

Longhirst Parish Council

Annual Parish (public) meeting

MINUTES

6.30pm on Tuesday, 18 MAY 2021

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88020222644>

PRESENT: Peter Coates, Glen Fahy, Peter Lovering, Chris Marr, Jon Mills, Janet Quinn, Richard Tordoff

APOLOGIES: None

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Council: Cllr David Towns, NCC

Clerk: Helyn Douglas

Public: Mark Davies

1 WELCOME

Last year's Chair, Catherine Farrell, stood down at the elections; therefore Cllr Peter Coates as last year's Vice Chair agreed to Chair this meeting.

Cllr Coates congratulated all the successful candidates and is looking forward to a successful future for the Parish Council.

2 INTRODUCTION TO PARISH COUNCILLORS

As there were no members of the public in attendance this was not felt necessary.

3 CHAIR'S REPORT – review of the past year

The outgoing Chair, Catherine Farrell, has stood down from the Council; therefore the Vice Chair gave an update on last year's achievements.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on the work of the Parish Council and members have had to adapt to meeting online, though the expectation is that the next meeting will be held in person in Longhirst Village Hall.

Village life was affected and the Vice Chair wished to thank the following for their continued support of the village:

Diane Milmore, Fiona Smith and Kathleen Robson provided an excellent shopping service for those confined to their homes during lockdown

The volunteer litter picking group has also continued to work, and has now been in operation for 18 years - a significant achievement.

The Longhirst Leader has been supported by Lawrence Carey and North East Grains (each one covering the printing costs on alternate editions). Lawrence and Anne Carey have also maintained the planters at the War Memorial.

The three main Residents' Associations now attend and have a dedicated slot at Parish Council meetings - their input is welcomed.

The North East Grains liaison meeting has proved to be very successful. It has established better relations between the plant and the community and all those involved consider it worth continuing.

The planning application for Domino's Field was rejected and this news was welcomed in the village (though the developer still has time to lodge an appeal).

The speed reduction scheme has been installed by the County Council, along with new name plates for the village, and there has been a positive reaction from residents. Members expressed their thanks to County Councillor David Towns, for his support in this. (Relocating the flashing sign at the north of the village is the only outstanding item to be sorted out.)

There are a number of ongoing issues that remain unresolved:

- Ashington Road flooding and the missing manhole covers.
- Butcher's Lane path maintenance / reinstatement, and blocked gullies.
- Also the gullies remain blocked on the Main Street.
- Fly tipping continues to be a problem, particularly on Ashington Road (though Councillors are impressed by how quickly this is cleared by NCC when it is reported).
- The new pedestrian footpath from Micklewood Close is still not in place but Councillors hope this will be achieved in the coming year.

Plans for this coming year include mapping the public rights of way and developing a wildlife project across the Parish. NCC are also due to undertake resurfacing on Station Road.

Finally, Cllr Coates expressed his sincere regret that Mark Davis is no longer on the Parish Council, but hopes that he will continue to be actively involved in its work. Mr Davis thanked everyone for their kind wishes and stated he had enjoyed his time on the Parish Council. He is interested in being involved in the Wildlife project as that develops.

4 THREE-YEAR ROLLING STRATEGIC PLAN

a) Review of progress 2019 - 2021

Councillors reviewed the achievements from last year, and agreed that the list of strategic objectives should remain the same for this year.

b) Review key objectives and action plan for 2021/22

As there was only one resident in attendance members agreed to defer the discussion about the 2021/22 Action Plan to the next meeting.

All Councillors are requested to consider activities for inclusion in the action plan. Please pass these to the Clerk in good time before the next meeting so that they can then be incorporated into the plan for discussion.

ACTION: ALL

5 OPEN DISCUSSION

There were no issues raised.

Close of meeting at 18.50