

## **Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 11.11.20 – held virtually via ZOOM – 7.00pm**

**Present** Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)  
P Boyle  
P Ford  
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

7 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Councillors K Foreman (granted an extended leave of absence), T Lowrie and V Pagan, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 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 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 and 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.
5. **County Matters** – County Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance due to prior commitments.
6. **Update from PC Andrea Teasdale** - PC Teasdale was not in attendance on the evening but supplied a written update covering:
  - Poaching is still a problem in the area. Cars have been sighted being driven over fields and other reports of males with lurchers have been received. The reports are of incidents both during the day and night. The public should phone the police straightaway using 999 if they cannot get through on the 101 system as these incidents are very dangerous to livestock and anyone trying to intervene. Operation Hawkeye is currently running which is headed by the new Rural Crime Team.
  - Northumbria Police now have a dedicated COVID taskforce in place to address breaches in the current regulations. Again, the public can report breaches via 101 or by using the on-line web submission system. If you have witnessed the breach you may be asked to provide a statement to the police to assist with a prosecution. However, at the moment most people appear to be adhering to the rules and regulations. The taskforce also carries out patrols to ensure compliance by shops and licensed premises.
7. **Finance**
  - 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, totalling £10,494.24.

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

**7.3 Budget 2021/22** – Members considered Version 2 of the Budget. The Clerk informed the meeting that the taxbase produced by NCC had been reduced due to those residents now receiving benefits due to COVID-19. Version 2 now included the revised figures from NCC, together with a 10% increase in precept. Including the Old Church Wood Grant of £975 pa, a reduction in “Other Services” budgets leaving an amount needed from balances of £6,150 after allowing for £1,080 to be met from the Wilding Place Dowry. Members agreed the proposed budget at this time which would mean an additional council tax of £6.04 per annum or 11p per week. The Clerk informed the meeting that final figures are due to be sent to NCC by the end of January, leaving a further 2 parish meetings to undertake any final tweaks.

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

**8.1a) Planning Decisions:** none this month

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

20/01242/FUL Conversion of shop and house to 2 dwellings at Belmont, East Road – The Chairman informed the meeting that our comments together with Cllr Ford’s photograph of suggested shop frontages had been taken on board. However, members still had concerns about the loss of part of the ancient wall and noted that the Conservation Officer also had concerns too.

20/02502/AGTRES Change of use of agricultural buildings to 4 replacement dwellings at Westfield, land South West of Fieldhead House. 2 residents were in attendance for this application. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had spoken to the Planning Officer as the Parish Council had not been consulted on this application. However, changing from agricultural use to residential now comes under the “permitted development” planning legislation. The Planning Officer had not received any comments from Highways but they are due by 13<sup>th</sup> November. The Parish Council can submit any material objections or concerns in the usual manner.

Objections/Concerns raised included:

- i. Are stables classed as agricultural or not
- ii. Infrastructure is not in place to cope with additional properties
- iii. The access road is a narrow lane and is in poor condition, and more importantly, the junction with the busy A697 is not suitable and considered to be dangerous.
- iv. Concerns that the development could change from the additional 4 new properties into a larger application in the future.

The Chairman agreed to visit the site and formulate a draft response which he will circulate to members for their approval and residents for comments.

20/03211/FUL Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a replacement dwelling at Westfield, West Road – no objections.

20/03456/VARYCO Removal of condition 4 in order to allow flexibility in respect of type of caravans using the site but with no increase in approved number at Forget-me-Not Caravan Park – no objections.

20/03687/TREECA Tree works in the conservation area at The Old Vicarage, Drummonds Close – no objections.

c) Aerial Masts at Wilding Place - no response has been received to date.

## 8.2 Moor Management Scheme

- Cllr Pringle informed the meeting that logs were available at the trackside with more to be felled.
- He and Cllr Ford met with a representative from Straughan's to discuss creating a pond with a fenced off area to form a watering place for animals. This will be discussed at the next Moor Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
- The sheep are currently in the compound area as S Comber will be removing 6-8 in the coming days.

## 8.3 The Old Church Wood (Barbara's Wood) Cllr Ford's Report

- Cllr Ford highlighted that volunteers had raked the wildflower area clear of old grass and sowed wildflower seeds – she thanked everyone for their assistance and hard work.
- A WhatsApp Group has been established which now has 23 members.
- The sapling trees from the Woodland Trust have arrived and will be planted-up once COVID restrictions are lifted.
- The NCC hedge-pack is due in December.

## 8.4 Village Play Areas:

- i. Adamson Park – the refurbishment works are now completed and the skip has also been removed. The picnic tables will be arriving in November. The latch on the entrance gate has been replaced by Mr Paterson.
- ii. Wilding Place – the installation of the swings will commence W/C 16<sup>th</sup> November. The fence has been installed by Mr Dowson to separate the play area from his land.
- iii. B Paterson raised the issue of the number of MUGA tokens and asked for some more to be purchased as only 20 or so remain. The Chairman agreed to send the Clerk details of the company which originally supplied the tokens.
- iv. Mr Paterson informed the meeting that several pop and water bottles had been left in the MUGA area.

8.5 Allotments – nothing to report.

8.6 Plants & Flowers – nothing to report.

## 8.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a) Car Parking on the Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that all of the groundworks and installation of market posts have been completed. All agreed that both J Chisholm and Northumbria Fencing had done an excellent job. New signage has been commissioned to inform drivers where to park and also what the weight limit is – drivers should not park-up on the hardcore as this will block the entrance to other drivers. The ground is extremely soft at the moment and maybe a further 5 – 7 metres of hardcore would be of benefit to the area – the Clerk will check the budget to see if this could be accommodated.

Several positive comments have been received about the works. However, it appears that damage at the new access to the Common could have been caused by an HGV truck or a bus.

b) [REDACTED]. *Minute expunged at meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 authorised unanimously by members.*

c) The Clerk had reported the incident of a lady falling on the path between Church View and Whitegates, due to a hole in the path being covered by leaves, to NCC.

**8.8 LPC Website** – The Chairman asked the Clerk to update the Neighbourhood Plan documents to include the final version.

**8.9 Longhorsley Tree** – The Clerk to write articles covering Play Areas Refurb, logs available on Moor, Car Parking on the Common, litter in the MUGA, Beacon Event cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

**8.10 Donation Requests** – none received.

## **9. Items Carried Forward**

### **9.1 Housing Developments in the Village**

a) South Road Development – there are ongoing issues regarding the SUDs, and where excess water will be discharged. The Chairman has put forward a proposal to the developer which he hopes will assist them in this area.

The Chairman has also contacted the Planning Officer and Developer regarding the footpath required for residents to access the Shoulder of Mutton area in a safe manner. He will continue to liaise with both parties as this is included within the Neighbourhood Plan under LNPST01 – walking safely.

b) East Road Development – nothing to report at this time.

**9.2 Neighbourhood Planning** – The Chairman raised the issue about local community assets i.e. the Village Shop which has recently been put up for sale. The NP mentions community resources but does not name the Village Shop directly.

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

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

## **10. Other Agenda Items:**

10.1 Members considered the applications for use of a metal detector at the Old Church Area. Members agreed to both applications on the proviso that they adhere to the Code of Practice.

**11. Other Items for Information – none.**

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

12.1 Monroe's Food Van – Members agreed to the proposal for this van to visit the Village, as long as they have the necessary licences in place and to avoid those days when existing vans attend i.e. the Pizza van on a Thursday and Fish & Chip van on a Friday.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

