

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 8th September, 2021 in the Village Hall, at 7pm

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

Clerk G Turner

PC Teasdale (Left at 7.15pm)
2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr A Hedman and County Cllr G Sanderson.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st July, 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 13th October and 10th November, 2021, with meetings being held in the Village Hall.
5. **County Matters** – Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance but supplied a written update as follows:
 - i. He and PC Teasdale are to meet to discuss the deployment of the camera van in the Village.
 - ii. He asked for comments regarding the installation of passing places on the Smallburn Road as per his recent email. Members welcomed both proposals as shown in the email. Members asked that a site meeting be arranged to discuss the exact location of the passing places as they were concerned that a “blind-spot”, which causes people to reverse, may not be covered.
 - iii. He confirmed that the contribution of £5,000 towards the Archies Pond project and members expressed their gratitude for the funding.
 - iv. Members also congratulated all concerned about the recent work undertaken regarding the East Coast Mainline (changes to timetable) – this has now been postponed until next year to allow further evidence to be gathered.

6. Update by PC Andrea Teasdale – she highlighted the following issues:

- She was aware of several “scams” in the area covering deliveries, texts and telephone calls. She urged everyone to be on their guard and always to follow up unknown contacts by independently contacting head offices.
- She will be linking up with Cllr Sanderson to discuss the reported speeding problems in the Village.
- Poaching – Operation Hawkeye is still running and is proving to be quite successful. However, due to COVID her “patch” is rather sparse on the ground but hopefully, this will improve.
- Following the issue raised by members regarding the borrowing of speed guns etc, she confirmed that anyone wishing to use this type of equipment needs to be vetted and trained.
- She is getting back into meeting with schools and community groups following the easement of the COVID restrictions

PC Teasdale left the meeting at this point 7.15pm

7. Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 8th September, 2021, totalling £4,162.92.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of August, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31st August.
- 7.3 **Conclusion of External Audit 2020/21** – members received and endorsed the Conclusion of Audit documents as received from PKF Littlejohn, namely Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, noting that there were no concerns raised and no matters arising from the audit. The “Notice” of conclusion of audit was duly signed and put onto the noticeboard and website.

8. Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:

21/01909/FUL Construction of a single storey extension at 43 Drummonds Close – NCC GRANTED permission.

21/02711/PRUTPO Application to reduce by 1/3rd mature Ash tree at 56 Church View, Badgers Ford – NCC Permitted the works.

21/01975/AGRGDO Prior notification for a general-purpose agricultural building at land North East of South Linden House – NCC GRANTED permission.

20/03456/VARYCO Variation to condition 4 to allow flexibility in respect of type of caravans on site at Forget-Me-Not Caravan Park – NCC GRANTED permission.

8.1b) Review of Planning Applications:

21/02183/FUL Proposed conversion of self-contained house to create additional 2-bedroom house at 1-2 South Road – The Chairman informed the meeting that the Footpath Officer had made comments about this application, stating that the footpath (Path No. 21) must not be obstructed.

21/03481/NONMAT Non-material amendment relating to planning permission 20/01659/FUL for addition of sandstone quoin slips at Callaly Cottage, Cragside Mews.

21/03393/NONMAT Non-material amendment to allow removal of a bay window and change of material from slate to render 20/03211/FUL at Westfield, West Road.

8.1c) Aerial Masts at Davison Court – The Clerk was asked to chase-up NCC.

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
21/01561/FUL	Westridges – (Highways has requested a better splay to improve visibility and a speed assessment is also required).

8.2 Moor Management Committee

Members received and noted the draft minutes from the meeting dated 4th August. Cllr Pringle has spoken to DC Moffat regarding the spraying of the test area.

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

- The perimeter paths have recently been recut and the hay gathered up.
- An application for more hedging has been submitted to NCC.
- A working party of volunteers will be carrying out maintenance at the Old Church on 26th September.
- Unfortunately, the Love Northumberland Award application has gone astray
- An application for funding to cover noticeboards etc. will be submitted to the December meeting of the Wingates Community Fund.

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. However, prior to this meeting, Cllrs Boyle and Douglas had re-tried the system and it was not working - they will investigate further. The Clerk asked if any invoices had been received for the work to the circuit board etc.- Cllr Boyle will follow this up.

8.5 **Allotments** – the Clerk has received 2 notices to vacate allotments and only 1 person is on the waiting list. All agreed that an article in the Tree to promote the allotments would be a good idea.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Review**

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that Northumbria Fencing has ordered the entrance bar/gate. However, there is a delay in getting materials for the metal chain for the posts. He will investigate obtaining plastic chains.
- ii. Flooding Issues – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that NCC has installed the screening on the West side of the path and that it looks robust.
- iii. Archies Pond Project Update – members accepted the quotation for the installation of decking and footpaths from company B. Only 1 quotation has been received out of 4 companies originally contacted for the dredging of the ponds and was therefore accepted. The Clerk presented a summary of current funding and costs associated with the project and members agreed to underwrite the balance of up to £3,000 from LPC budgets. The Clerk informed the meeting that she still had one funding application to the Community Foundation in the pipeline for £5k. The Clerk agreed to inform J Chisholm asap in order for him to start the work and that a start date was needed so that the area could be cordoned-off for Health & Safety purposes.

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

- i. A member of the public raised the issue of the litter bin, outside of Millar's shop, regularly overflowing with pizza boxes etc. The Clerk was asked to contact the operators of all of the fast-food vans to ask them to remove their customers rubbish at the end of service.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.08 pm

8.6 **Village Maintenance Review Contd**

- iv. Cllr Ford informed the meeting that there is a need to identify those trees suffering from Ash dieback. It was agreed that the Clerk speak to NCC to ascertain what is required.
- v. Cllr Ford agreed to find out whether or not the old dilapidated wooden gate at Old Church was needed to prevent deer from entering the area before being removed.
- vi. Community Orchard – Cllr Ford informed the meeting that she had visited the area where the 5 old Cherry Trees has been removed, opposite The Croft. Most thought that the trees would need to be placed as close to The Moorings as possible.
- vii. Grit Bins – the Clerk informed the meeting that she and Cllr Ford had inspected the 2 areas proposed for the grit bins, at Wilding Place and Paxton Dene. The information has been passed to NCC so that officers can decide whether or not they should be our responsibility or whether they are necessary under NCC criteria.
- viii. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted NCC Highways for suggestions as to the wording to be used for the signage to be installed on the track at the Shoulder of Mutton.

- 8.7 **LPC Website** – The Clerk informed the meeting that the conclusion of audit papers will be posted on the site from 9th September.
- 8.8 **Longhorsley Tree** – The Clerk to write articles covering – the allotment vacancy, Community Orchard, Archies Pond Project and personal donations, EWD plaque and the LTP.
- 8.9 **Donation Requests** – none received
- 8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Ford gave the following update:
- i. The PO equipment is still faulty and the problem has been raised with the main PO.
 - ii. Covid arrangements – some amendments, which are on the web portal, include kitchen and hand driers can now be used.
 - iii. 2 public events have been booked
 - iv. Application for more sound equipment – still in progress
 - v. Restart Grant – the hall received £8000 in July and will be used for a suitable project.
 - vi. The new front door has been installed and the adjacent floor repaired. Keys have been distributed to the groups and regular users. A canopy will be installed over the front door.
 - vii. The carpets will be cleaned, the outside cladding revarnished and a double-sided noticeboard installed on the inside of the front door.
 - viii. The energy survey has been completed and awaiting report. Possibilities include solar panels and electric vehicle charging points.
 - ix. The AGM will take place on Wednesday 20th October 2021
 - x. 2 committee members attended training for the village hall oral history project.
 - xi. Treasurer’s Report – As at 31st August the balance is £23,600. The film licence has been renewed.
 - xii. A secure bin shelter will be purchased as there have been problems with inappropriate material being place in the bins. They have been moved to an area under CCTV surveillance.

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 – members approved the documents which are in the process of being compiled for the de-registration of the land.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – members reviewed the Community Action Points spreadsheet and asked the Clerk to revise and update the progress column in light of recent developments.

9.3 Village Green Issues – the Clerk was asked to chase-up this item including the site visit and to ascertain if officers at NCC had located the old files dealing with this issue.

9.4 Welcome Letters – the Clerk was asked to send a letter to the new residents at 12 Church View.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Members considered an email requesting that the council look into having the blue plaque registered at the former home of Emily Wilding Davison. It was noted that at the moment only English Heritage has the title regarding blue plaques and that Northumberland CC does not have a similar scheme in place. The Clerk was asked to review the situation of the current plaque which was installed several years ago and look into registering the plaque as a community asset.

10.2 Members considered schemes for the Local Transport Plan 2022/23 the 3 priorities being:

- i. To restate “improvements to the pedestrian footpath on the North side of the West Road” back onto the list as NCC Area Maintenance has not carried out any improvements and the condition of the path has worsened as a result of localised flooding and is a trip hazard causing pedestrians to walk on the road.
- ii. The installation of chicanes on the East and West Road.
- iii. The installation of public charging points in the Village for electric cars.

11. Other Items for Information - none.

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

12.1 NCC Climate change consultation – the Clerk was asked to find out if NCC has any documents or policies relating to how parish councils can assist or what they should be doing.

12.2 The trees at the back of the Village Hall need cutting back and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson to undertake this work.

12.3 Cllr Bell had attended the Wingates meeting and reported that the June meeting had approved £27k grant funding but only one application for bird nest boxes for £770 was on the September agenda. There is funding available to the value of £2k to support schools with IT equipment which is from the Windfarm and not the Community Fund.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm