

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 9th June, 2021 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)
K Bell (arrived at 7.10 pm)
N Douglas
P Ford (Vice-Chair)
A Hedman
D Pringle

Clerk G Turner

5 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr P Boyle, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 19th May, 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 21st July and 8th September, 2021.
5. **County Matters** – Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance.
6. **Update by PC Andrea Teasdale** – PC Teasdale was not in attendance on the evening but supplied a written update covering:
 - Problems with off-road bikers in the area. The Police are working with other agencies to address this issue as it is a national problem.
 - On-going problems with poaching continue, with some cars being seized or abandoned. There have been a number of fatalities of Deer on the A697 and A1 which may be due to poachers flushing them out onto the main roads. This is extremely dangerous to other road users as they can cause serious accidents.
 - As the lockdown continues to be eased. It is hoped that most people will stick to the guidelines in place. If there are any specific breaches, they can be reported via 101 or via the web submission page.

7. Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 9th June, 2021, totalling £3,287.95.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of May, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 9th June.
- 7.3 **Final Accounts 2020/21 Internal Auditors report.**
Mr Kennedy was in attendance to present his report on the audit of accounts. Members, received, considered and endorsed his report. Members also noted his completion of Page 3 of the AGAR.
- 7.4 **Final Accounts 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement Section 1** (previously circulated) – Members received, considered and approved Page 4 of the AGAR.
- 7.5 **Final Accounts 2020/21 Accounting Statements Section 2** (previously circulated) – Members received, considered and approved Page 5 of the AGAR.
- 7.6 **Final Accounts 2020/21 Supporting Documents** – Members received, considered and approved the Bank Reconciliation to 31st March 2021, Explanation of Variances, Explanation of High Reserves and the dates proposed for the Exercise of Public Rights.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:

21/01307/TREECA Works to tree in conservation area GW1 Goat Willow at Dawn Cottage – NCC had No Objections to this application.

8.1b) Review of Planning Applications:

See item 8.1e below.

8.1c) **Aerial Masts at Davison Court** – members were informed of the possibility of 2 masts now being in situ. The Chairman agreed to speak to Cllr Sanderson about this issue which has been ongoing since December 2019.

8.1d) **West Ridges** – This application has not yet been submitted. It was therefore agreed to remove this item from the Agenda, until such a time it is submitted.

8.1e) **Land South West of Field Head House** 21/01471/OUT – The Chairman gave an update as to the background of this application et al (i.e., previous consent had been given for works under the Agricultural provisions).

This application is for the development of up to 5 dwellings on the site. Members noted local resident's objections about access and egress onto the busy A697 and were concerned about the precedent of encroachment onto the "green belt" which is safeguarded within the Longhorsley Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman agreed to compile a response, which will be circulated to all members for comments and approval, prior to its submission.

8.2 Moor Management Committee

Cllr Pringle presented the draft minutes of the Moor Management Committee held on 2nd June, 2021.

He has been notified by the Fire Rescue Service that following the wildfire problems experienced recently in other areas, that posters be placed to notify the public to be vigilant in the area. It was also agreed that the Clerk put an article into the Tree. Cllr Bell agreed to laminate the posters.

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

- The mowing of the perimeter paths has now been undertaken.
- The areas where the wild flower seeds had been scattered have been reviewed where it was found that there is now an abundance of yellow rattle which is an excellent result.
- In August the area will be mowed and raked to encourage growth.
- Many examples of wildlife can now be observed in the area e.g., invertebrates, butterflies and barn owls.
- The recently planted hedgerow is also beginning to grow.

8.4 Play Areas

- i. Members received and noted Mr Paterson's monthly report. The Clerk informed the meeting that ROSPA had carried out the Health & Safety inspections and findings would be brought to the next meeting in July.
- ii. MUGA Lighting – Cllr Boyle was not in attendance but supplied the Clerk with an update. The new circuit box and cabling is complete but has not yet been signed-off.

8.5 **Allotments** – nothing to report at this time.

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

8.7 Village Maintenance Review

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle has spoken to Mr McMorrow about the options for new surfacing and is awaiting his comments.
- ii. East Road Problems – Cllr Bell has spoken to the landlady of the Shoulder of Mutton for permission to erect a sign on the wall. The Clerk has contacted the resident who raised the issue asking for suggestions as to width measurements and wording to be used. Once agreed, a consultation with neighbouring residents will be carried out.
- iii. Flooding Issues – Cllr Boyle is awaiting a report from NCC as to the findings of the CCTV inspection. The Clerk informed the meeting that an update from NCC is imminent and will be distributed once received.
One issue that has come to light is the need to identify the owners of the land through which the watercourse travels as they have a responsibility to ensure that the ditch is cleaned-out and is kept free from debris.

Mr Lister was in attendance and members agreed to keep him in the loop as to the findings of any reports.

- iv. Following an email from the residents in West Oaklands, reporting a very large overgrown sycamore tree and cherry tree which needs pruning and cut back, the Clerk had reported the Cherry tree to NCC but has not received a reply as yet. The Chairman has spoken to T&CTS to arrange for the sycamore tree to be sensitively pruned due to its historical importance.
- v. The Chairman had received reports from residents at Wilding Place regarding the issue of grass cutting. The Clerk agreed to send him the notes of the site meeting held last year together with the map of mowing responsibilities.

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

- i. Mr Potts addressed the meeting about the Fieldhead Planning application and had distributed copies of the local resident's concerns and objections, in order to apprise members. The issue of whether the Highways Authority would have any concerns regarding the entrance and the additional traffic using the lane was raised. All believed that if the development had been larger Highways would have looked at the application more rigorously.

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

- 8.8 **LPC Website** – The new councillors were asked to send a photograph of themselves so that the Clerk could update the councillor section of the website.
- 8.9 **Longhorsley Tree** – The Clerk to write articles covering – the Moor Fire Poster, Flooding at Whitegates, Accounts placed on Website, MUGA Lights and contact details for Jan re litter picking equipment.
- 8.10 **Donation Requests** – none received
- 8.11 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Ford gave the following update:
 - i. COVID 19 Reopening Preparations- the Yoga classes have now restarted and seem to be going ok and that they are cleaning up as required. The ballet classes are also due to resume. A new Zumba class is also looking to start up and are running a taster session this Friday at 7pm. There was a band rehearsal two weeks ago in the hall which also seemed to go well with no problems reported. It was agreed to stay with the contractor deep cleans as required for the present.
 - ii. Government Gigabit Voucher Scheme- the proposal is to progress with Alcom as it was agreed that this would be beneficial to the hall and that we were happy to proceed.

- iii. Web Portal – It was confirmed that reports on hits to the site and usage are to be produced and will probably be sent out quarterly. The hire charges have been added to the portal now, and the booking forms, now they have been agreed and will be added soon.
- iv. Wind Farm Fund update - proposals for grant funding for the audio/visual kit will be formulated.
- v. Zoom Access - After discussion it was agreed to get a temporary business account from Zoom which it is believed will cost around £47, then depending on corona virus it can either be extended or cancelled.
- vi. Village Hall History Project - Over the summer it is hoped to get the stories in from the halls, they will be issuing toolkits to assist. The idea is to get the stories of how the halls managed throughout the pandemic and what if anything they had been doing. It is planned that the halls record their own stories. It would be great for Longhorsley if the role the playgroup had played through the period were to be highlighted.
- vii. Treasurer Report – It was reported that as at the end of May £15,424.95 was in the bank, The costs for the new windows were the main outgoing in the month. Income in the month has been the £100 from the post office and £100 back payment from the current post holder. The Restart grant was raised which could be around £8,000. To date £12,000 in grants have been received and the Committee were not sure that it was a good idea to apply for the grant as it is not really needed it at this time. The idea of funding a youth worker to run a youth club, or some form of music clubs for the young ones were thought to be ideal projects which would benefit the whole village. It was agreed that some input from the children themselves be sought around what they would like to see. It was also, pointed out that something for the older members of the village community to again extend the proposals to cover the whole of the village population be proposed. In conclusion it was agreed that an application for the grant looking at a focus on the youth of the village be compiled.
Stephen agreed to process the application which needs to be in by the end of this month.
- viii. A.O.B. – It was raised that there is a pile of dead leaves in the carpark and around the hall making the area look untidy and some broken glass around the bottle bank. It was agreed to ask Mr Paterson to clear this up. PF said she will get in touch with Bob regarding this.
Maintenance works carried out recently included:
 - Extinguishers and fire alarms have been serviced.
 - Alarms and emergency lighting have been tested and repaired where required.
 - Matt has sorted the fire doors, also the disabled toilet flush, he is also going to reseal around the sinks and floor.
 - A new microwave has been purchased as the old one is broken.
 - Fiona confirmed that the playgroup has paid for all these repairs.
 - Jane Gibson confirmed that the defibrillator has now been serviced and she will check it again as it was recently used.
 - Committee has received a £600 grant from the lottery fund.
 - A new battery for the defibrillator has been ordered.

9.0 Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time.
- b) East Road Development – further dialogue is taking place with Highways and the Conservation Officer.
- c) Kirkups Corner – The buyer's legal team has sent £4,900 to our solicitor to cover the de-registering of the Village Green land. Muckles are currently drawing up the legal documentation.
- d) Belmont Application – The revised application now shows the northern end of the footpath as being included as part of the development. The Chair agreed to write to the NCC Planning Officer to point out that this is misleading as it is a public footpath and is covered by Village Green legislation.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – It was agreed to review the Community Action Points in September and March.

9.3 Village Green Issues – the Chairman and Clerk are to meet with Officers from NCC on 16th June.

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Councillor Duties - Members considered and agreed the revised list of duties.

10.2 Litter Picking Equipment – Members noted and welcomed that Ms Chisholm had agreed to co-ordinate the use of equipment.

11. Other Items for Information - none.

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

12.1 The Clerk has received an email from a resident about the 30-mph sign/zone on the northern side of the Village, requesting additional traffic calming measures. This will be tabled on the next Agenda in July. Members agreed to keep a watch on the sign to ensure that it is picking up the correct speed at the correct point. However, several members who regularly travel this road believe that the sign is correctly displaying speeds.

12.2 The Chair raised the recent consultation regarding the Free School and the Gilbert Ward Academy re: Autism. He has researched this topic and has found that the school has lots of experience and is highly regarded in this field. He believed that we should support this proposal and that it is extremely welcomed.

- 12.3 A proposal was made to plant a small Community Orchard on the site where the old 4 Cherry Trees had been removed. Cllr Pringle agreed to look at the area and speak to local residents about the proposal.
- 12.4 The NCC Local Plan Consultation begins today.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm