

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 13th October, 2021 in the Village Hall, at 7pm

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

Clerk G Turner

2 Parishioners

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

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

Members took the opportunity to express their sincere good wishes to Cllr Elliott at this time.

2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September, 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 10th November and 8th December, 2021, with meetings being held in the Village Hall.
5. **County Matters** – Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance but supplied an email, thanking members for meeting with NCC to discuss the installation of passing places on the Smallburn Road. As a result, he has underwritten the cost of two passing places.
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 over the past 8 weeks there has been nothing of concern/note to report back to council.

7. **Finance**

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 13th October, 2021, totalling £2,749.55.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of September, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 30th September.
- 7.3 **Bank Signatories** – Members agreed to add Cllrs Bell and Hedman to the Barclays Bank mandate.
- 7.4 **Budget 2022/23** – members received Version 1 of the “Standstill Budget”. The Clerk advised the meeting that NCC are to provide the taxbase by the end of the month, but all felt that there would be little change year on year. One of the unknown factors being the production and printing of the Tree newsletter. Members were informed that the budget can be tweaked and revised up until the January meeting where the formal precept will be reported.

8 **Routine Items for Review**

8.1a) **Planning Decisions:**

21/03481/NONMAT Addition of sandstone quoin slips to east and west corners of Callaly Cottage – NCC PERMITTED the application.

21/03393/NONMAT Allow removal of bay window and change material from slate to render of Westfield, West Road – NCC PERMITTED the application.

8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications:** - none

8.1c) **Aerial Masts at Davison Court** – No response has been forthcoming from NCC as yet – copy to Cllr Sanderson and Planning Officer.

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**

Members received and noted the draft minutes from the meeting dated 6th October.

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

- The row mowing will be undertaken soon.
- The new saplings from the Woodland Trust are on the way and a working party will be organised to finish the hedgerow in the SE corner.
- A working party of 12 volunteers on 26th September cleared all the paving inside the old church and around the porch. The weeds will be sprayed ready for planting in the Spring. An application will be made to the Wind Farm Fund for noticeboards, benches, compost and spraying.

8.4 Play Areas

- i. Members received and noted Mr Paterson's monthly report.
- ii. MUGA Lighting – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the lighting has been working perfectly for the last month or so, and a breaking news article was issued informing users as to the correct way to insert the coins into the box. Cllr Douglas has purchased some new PIR lights (passive infra-red) to allow users to see their way out of the area once the floodlights are turned-off. The Clerk will issue all councillors a copy of the claim form to be used in order to have any expenses reimbursed.
- iii. The Clerk was asked to contact the football team to see if they still want the wooden picnic table currently in Adamson Park – if not it was agreed to offer it to the allotment holders.

8.5 **Allotments** – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the vacant plot has been sprayed and will be tidied-up in readiness for a potential new tenant. It was agreed to place the installation of a new water tap and creation of a community area onto the wish list.

8.6 Village Maintenance Review

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that Mr McMorrow has provided a good report as to the surface requirements. The chains between the wooden posts are still to be installed. However, the new gate has been made and will be in-situ soon.
- ii. Flooding Issues – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that someone has built a wooden construction in the burn under the bridge on the A697. Cllr Ford will speak to P Kerr at the Rivers Trust to ask what is its purpose.
- iii. Archies Pond Project Update – The dredging works have been completed and the smaller pools created with graded banks. A leak has been discovered at the base of the outlet dam which will need fixing. Cllr Ford, Mr Paterson and Mr Fish had a site visit on Sunday to firm up the plan for the path works. It was decided that due to the new shape of the second main pond, decking will not be required at that area, but there will be room for a couple of benches. Mr Paterson will source materials, including recycled plastic for the decking by the main pond and for walkways as necessary. This work will be starting next week.
- iv. Ash Dieback – no response has been received from NCC as yet. The Clerk was tasked with asking the Tree Surgeons to check the trees on the A697 on the east side entrance to the Old Church as some branches have come down in the high winds.
- v. Cllr Ford suggested that the old gate at the Church could be used at Archies Pond.
- vi. Community Orchard – Cllr Hedman has made contact with companies to obtain some heritage varieties of apple, plum and other fruit trees. To date only one has

responded. Members suggested that he contact Northern Ark, on the West Road, to see if they could supply heritage trees.

- vii. Cllr Pringle reported that residents had highlighted a large pothole at the south end of Coronation Terrace. Residents should report any potholes to NCC via their website in the first instance. If the land does not belong to NCC then we might need to look into ways of filling the potholes with tarmac or concrete.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree** –Articles to include: – MUGA lighting, EWD plaque, Archies Pond, Old Churchyard tidy-up, Using NCC website to report potholes, trees etc, New Year’s Eve Beacon event.

8.9 **Donation Requests** – none received

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – nothing to report at this time as the AGM will be held on 20th October.

9. Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments in the Village

- a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time.
- b) East Road Development – nothing to report at this time.
- c) Kirkups Corner – ongoing.

9.2 **Neighbourhood Planning** – nothing to report at this time.

9.3 **Village Green Issues** – the Chairman and Clerk met with an officer from NCC legal section on 20th September to walk the Village Green area to point out the various issues.

9.4 **Welcome Letters** – two letters have been issued to 12 and 68 Church View.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Members were provided with the response from NCC with regard to the suggestion of registering the EWD blue plaque as a Community Asset. This cannot be included on the Community Value list as an asset is defined as a building or other land whose main use has been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community. The regulations specifically exclude residential buildings and associated property such as outbuildings, gardens and drives etc. Councillors suggested that we ask the new owners to keep the plaque in place and as a PC we keep it restored and in good condition. The Clerk agreed to contact Blyth Town Council re a blue plaque policy as it has several plaques around the Town.

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

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

12.1 The vicar would like to hold an act of remembrance on the Village Green on Sunday 14th November – members agreed to this request.

12.2 A letter has been received from the Village Hall Committee, thanking the Chairman and the Parish Council for the assistance given re the installation of the new front doors.

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm