

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 10th November, 2021 in the Village Hall, at 7pm

Present: Cllrs: K Bell
P Boyle
N Douglas
P Ford (Vice-Chair)
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs I Elliott and A Hedman, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.

In the absence of Cllr Elliott (Chairman), Cllr Ford took the role of Chairman for the meeting.

2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th October, 2021 (previously circulated) were approved and duly signed.
3. **Declaration of Interests** – Cllr Bell declared a permanent disclosable pecuniary interest in the East Road Development – ownership of land
4. **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be the 8th December, 2021 and 12th January, 2022, with meetings being held in the Village Hall.
5. **County Matters** – Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance but supplied an email highlighting the following:
 - i. Serious discussions are taking place on how to meet the latest savings targets. He is determined not to cut back on frontline services which have continued throughout the most difficult periods ever seen.
 - ii. He thanked all of the staff involved in providing bin collection services, grass cutting, older people care and education.
 - iii. Roads still need a great deal of money, having had over 30 years of budget cuts. Over the last 3 years an additional £15m has been spent – much of it on smaller rural roads. Money will continue to be found over the next 3 years to maintain the 3,000 miles of roads in the county.
 - iv. The glass recycling trial has been very effective and will be enlarged. The weight of glass collected per person is amongst the highest in the region and will be expanded

into looking at other ideas such as food waste collection. The Environment Bill may offer some funding to help with new initiatives.

- v. The work on Climate Change is ongoing with new EV charger pavement schemes and a wide range of other initiatives, including home insulation offers and the Great Northumberland Forest – which will see a million trees planted in the County over the coming years together with new schemes for cycling and walking.
- vi. NCC has won a prestigious award for its work on the Union Chainbridge across the Tweed near Berwick which is a great achievement for all involved.
- vii. The Jubilee Fund for communities to access to provide local events has been announced together with the national event on Hadrian's Wall to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee next June.

6. **Update by PC Andrea Teasdale** – Cllr Teasdale is currently on secondment to another unit but an email was received from PCSO Olivia Coulson stating that there have been no incidents of note in the past month. One resident wished to bring to our attention the attempted theft of a motor vehicle in the Whitegates area. Fortunately, nothing was stolen but residents are advised to get a Faraday Pouch in which to keep keys in order to block out telematic signals.

7. **Finance**

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 10th November, 2021, totalling £20,348.11.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of October, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31st October, 2021.
- 7.3 **Budget 2022/23** – members received Version 2 of the Budget which included the proposed NCC adjustment to the taxbase, reducing the Band D equivalent properties from 395.67 in 2021/22 to 391.67 for 2022/23. Members agreed to keep the Precept at 3% at this time which would mean that residents would see a 4% increase in council tax of £2.46 per annum.

8 **Routine Items for Review**

8.1a) **Planning Decisions:** none

8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications:**

21/004102/DISCON Discharge of conditions 3 (materials external walls and roofs), 4 (materials surfaces), 6 (upgraded vehicular access) and 7 (demolition and construction method statement) at Westfield West Road – no objections.

21/04044/RETRES Change of use from retail to residential at Belmont East Road. Cllr Ford had previously circulated a statement to all councillors for approval. The statement is now

on the planning portal and the application is to be discussed at the December Planning meeting.

8.1c) **Aerial Masts at Davison Court** – Cllr Sanderson and the Planning Officer are chasing up this issue.

8.1d) The Chairman asked the Clerk to keep the following applications on the Agenda in order to ensure that they were not forgotten:

20/01242/FUL	Belmont
21/01300/VARY	Caravan Low Southward Edge
21/01471/OUT	Land SW Fieldhead House – letter received from NCC to say this application has now been withdrawn.
21/01561/FUL	Westridges

8.2 **Moor Management Committee – Cllr Pringle gave the following update:**

- The Fire Service has requested that the Fire Risk notices are now taken down
- The cattle grid off the A697 has been thoroughly cleaned out
- A “mirror grant offer” has now been received starting in January 2022. Cllrs Pringle, Bell and Douglas agreed the document which will be issued to all members of the Committee.

8.3 **The Old Church Wood (Barbara’s Wood) – Cllr Ford gave the following update:**

- The paths have been mowed.
- A working party of volunteers will meet on Saturday to prepare the area in readiness to plant the new hedgerow the following week.
- The trees ordered from the Woodland Trust should be arriving on 15th November.
- The Old Church area has had 2 weed sprays.
- Spotty Dog has been contacted to provide a quote for the interpretation boards.
- Mr Fish is liaising with residents who have ordered a free tree from NCC.
- Cllr Boyle has the names of 4 people wishing to adopt a tree.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members received and noted Mr Paterson’s monthly report. The Clerk will contact 3 companies to provide a quote for the repair of the surface at Church View play area.
- ii. The Clerk reported to the meeting that the football team definitely want the wooden picnic table currently in Adamson Park.

8.5 **Allotments** – nothing to report.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Review**

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that he had spoken to several companies which stated that the proposed use of plastic chain would be ineffective. Members unanimously agreed that a thick rope would be better suited to be installed between the posts. The gate has been sprayed and should be in situ by the next meeting.

- ii. Flooding Issues – As the works are now complete members agreed to remove this item for the time being. It was also agreed to ask R Stephenson for any history he could give regarding the pipes situated in the area. Cllr Ford reported that the ditch on the east side of the Old Church has also been cleared out by the owner.
- iii. Archies Pond Project Update – Mr Paterson has demolished the old decking which had perished. He will install some concrete supports as a frame for the new decking. Cllr Ford will speak to contacts about replacing the old dam pipework as it has cracked and needs to be rebuilt.
- iv. Ash Dieback – no response has been received from NCC as yet. Cllr Ford has met with the T&CTS to inspect trees and produce a new survey of their condition.
- v. Cllr Ford suggested that the old gate at the Church could be used at Archies Pond.
- vi. Community Orchard – Cllr Hedman was not in attendance and a report will be brought to the next meeting.
- vii. The Clerk had brought the new signage warning of a “narrow lane” to be erected at both ends of the track at the Shoulder of Mutton area.
- viii. It was reported that the hedges along the West Road by Northern Ark were now encroaching onto the road. The Clerk to contact NCC in the first instance.
- ix. It was also reported that hedges on the A697 opposite the Whitegates junction were also overgrown – Clerk to contact NCC in the first instance.
- x. The Clerk will contact NCC regarding the 2 requested grit bins which were applied for in August.
- xi. The Clerk was asked to order 2 x A3 signs re dog fouling to be installed at the Old Church Wood entrances.

8.7 **LPC Website** – nothing to report.

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree** –Articles to include: – Lighting of the Beacon Event, Christmas Wishes, reminding owners to dispose of dog waste bags responsibly.

8.9 **Donation Requests** – none received

The meeting was adjourned at 8.00 pm to allow parishioners to speak

- i. A member of the public informed the meeting that a collection for the retiring owners of the Village Shop was being organised area by area, as a thank you for the service they had given the Village. The presentation would be made on their last day i.e., Sunday.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.05 pm

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – The committee is now to meet every other month, with the next meeting being held in December. One issue that had been raised was that of installing solar panels on the roof. The joists on the roof were thought to be wider than normal causing the panels to be too heavy to be supported, but having spoken to a contractor this issue can be overcome.

9. Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) South Road Development – the Clerk had met with Cllr Elliott to discuss an email received from our solicitors, requesting clarification on a couple of issues. It was agreed that the deregistration application should be prepared as soon as practicable; due to the original application dating back to 2014 the option should be shorter than the proposed 5 years if possible; the ransom strip is to be transferred at the same time as the open space and that the revised plans were correct.
- b) East Road Development – nothing to report at this time.
- c) Kirkups Corner – The public notice appeared in the Journal on 25th October and the formal application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The necessary consultees have been issued with copies of the documents and some have come back for additional information.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – nothing to report at this time.

9.3 Village Green Issues – the Clerk to follow up this issue with NCC.

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 EWD Blue Plaque - Members were provided with a copy of an email received from Blyth Town Council re its blue plaque policy. Cllr Boyle agreed to investigate the fixing of the current plaque as builders were currently working inside the property.

11. Other Items for Information - none.

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

12.1 Residents have made complaints about the abusive language and derogatory comments being used on the Village Facebook page. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the administrators and ask them to review and remove any offensive posts. This Council has a zero-tolerance policy for the use of abusive language or behaviour as contained within the Code of Conduct.

12.2 Due to the recent motor accident on the A697, the Clerk was asked to chase up speeding issues throughout the Village with Cllr Sanderson.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm