

## **Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 in the Village Hall, at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllrs: I Elliott (Chairman)  
P Boyle  
N Douglas  
P Ford (Vice-Chair)  
A Hedman

Clerk G Turner

2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs K Bell and D Pringle, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 (previously circulated) were approved and duly signed.

Members also unanimously endorsed all decisions made at the May and June Parish Council meetings.

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 8<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October, 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. The new Council is working on the corporate plan covering the next four years. The overarching aim is to ensure that, as we move from the shadows of Covid, the Council plays a very proactive role in encouraging new and existing businesses to invest in the County while at the same time doing as much as it can to support those residents who most need help by tackling poverty and health inequalities.
  - ii. Some families have really suffered from the effects of the lockdown and the current levels affecting schools has brought further pressure to some households.
  - iii. There is lots to be optimistic about – work is due to start at the end of this month on the new battery giga plant which will bring over 3,000 jobs in a few years and best of all will encourage new industry to invest in the County.
  - iv. The Government has announced £21m for town regeneration in Blyth making a total of £33m of Government funding for the town regeneration.

- v. The Borderlands Partnership is up and running funding £5m to Lildorei in the Alnwick Gardens, the new whisky distillery and visitor centre in Wooler and soon a large-scale development of the Maltings as well as 7 town deals in market and coastal towns in Northumberland at a cost of £30m
- vi. Today the first cruise ships arrive in Berwick.
- vii. Less good is the current consultation around the East Coast Mainline where proposals include a reduction in the trains from Morpeth – around 30%. Some organisations are lobbying the Government strongly on this issue.
- viii. Work on Climate Change continues and NCC is looking to work more closely with Parish and Town Councils.
- ix. Locally, a meeting with the Highways manager is arranged for next week to discuss possible passing places on the Smallburn Road. Any plans will be passed on to LPC for comments.
- x. Works at the Weldon River Bridge are to begin to refurbish the bridge and address structural issues.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received correspondence from a local resident against the proposed reduction of trains stopping at Morpeth. Members agreed that the Clerk send a letter of complaint to the Government (Department of Transport) together with compiling a response to the current consultation on behalf of LPC.

**6. Update by PC Andrea Teasdale** – PC Teasdale was not in attendance on the evening but supplied a written update covering:

- Things have been relatively quiet on the poaching front with not many reports being made. Operation Hawkeye continues to run to address issues associated with rural crime.
- Northumbria Police continues to monitor off-road bikes in the area.
- There was a recent report of males entering someone’s garden and trying to open a kennel but made off without stealing anything. As dog thefts are on the increase, residents are reminded to ensure that kennels are securely locked and security lighting installed.
- She is aware of the issues of speeding on the East and West Roads and will be addressing this in the next few weeks with patrols and a speed gun.
- As the Covid restrictions were lifted on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, there is now no formal enforcement undertaken by the Police.

**7. Finance**

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021, totalling £2,705.16.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of June, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 12<sup>th</sup> July.

## 8. Routine Items for Review

### 8.1a) **Planning Decisions:**

21/00243/FUL Creation of Agricultural Access at Land North of Reivers Gate – NCC GRANTED permission.

21/00741/FUL Proposed single/double storey extension at 13 Wilding Place – NCC GRANTED permission.

21/00716/FUL Proposed general purpose agricultural building at Land South of Springview, Causey Park – NCC GRANTED permission.

21/02277/ELEGDO Erection of pole in line of existing overhead line to provide new connection at Track South West of the Acres – NCC had no Objection.

### 8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications:**

21/01300/VARYCO Removal of condition 1 for the retention of an existing caravan at Southward Edge Barns – no objections.

21/01975/AGRGDO Prior notification for general purpose agricultural building at Land North East of South Linden House – noted.

21/01909/FUL Construction of a single storey extension at 43 Drummonds Close – No Objections.

21/02183/FUL Proposed conversion of self-contained house to create additional 2-bedroom house at 1-2 South Road – Concerns were raised re parking issues i.e., lack of provision.

21/02711/PRUTPO Reduction of mature Ash by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> at 56 Church View, Badgers Ford – No objection.

8.1c) **Aerial Masts at Davison Court** – This issue was referred to NCC Planning Enforcement, who have acknowledged receipt and will look into the matter.

8.1d) **West Ridges** – 21/01561/FUL Conversion of redundant barn into 3 dwellings – there had previously been an application made under section Q but was subsequently refused. This is a new full planning application. Although the application would involve access over Village Green land, access was granted back in 1981 – therefore setting a precedent of “presumed right”. Members agreed to express concerns and set conditions that the sewerage treatment plant is to be always maintained and kept in full working order as it is close to Archies Pond.

8.1e) **Land South West of Field Head House** 21/01471/OUT – Following the June meeting, the Chairman circulated a draft response which members endorsed. The objections have been forwarded to NCC. Interestingly, Highways had also stated that it was unsuitable as officers believed that the access/egress was unsustainable.

8.1f) Belmont – The Chairman thanked Cllr Ford and Mr Etchells for their input at the recent NCC meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July. All believed that the meeting was conducted very well. Many interesting questions were raised by LPC and residents. The Chairman also thanked Cllr Sanderson for his significant support.

The Committee decided to defer the decision to a later date. The Belmont application may set precedents for all similar future applications in Northumberland.

Members unanimously agreed that they were minded not to grant permission to drive over this section of Village Green to access this property. As it is a public footpath, regular use by cars could be a public safety risk, and it is believed to be unsuitable for that purpose.

## 8.2 Moor Management Committee

The Clerk informed the meeting that the next Moor Management Committee is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> August.

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

- The perimeter paths have recently been recut.
- Volunteers will be asked to maintain the wildflower area during August.
- The Barn Owl can regularly be seen out hunting during dusk.
- 105 new saplings have been ordered from the Woodland Trust.

## 8.4 Play Areas

- i. Members received and noted Mr Paterson's monthly report.
- ii. MUGA Lighting – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the coinbox had been returned to the manufacturer as it was not working properly. It was subsequently found to have a faulty circuit board. The box has now been reset, returned and reinstalled. He will test the timing of the tokens this week to ensure that the lights go off after 1 hour. It was agreed that contractors working on the MUGA or indeed any other assets cannot use any of the facilities in the Village Hall without first getting approval from the leader of the Playgroup as vulnerable children are present.
- iii. Members received and noted the comments made during the annual ROSPA inspection. Church View Play area had a number of amber alerts which need to be kept under review, and repairs made where possible, until such a time as funding can be organised for a refurbishment of the area. Members also asked the Clerk to contact Mr Paterson about maintenance works required to the MUGA gate.

8.5 Allotments – nothing to report at this time.

## 8.6 Village Maintenance Review

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle has a meeting arranged with Mr McMorrow and J Chisholm on 4<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the options for new surfacing. He has also met with Northumbria Fencing to discuss the installation of a pivot-bar gate system – costings will be brought to the September meeting for consideration. Due to the introduction of the new posts, NCC cannot mow around or between them. It was therefore agreed to ask JP Garden Services to undertake the strimming around

- the posts. Cllr Boyle has also updated the local resident who raised concerns about the Common area as to our future plans.
- ii. East Road Problems – No response has been received from the resident about any signage required.
  - iii. Flooding Issues – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that local residents are keen to get this matter resolved. He had a second meeting on site with NCC. It is proposed that a new screen and a 3-tier system be designed to assist with flood water. Debris would be kept at the lower level allowing excess water to overflow into the second and third tiers before being allowed to run into the pipes. This will prevent the debris clogging up the pipes thus causing the water to overflow and flood the area. The old culvert between Church View and Whitegates is overgrown and should be maintained by the riparian owner – this was believed to be the original developer McLean’s, which no longer exists. Cllrs Boyle and Ford are to meet at Archies Pond to discuss the possibility of dredging to deepen both ponds so that they can handle any accumulated rainfall.
  - iv. Members considered and noted an email received from a local resident with concerns about the speed of traffic and associated problems North of the Village. As this is a highways issue this will be passed on to NCC. It was also agreed to find out whether any speed testing equipment was available to have on loan.
  - v. West Oakland Tree Issues – the Chairman had a meeting on site with Town and Country Tree Surgeons to discuss maintenance works required on the “Tree”. Works have been agreed for the Autumn and this has been passed onto the local resident. The Clerk has also had a reply from NCC to say that maintenance of the Cherry Tree has been added to their list for inspection purposes.
  - vi. Grit Bins – The Clerk has requests for 2 new bins carried forward from 2019 – 1 at Paxton Dene and the other at Wilding Place. Once the location of the bins is decided she will complete the necessary NCC assessment form. She believes that the Paxton Dene bin will meet NCC criteria as the bank at the ford is very steep and difficult to negotiate during bad weather conditions. However, the Wilding Place bin would probably come under LPCs responsibility and would cost approximately £300.
  - vii. It was agreed to ask Mr Paterson to trim the branches of the trees next to the speed camera on the A697.
  - viii. A request has been received from Longhorsley Junior Football Team to carry out some maintenance works at the top of the Common in readiness for the containers to arrive on site. Members endorsed the decision of the Chairman and Clerk to grant approval.
  - ix. Concerns regarding a resident tripping on the old step outside of Hope House were passed onto NCC by Cllr Hedman and the Clerk. Officers from NCC have been out on site to look at the step following the incident.

8.7 **LPC Website** – The Clerk informed the meeting that the new councillor photographs and contact details were now on the website.

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree** – The Clerk to write articles covering – the Old Churchyard Garden project, Old Church Wood, and an article reminding parents to control children whilst waiting for the school bus i.e., not to kick footballs against private property.

8.9 **Donation Requests** – none received

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Ford gave the following update:

- Covid rules after 19<sup>th</sup> July – up to individual, VHC will recommend wearing face masks and the cleaning boxes will remain available.
- Gigabit – hub status confirmed, waiting for next step
- WFF application for extra sound equipment – Kathryn ready to do the application
- Restart grant – 1 set of suggestions received from Tree and most are already being actioned.
- Unsure whether youth club wanted, so will organise a children’s yoga and/or Zumba class as a test run, with view to setting up more permanently. Zumba teacher will be asked if does children’s classes.
- Another possible activity is Singing for older people.
- Treasurer’s Report – restart grant application submitted.
- Current balance - £15656.15
- Annual return to Charity Commissioner has been submitted.
- PO office money received this month but not debt arrear payment.
- AOB – front door replacement: joiner now unable to do until November, Sue contacted another with view to replacing sooner.
- Groups Supplement to be updated, details will be sent to all the Groups to check ready for September issue of Tree and then put on Portal.

## 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 – nothing to report at this time.

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

**9.3 Village Green Issues** – members received and noted the notes taken at the meeting with NCC on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

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

**10. Other Agenda Items**

10.1 Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Safeguarding Policy – members received and approved the draft policy as prepared by the Clerk.

10.2 Old Churchyard Garden Project – members considered and accepted the Licence Agreement with NCC and the Clerk duly signed-off the document in the presence of those members present.

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

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

12.1 Love Northumberland Awards – The Chairman proposed that the Old Churchyard Garden project be put forward as a nomination. This proposal was unanimously agreed and Cllr Ford agreed to ask Mr Fish for help in compiling the nomination.

12.2 The Chairman has been contacted by Bruno Peek (Pageantmaster to the Queen) regarding the Jubilee Beacons event to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022. Members unanimously agreed to take part in this prestigious event and asked the Clerk to register our intent.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm