broken into using still saws to gain access. The public are advised if they have a container to ensure that it is alarmed or has security lights fitted to deter thieves.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 11th March, 2020, totalling £3,817.02.

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

7.3 Asset Register at 31st March 2020 – members received and approved document.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:-

20/00094/HEGRMN. Re: Removal of 20m of hedgerow at Land SW of Cragside Mews - GRANTED

b) Review of Planning Applications:

19/04948/VARYCO Re: Variation of Condition 2 (applic: 18/01666/FUL) at High Barns – no objections.

20/00217/FUL Re: Proposed extension to indoor riding arena, hay barn and lunge pen at Land North of West Moor Farm – no objections and welcomed additional screening.

South Road Reserved Matters (Proposed Basin) – The Chairman and Cllr Ford met at NCC to discuss the application and to gather more information. It was agreed that an objection should be submitted as things stand regarding this application. Concerns still existed over potential flooding issues this would create on our land. Members did not believe that the existing ditch would be able to cope with any additional water as the run-off water in the ditch would have nowhere to go.

The Flooding Authority had some 12 objections and we would take their stance whether it was acceptable or not.

c) Members received the email from the 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) Shop Premises Change of Use – The Chairman had checked the NCC Planning Portal and no applications had been submitted. NCC confirmed that planning consent would be needed for any change of use.

Members also noted that the lane is now in a complete mess and the Clerk was asked to write to the solicitor to inform them that action needs to be undertaken immediately to reinstate the area to a reasonable condition.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Cllr Pringle provided a verbal report which highlighted the following:

- i. Some members of the Moor Committee believe that too much heather has been removed.
- ii. Northumbria Fencing operatives have walked the Moor Trail to see what is needed to be repaired.
- iii. The works to the boundary fence between High Barns and the Moor has been halted due to poor ground conditions.

- iv. The Clerk was asked to send the Chairman a copy of the original Moor Committee set-up documents.

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

- i. Mr Fish has collected the new oak trail markers from the manufacturer and will install them shortly.
- ii. Four volunteers spent 2.5 hours in the wood on Sunday 8th March, straightening trees following the strong winds and clearing old plastic guards left from previous sessions.
- iii. There are still some trees with the old spiral guards that require replacing with new larger guards – another volunteer session will take place next month to carry out this work.
- iv. A quote for the removal of some rank grass in between the trees has been received - £2,500. It was agreed to put this onto the wish list for a future date as this issue was not included within the current budget.
- v. The Old Church Wood information leaflet was issued with the latest edition of the Tree and has been well received, including an application for a dedicated tree.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. MUGA – The new CCTV system has now been installed and is up and running. Cllr Boyle agreed to be the named user and operator of the system. The grant funding of £3,400 provided by NCC has now been received.
- ii. Cllr Boyle has tried several times to speak to our contact for drainage issues, but has been unsuccessful. Members agreed to ask Straughan's to look at the area.

8.5 Allotments – the Clerk informed the meeting that the water bill had finally been received from WAVE – therefore the annual rent invoices can now be issued to tenants.

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

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Cllr Boyle has spoken to the officer at NCC about the re-positioning of the recycling bins. NCC has no objections to them being moved to the SW end of the car park as long as the bin wagons can get easy access to them. Cllr Boyle will write to the Village Hall Committee to gain its view.
- b) The Clerk informed the meeting that NCC had given her the incorrect supplier of dog-poo bags and is awaiting details of the correct supplier.
- c) Track surface south of St Helen's Church – discussed under minute 5 above.
- d) Track surface north of Belmont – discussed under minute 8.1 (d) above.

8.8 LPC Website – The Clerk informed the meeting that details and nomination form for the Community Award are now on the Home page of the site.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – the Clerk was asked to write articles covering the MUGA Football nets, CCTV system covering the MUGA and Allotments area and the Annual Parish Assembly.

8.10 Donation Requests – a letter from the Morpeth Gathering Committee asking for a donation had been received and the organiser had been informed that the correct application form needs to be completed.

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.

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 16th March to review progress concerning Counsel Opinion.

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month. The Clerk was asked to send letters to the new residents of Meadow View (The Beeches) and Elmwood in Church View

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Gov.UK email address – the system now appears to be working correctly for all concerned. The STRATO system will be live until 19th December, 2020.

10.2 CCTV – The grant funding of £3,400 has been received from NCC.

11. Other Items for Information -

11.1 The meeting was informed that the fruit and vegetable stall at Heighleygate had been given a reprieve.

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

12.1 The wayleave agreement from Northern PowerGrid for works on VG land adjacent to Normandy Terrace was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

12.2 Corona Virus Contingency Plan – The Clerk raised the issue of the current outbreak and effects it could have upon the activities of the Council. She is awaiting advice from NALC about Annual meetings in May and presentation of the Annual Accounts. Should the county be on a lockdown, members unanimously agreed that all contact will be via email.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.