

## **Longhorsley Parish Council Annual Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at 7.00pm**

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

Clerk G Turner

Members of the Public: A & S Etchells  
A Archibald (left at 8.15pm)  
B Alcock (left at 8.25pm)

***Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Clerk confirmed that following the local elections held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, she had received completed Acceptance of Office Forms together with completed Register of Interest Forms from all elected councillors.***

### **1. Election of Chairman for 2021/22**

Cllr Elliott asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Boyle proposed Cllr Elliott and this was seconded by Cllr Ford. With no other nominations being received, Cllr Elliott was duly elected to the position of Chairman.

### **2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman**

Cllr Elliott completed and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, which was made before the Clerk, Gillian Turner.

### **3. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Elliott asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr Pringle proposed Cllr Ford and this was seconded by Cllr Boyle. With no other nominations being received, Cllr Ford was duly elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

### **4. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr A Hedman.

### **5. Minutes** of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

6. **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda** – Cllr Bell declared a permanent disclosable pecuniary interest in the East Road Development – ownership of land.
7. **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be: 9<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021.
8. **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance.
9. **Report from PC Andrea Teasdale** – the following update had been supplied by PC Teasdale covering:
  - Problems with off road bikers in the area – mainly at the weekend. We are working with other agencies to address this issue as it is a national problem and a lot of the riders are legally allowed on certain areas which creates the problem for us to deal with it.
  - There are also on-going poaching issues but some cars have been seized by Police when they have been stopped or abandoned following reports of poaching in the area. Please report any issues with off-road bikes or poachers to police via 101 or the website as you can submit a web submission.
  - As the lockdown continues to be eased, we are hoping there will not be too many issues and most people have stuck to the guidelines to date. If there are any specific breaches you can report them via 101 or a web submission and these will be looked into.

## 10. **Finance**

10.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for May 2021, totalling £3,194.40.

### 10.2 **Review of Standing Orders**

Members reviewed and endorsed the Standing Orders as dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### 10.3 **Review of Financial Regulations**

Members reviewed and endorsed the Financial Regulations as dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## 11. **Routine Items for Review**

### 11.1a) **Planning Decisions** –

- 20/04290/FUL re: Proposal to extend agricultural steel portal framed shed at land North West of Paxton Dene Farm – GRANTED by NCC.

- 21/00639/VARYCO re: Variation to condition 2 at land East of Low Southward Edge – GRANTED by NCC.
  - 21/00486/FUL re: Portacabins at land North of Longhorsley Playing Filed – GRANTED by NCC
- b) **Review of Planning Applications** – members considered the following applications
- 21/00741/FUL re: proposed single/double storey extension at 13 Wilding Place – members had no objections to this application.
  - 20/01242//FUL re: conversion of shop to form residential dwelling at Belmont – objections covering change of use, vehicle access, registered Village Green land and blocking of lane during works.
- c) **Aerial Masts at Davison Court** – nothing to report at this time.

#### 11.2 **Moor Management Committee – verbal update by Cllr Pringle**

- Changes made during the past year has resulted in a more open vista, largely as a result of tree felling particularly on the north side of the track. Trees either side of the track have also been felled. The timber awaits collection from the roadside.
- Thankfully the road to the farm is being well maintained to accommodate the extra traffic at present.
- A quotation has been sought and received for the creation of a pond with a special drinking bay for livestock. Hopefully an attraction for waterfowl?
- The ponies continue to thrive in their environment. Sheep numbers have fluctuated due to some persistent escapists which ultimately had to be removed. Twenty-two remain but are rarely seen together.
- New signage has been erected to request that all dogs be kept on a leash due to the presence of cattle grazing in the area.
- A huge area of heather has been burnt recently, hopefully to great effect! Many thanks to those involved on two separate occasions.
- Finally, it has been useful to have had the occasional on-site Moor Committee meeting when the Parish Council are able to familiarise themselves with work in progress.
- Another donation in respect of logs has been received for £60.

### 11.3 The Old Church Wood – report by Cllr Ford

- Mr Chisholm has confirmed that the mowing of the perimeter paths together with the inter-row mowing will commence shortly.
- Fencing on the East side has been replaced and the ditch cleaned out by the land owner.
- Cllr Pringle has inspected the cemetery wall and it appears that the South East corner has been damaged by the roots of nearby trees, but in general the wall is OK.

### 11.4 Play Areas

- Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
- MUGA Lighting - Cllr Boyle reported that the contractor will be installing the new cables from the electricity cabinet to the token box on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Cllr Elliott had met with Mr Paterson to discuss the siting of the new bark chipping bases for the 3 picnic tables in Adamson Park. He will also discuss the area to be used for the Wilding Place bases.

11.5 **Allotments** – Cllr Boyle reported that the works to install a new water tap and fencing repairs should be completed over the summer months depending on the availability of contractors.

11.6 **Plants and Flowers** – nothing to report. The Clerk informed the new councillors that the council had recently replaced 9 of the old wooden planters with new recycled plastic ones.

### 11.7 Village Maintenance Issues

- a. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that Northumbria Fencing will be undertaking works to top fence posts and install chain links in keeping with other areas in the Village. A quotation has been received from J Chisholm re the installation of a hard surface matting. 3 options were given ranging from £4,500 to £8,700. He will now speak to Mr McMorrow to ask for his comments on the 3 options and will bring this issue back to the June meeting.
- b. Car parking issues re parking on pavement opposite the Village Shop – the Clerk informed the meeting that letters had been sent to local residents, the holiday cottage and the contact we had on file for the owner of the cottage. She had also reported the issue to NCC and PC Teasdale. She has received a reply from the former owner that the cottage, informing her that the cottage had been sold last year but unfortunately, she did not have the new owners' details. Members believed that the issue seemed a little better and hoped the letters were having some effect.

#### **The meeting was adjourned at 7.55 pm to allow parishioners to speak**

- i. Andrew Archibald from the Football Club informed the meeting that planning permission has now been granted for the installation of the containers at the Common. The Club are now debating whether or not to become a charity in order to make the ownership arrangement more formal. However, some members are not keen on this idea as individuals could be liable for any incidents etc. Another option would be to transfer the ownership of the containers to the Parish Council, which would mean that should the Football Club fold, the community would still be able to use the containers.

The Chairman outlined precedents about this type of arrangement, for example Adamson Park which is owned by a third party but the council manages and maintains it under a partnership agreement.

- ii. Andrew also mentioned the problem of dog fouling on the Common, especially on those areas on which the children play. A CCTV system could be installed and additional signage erected. The Clerk will also write an article for the Tree to coincide with the new football season starting in September.
- iii. Ben Alcock raised the issue of the speed sign on the A697. He believes that an Average Speed camera on either side of the village would be a good idea, similar to those deployed in Devon and Cornwall. He does not want to lose the camera as he is certain that it is a major deterrent to speeding motorists.

The Chairman added that additional road markings are still to be installed by NCC on the A697 North of the Village. Cllr Glen Sanderson is speaking to officers at NCC about the repositioning of the speed camera and arranging some speed monitoring surveys to be carried out to assess the volume of the traffic problem.

**No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.25 pm**

#### 11.7(Contd) Village Maintenance

- c. East Road Lane Width Problems – Members noted an email received highlighting damage done to property by vehicles driving down the narrow lane. Members agreed to erect a sign to warn motorists. Cllr Bell agreed to ask the landlady of the Shoulder of Mutton for permission to attach a sign to their wall.
- d. Wi-Fi Access in the Village Hall – Cllr Boyle raised the issue with regard to having remote access to the CCTV system – the cost of which is in the region of £600 p.a. Due to the possibility of the Village Hall being used as a “Wi-Fi hub” it was agreed to delay this issue until further notice. In the meantime, Cllr Boyle will ask for a key to the Village Hall so that he can access the system as and when required.
- e. Old Graveyard – An email has been received regarding people using a shortcut over graves rather than using the existing pathway. Cllr Pringle agreed to speak to T Fish to ask if fencing would be allowed in this area.

11.8 **Website** – updates required for the new councillors including photographs and contact details.

#### 11.9 Longhorsley Tree

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the new Chairman and Vice-Chair appointments, logs available on Moor, MUGA lighting and litter picking equipment.

11.10 **Donation Requests:** - none received.

## 12. Items Carried Forward

### 12.1 Housing Developments and Planning Matters in the Village

- a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time.
- b) East Road – nothing to report at this time.  
(Cllr Bell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this issue)

- c) Kirkups Corner – the Chairman informed the meeting that someone is interested in this land and details should follow soon.

12.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – nothing to report.

12.3 **Village Green** – The meeting was informed that the Chairman and Clerk are to meet with NCC officers in June.

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

### **13. Other Agenda Items**

13.1 Members received the Review of Councillor Duties for 2021/22. The Clerk will make the necessary alterations and circulate to members asap.

13.2 Longhorsley Football Club Clubhouse – discussed under point i. during the public session above.

### **14. Other Items for Information**

14.4 The litter picking equipment previously requested has now been received and will be stored in the Village Hall for the community to use as and when required. The Clerk was asked to contact Jan Chisholm to ask if she will coordinate its use.

14.5 Flooding Update – Cllr Boyle has met with officers from NCC on site to discuss the flooding issues in the Whitegates area. A full report will be brought to the June meeting for consideration.

14.6 The Clerk was asked to write to the Football Club to remind users to replace the rope at the entrance to the Common after using the field.

14.7 The Clerk reminded members that NALC has issued the timetable for training events for Councillors.

14.8 Village Hall – Cllr Ford reported that:

- The yoga and ballet classes will be resuming
- The new website is ready to go
- Charges are to be reviewed in the new year
- There is a balance of £16,401 in the account with some £5k to be paid for the chairs and windows
- There is more COVID start-up funding available from NCC
- The joiner is to complete the installation of the new front doors
- The Heritage projects are also recommencing

### **15. Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)**

None

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm.