

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

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

County Cllr G Sanderson (7.15 to 7.30)

Clerk G Turner

3 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for Absence** – PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November, 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 12th January and 9th February, 2022, with meetings being held in the Village Hall.
5. **County Matters** – Cllr Sanderson highlighted the following:
 - i. At this point in time, some 500 homes are still without power following storm Arwen – generators are now in situ. NCC has stood down the situation as a major incident. However, he is pressing for an inquiry to be carried out as the response from the energy providers was totally inadequate. Several questions need to be raised covering:
 - Why is there not a strategic supply of generators available in times of crisis?
 - What is the true condition of the infrastructure – it is believed to be old?
 - Have the energy companies been investing properly in the infrastructure?
 - Powergrid failed to communicate, there was a lack of data available and the lack of a workable continuity plan.
 - ii. There are still many trees to be sorted out.

- iii. NCC is in the middle of its budgetary process. He hopes that there will be no cuts to front line services. There will be an on-line consultation on budgets, similar to last year as it worked well and was favourably received.
- iv. The passing places on the Smallburn Road will hopefully be started in the new year at a cost of over £4k.
- v. The results from the recent “secret crossing survey” show that Wilding Place junction, does not meet the criteria to have a crossing installed.
- vi. The Clerk informed Cllr Sanderson that a “Resilience Plan” is to be compiled for the Village, in order to respond better to any future events/incidents – Phil Hunter will be the NCC officer to contact.
- vii. The Clerk was asked to send Cllr Sanderson a reminder about the Aerial Masts at Davison Court.

Cllr Sanderson left the meeting at this point – 7.30 pm.

6. Update by PC Andrea Teasdale / PCSO Coulson – nothing to report at this time.

7. Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list to 8th December, 2021, totalling £2,992.10.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of November, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 30th November, 2021.
- 7.3 **Budget 2022/23** – members noted that there have been no changes made to the budget since the November meeting. Members will receive the final copy at the January meeting in order to determine the Precept for 2022/23.

8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Planning Decisions:

21/02183/FUL Proposed conversion of self-contained house to create 2 bedroomed property at 1-2 South Road – NCC **REFUSED** the application.

8.1b) Review of Planning Applications:

21/04523/CLEXIS Certificate of existing use for land and buildings forming part of South Linden Fishery – no objections.

21/04672/FULL Replace rear extension with single storey extension at Ingle Cottage, Green Edge – no objections.

8.1c) Aerial Masts at Davison Court – Cllr Sanderson is chasing-up this issue.

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 – Cllr Pringle gave the following update:

- The Moor Committee scheduled for 1st December was cancelled due to the electricity issues re storm Arwen.
- Some trees have been damaged as a result of the storm and are lying on a fence. The Clerk to ask J Foggon to make good the damage with Cllr Douglas as our contact.
- The Clerk informed the meeting that the Moor Grant for 2021 has now been received and that both Defra and Natural England have agreed the new terms re the Mirror Contact awarded for 2022 to 2026.

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

- A working party of volunteers cleared and planted the new trees received from NCC.
- 105 trees and hedging have been received from the Woodland Trust and will be planted up on Saturday 11th December.
- Funding requested from the Wingates Windfarm Community Fund has been approved for the works in the grounds of the Old Church - £1,600.
- The public footpath between the Old Church and the fields is blocked by fallen trees. NCC is aware, but it is the responsibility of the landowner.

8.4 Play Areas

- i. Members received and noted Mr Paterson’s monthly report.
- ii. The Clerk contacted companies regarding the work to be undertaken to repair the safety surface in Church View play area. She has received one quote from Creative Play, the company used for Adamson Park refurbishment, for £792.00 (which includes VAT). Members approved this quotation.

8.5 Allotments – nothing to report.

8.6 Village Maintenance Review

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the new gate has been installed, together with the rope linking the marker posts. Both have received positive feedback from residents. Cllr Boyle is to meet Mr Chisholm and Mr McMorro in February, in order to review the ground conditions over the winter period and to discuss what surface would be the best option for the area.
- ii. Archies Pond Project Update – Mr Paterson has removed the old decking and is stock piling clay for the second phase of the works.
- iii. Ash Dieback – no response has been received from NCC as yet.

- iv. Community Orchard – Cllr Hedman has sourced the necessary trees from the Tyne Valley Garden Centre and they should be arriving mid- January.
- v. Members considered an email received from a resident of Wilding Place regarding trees. It was agreed that the Parish Council will replace those trees which have died and that the residents be informed about the NCC scheme to award every resident with a tree on application, should additional trees be required.
It was also reported that one of the trees by the memorial stone on the Village Green is tilted. The Clerk to ask Mr Paterson to carry out any remedial works.
- vi. Storm Arwen Damage – Cllr Ford informed the meeting that a sub-committee of the Village Hall Management Committee has been tasked to formulate a Resilience Plan (see minute 8.10 below).
- vii. Flooding at Whitegates – Cllr Boyle has received an update report from the NCC Flooding Officer. A new angled screen has been installed to collect debris thus allowing water to flow, and appears to be working well. NCC now has a plan of all of the water culverts in the area, with the exception of the one behind number 3 Whitegates. NWA is to try and locate where the culvert goes and whether or not it is blocked or is a dead-end. NWA will also undertake a survey in the Whitegates area. NCC will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the angled screen and will also install a plate over the opposite culvert. NCC has written to all of the properties in the area to inform them of the works and how residents can protect their properties. Cllr Boyle will forward the report to the Clerk and Mr Lister.
- viii. It was reported that users of the MUGA are using 50p pieces to circumvent having to pay £2 for a token, therefore causing a loss of income to the Parish. The Clerk was asked to contact Speeder to request a replacement plate so that only bone-fide tokens will work.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree** – There is no edition in January.

8.9 **Donation Requests** – Members had been previously given a copy of a grant request from the Great North Air Ambulance Service. The Clerk informed the meeting that this is a charity which has been supported for a number of years. Members agreed that a grant of £100 be approved.

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Ford informed the meeting about issues considered at the recent meeting covering:

- Entrance canopy and bin cover – still waiting to hear from joiner
- Extra sound equipment proposal agreed and will be submitted to Windfarm Fund by February, for decision in March.
- Superfast broadband box installed on south side of village hall, waiting for cable installation by BT. Alncom is responsible for upkeep and have a key; other keys held by Fiona and Garry. Very low, permanent power supply. Provides a facility for the hall as well as a hub for the village.

- Emergency Services Plan – a small group provided facilities at the hall and contacted vulnerable people during the power outage, which ran from 28th November to 3rd December. Support offered by Glen Sanderson, Fire Service, police officer, Mission church, Shoulder of Mutton, Forget me not Caravan Park, the school, the NCC community aid and private loans of generators. This worked, but realised there was a need for better communication and an action plan to coordinate the help and establish links faster.
- NCC offering a grant for welfare hubs, which can provide a generator and improved facilities at the hall. Proposed that the group become a subcommittee of the hall. Contacts will be located in various parts of the village and in the event of a problem they will contact the committee, who will start the action plan.
- VHC will hold a fundraising quiz in January to contribute to funds needed.
- Once the action plan is agreed a supplement will be sent out in the Tree with the contact numbers and details of the plan, so that every household has a copy to keep; this will be updated regularly.
- A clause will be added to the hire agreement for the hall to say that bookings may be cancelled at short notice in emergency circumstances.
- CAN asking for oral records of the event for the archive.
- Treasurer's Report: Account - £21537.76, expenditure of £1450 for doors and windows.
- PO – regular payments received, no arrears received for 2 months, PO will be contacted.
- Bank signatories still to be changed.
- AOB – thanks to Margaret and Glyn Scott for the Christmas tree, which was decorated by the children using the hall.
- Next meeting February 8th 2022

Members unanimously agreed for the Clerk to send a letter of appreciation to the Village Hall Committee for their exceptional service to the community during the recent storm event.

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 – The Clerk informed the meeting that she is preparing a statement, which will be agreed with our solicitors, in response to comments/objections made to the Planning Inspectorate in reference to this application.

9.2 Neighbourhood Planning – nothing to report at this time.

9.3 Village Green Issues – the legal officer has responded to our recent email and attended County Hall last week to look into various issues on our behalf.

9.4 Welcome Letters – none issued this month.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 EWD Blue Plaque – Cllr Boyle has not been able to catch anyone at the property in order to gain entry to investigate the fixing of the plaque.

11. Other Items for Information - none.

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

12.1 Village Christmas Tree – the Clerk had contacted Mr Lishman about the provision of a tree, which was agreed. However, due to storm issues, it has not yet arrived. Cllr Boyle will contact him in order to coordinate delivery/erection of the tree.

12.2 Cllr Bell gave an update about the recent Windfarm meeting where 3 applications were considered:

- i. LPC Old Church Project - approved
- ii. Longhorsley Playgroup – approved
- iii. Roost Meadow Netherwitton – 50% approved

The next meeting will be held in March

12.3 It was reported that a manhole on the West Road has sunk causing the tarmac to crack. Cllr Pringle to inform the Clerk of the exact location so that she can report it to NCC.

12.4 It was reported that part of the Ladyford Lonnen is partially blocked by storm damage to trees and bushes.

12.5 Cllr Douglas reported that there were several street lamps out around the Village – he agreed to find out their numbers and report back to the Clerk.

The formal meeting closed at 8.40 pm with a presentation to the retiring editors of the Tree, Alan and Sue Etchells, taking place.