

Longhirst Parish Council

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting

6PM on THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2020
(online)

MINUTES (draft)

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cllr Peter Coates (Chair), Cllr Mark Davies, Cllr Catherine Farrell, Cllr Chris Marr, Cllr Richard Tordoff

APOLOGIES: Cllr Glen Fahy, Cllr Maureen Lowes

IN ATTENDANCE: Helyn Douglas (Clerk)
Residents: Tom Howard, Annabel Fleming

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies are listed above. During this Covid-19 lockdown the Chair has given permission for absence to any Councillors not able to join these online meetings.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

[Use this link to check individual Declarations of Interests for Longhirst Parish Council](#)

There were no interests declared.

3 PLANNING

3.1 Anaerobic Digester - [18/04533/FUL](#)

Or enter the above reference into the search box on the [NCC Planning Portal](#)

The Clerk clarified that after checking with Democratic Services there is the opportunity for residents to submit a 750 word objection, as well as one from the Parish Council. However the Parish Council would potentially have to share their word limit with Cllr David Towns. On that basis the Parish Council's submission was shortened to a 375 word limit (to allow for Cllr Towns taking up the other half). This information had been shared earlier by email, and an update passed on to those residents who attended the meeting on Tuesday.

The deadline has now passed for people to register their intention to submit comments (that was 12pm today) - Dr Tom Howard has registered (the Parish Council had already done so), but Cllr David Towns had not replied. Therefore the Parish Council and Dr Howard will each have the ability to present comments up to 750 words each.

Those present also noted that another resident, David Fleming, has sent in a further objection (not a submission for the Planning Committee). It is unclear if this can be officially logged but it does not affect either of the formal submissions above.

Mr Fleming and his daughter had also emailed around some photographs showing typical highways problems of large vehicles struggling to pass on the narrow roads, and of damage to the highway. Everyone felt that these photographs are very powerful evidence.

The Clerk had earlier emailed around a draft letter from the Parish Council for comment. This version quotes more heavily from the Northumberland Local Plan, rather than from existing planning documents (whilst not yet formally adopted it does carry significant weight). If both parties are able to make submissions then both sets of documents can be quoted.

Dr Howard will find the origin of the specific quotes mentioned in his submission and pass these to the Clerk; and the Clerk will pass on to Dr Howard a link to the Local Plan.

ACTION: DR HOWARD / CLERK

The Clerk would also welcome any information on the size of the proposed development, and how this compares to other sites.

Dr Howard left the meeting, and the Councillors continued to debate how best to pitch their request: whether to simply state their objection, or how much to include any conditions. Cllr R Tordoff in particular felt the draft as it currently stands relies too much on possible mitigation measures and should be more strongly worded to reflect opposition to the whole plan. The other Councillors agreed and the focus is to be changed.

ACTION: CLERK

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other items were raised.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- **6pm on Thursday, 02 July 2020 (Bi-Monthly scheduled meeting)**