

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 12.08.20 – held virtually via ZOOM – 7.00pm

Present Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)
P Boyle
P Ford
K Foreman
V Pagan
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July, 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 9th September and 14th October, 2020.
5. **County Matters** – County Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance on the evening.
6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale** - PC Teasdale was not in attendance on the evening but supplied a written update covering:
 - Reports of suspicious males in the area with dogs have been received – they are thought to be poachers.
 - On 5th August, a horse box was stolen from the Hauxley area which was also linked to males with dogs. She asks that any similar incidents are reported using 101 or via the website so that information and data can be collated.
 - The new Rural Crime Team is now up and running and have been allocated these incidents. Arrests have been made and vehicles uplifted.
 - The public are urged to lock and secure all farming and gardening equipment when not in use and to consider the use of an immobiliser device to prevent thefts.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 12th August, 2020, totalling £4,209.37.
 - 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of July, together with the account transactions for the year to date, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation.

7.3 Longhorsley Tree Printing Costs – The editors of the Tree highlighted that our current printer, Azure, had ceased trading in May. Another company, Millfied Media had undertaken the role for the June and July issues at a slightly higher cost. The paper quality and use of colour printing was seen as an enhancement. The Clerk advised that the current budget for 2020/21 would be sufficient to cover the increased costs as there had not been a May edition produced. The paper produced by the editors, showing an analysis of various company costs, would be included in the budget process for 2021/22 for consideration.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:

20/01659/FUL Removal of double duo-pitch roof and front extension at Callaly Cottage – NCC GRANTED permission.

20/01626/TREECA Tree works in conservation area at Dawn Cottage – NCC had no objection.

b) Review of Planning Applications:

20/01275/FUL Creation of agricultural access at land North of Reivers Gate has been withdrawn. Members were reminded that the owner has an obligation to erect a fence around his area of land and that Council should raise this issue in September.

20/1490/VARYCO Revisions to proposed materials at Eastgate and Westgate – LPC had withdrawn its objections due to the revised plans being suitable.

c) Aerial Masts at Wilding Place -the Clerk had sent a further email to the planning officer and the central planning team following the July meeting – to date no reply has been received. She asked that this issue now be escalated to our County Councillor and members unanimously approved this request.

8.2 Moor Management Scheme

Members received the Minutes of the Committee which was held on site on 5th August, 2020.

Following the meeting, Cllrs Pringle and Ford had met with J Foggon on site to discuss the clearance of the taller young birch on the North side of the track together with the removal of trees beside the burn in order to open-up the watering hole. The work will be undertaken over 3 days this week and over subsequent weeks. Logs would be available in late September/October. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Heron to let him know that wood is available.

Cllr Pringle has spoken to Moffatt and Son to arrange bracken spraying and is going to meet him on site to discuss the works required.

The signage to advise the public of “caution - cattle grazing” has been produced and is with the Chairman ready for installation.

8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara’s Wood) Cllr Ford provided a written report which was presented to the meeting.

She added that the farmer from Burradon, had also given her some good advice about a new method of burning heather on the Moor called “Cold Burning” which uses a flame thrower. This is more controllable and can be used in wet conditions. She will investigate further and obtain costs of equipment to be used.

8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. Members considered the quotations for both Adamson Park and Wilding Place. It was decided that:
 - Creative Play be the contractor for Adamson Park
 - Kompan be the contractor for Wilding Place
 - Plaswood to supply all of the recycled plastic tables for both areas.If Kompan is not interested in only doing one of the areas, Wilding Place, Creative Play be asked to undertake this area too.
- ii. Members received and noted the maintenance report provided by Mr Paterson.
- iii. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC waste collection team to inform them that we need to install a new bin at Wilding Place play area and to confirm suitable location.

8.5 Allotments – nothing to report.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – nothing to report.

8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) The Clerk had contacted Northumbria Fencing following the site visit to ask for an estimate to install marker posts to identify suitable parking areas for those using the football field. Cllr Boyle also had spoken to them to arrange a meeting on site to discuss the project – he will follow this up.
- b) Dog-Pooh Bag Dispensers – members decided to leave the dispensers in situ for the present time but not to refill. Bags are to be left in the Village Hall on Post Office opening days for the public to collect. Residents will be asked to sign-up for the NCC Green Dog Walkers scheme. The Clerk was asked to write an article for the Tree covering these issues.
Cllr Boyle had used the CCTV system to identify a resident who did not pick-up after their dog had fouled at the allotment area. NCC will be issuing a “fixed-penalty notice” for £80. The Clerk was also asked to cover this issue in the next edition of the Tree.
- c) The Clerk has contacted both Castle & Coast Housing and NCC about grass cutting at Wilding Place but to date has not had a reply. The Clerk asked that this issue be escalated up to Cllr Sanderson and this was unanimously agreed. Due to the requirement of Public Liability Insurance being required, our contractor, J Patterson, has been asked to cut the area on a temporary basis until this issue has been sorted out
- d) Members considered Cllr Ford’s request about the state of the footpath adjacent Church View. It was confirmed that this is a PROW and therefore NCC’s responsibility. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC to ask that they cut this piece of land, in the meantime, J Patterson be asked to keep it under review. Another PROW beside Glen View was also mentioned. Cllr Ford is to forward the PROW number for each area to the Clerk.
- e) Cllr Elliott raised the issue of the Ash Tree behind Church View for which T&CTS undertook a survey last year. Members agreed that the next time T&CTS were in the Village, that they be asked to review the condition of the tree.

8.8 LPC Website – nothing to report.

8.9 Longhorsley Tree – Cllr Ford to write an article covering the Old Church Wood, the Clerk to write articles covering the dog bag dispensers, fixed penalty notices, NCC Green Walkers scheme, no bike sign and lectern at Archies Pond.

8.10 Donation Requests – none received.

9 Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) South Road Development – It was agreed to raise the issue of footpath access at the Shoulder of Mutton at the next meeting of Council in September.
- b) East Road Development – nothing to report.
- c) Kirkups Corner – the meeting was informed that the prospective purchaser has withdrawn.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – Members were informed that the new Government Strategy may water-down NPs i.e. those Green Belts currently in draft stage could be developed. Members will make representations to our local MP if necessary.

9.3 Village Green Issues – nothing to report at this time.

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month, but new residents have been identified by the Tree and Cllr Ford for letters to be issued.

10 Other Agenda Items:

10.1 Members received the table of costs associated with 4 companies wishing to take over our Domain hosting service from Pulsant. Members unanimously agreed that Freethought be our new provider. The Chairman and Clerk will now begin the process of set-up and transferring data.

10.2 Members received the draft Advertising Policy and it was unanimously agreed.

10.3 Members considered the NCC New Pavement Licensing Arrangements. It was agreed that Cllr Boyle contact the Village Shop to make them aware of the new regime and ask that they request a licence.

11 Other Items for Information – none.

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

12.1 The Clerk highlighted the NCC news about “Rural Communities – to get broadband to improve connectivity” and that people need to express an interest by the end of September.

12.2 The Clerk raised the issue of the LTP – Feedback on Submissions letter received from NCC. The letter sets out the comments made by NCC to justify the non-inclusion of schemes in the LTP.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.