

Longhorsley Parish Council Annual Meeting 11th May, 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

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

Clerk G Turner

No Members of the Public were present

CO1/1 Election of Chairman for 2022/23

Cllr Ford asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Pringle proposed Cllr Douglas and this was seconded by Cllr Ford. With no other nominations being received, Cllr Douglas was duly elected to the position of Chairman.

CO1/2 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman

Cllr Douglas completed and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, which was made before the Clerk, Gillian Turner.

CO1/3 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Douglas asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr Douglas proposed Cllr Ford and this was seconded by Cllr Boyle. With no other nominations being received, Cllr Ford was duly elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

CO1/4 Apologies for Absence – Cllr K Bell, A Peat and County Councillor G Sanderson.

CO1/5 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th April, 2022 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO1/6 Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda – Cllr Bell declared a permanent disclosable pecuniary interest in the East Road Development – ownership of land. The Clerk reminded all members to review, and update, if necessary, their Register of Interest forms.

CO1/7 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be: 8th June and 13th July, 2022.

CO1/8 **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance.

Members asked the Clerk to inform Cllr Sanderson that the requested meeting between NCC Officers to review the work on the Smallburn Road passing places has not yet taken place. Members felt that this meeting needs to take place as a matter of urgency as problems are now arising due to the incorrect location of one of the passing places.

CO1/9 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police**

Officer Coleman had emailed the Clerk a copy of the new Northumbria Connect project. Members unanimously agreed that the link should be placed on the website, noticeboard and in the next edition of the Tree.

CO1/10 **Finance**

10.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for May 2022, totalling £10,848.63.

10.2 **Review of Standing Orders**

Members reviewed and endorsed the Standing Orders as dated 11th May 2022.

10.3 **Review of Financial Regulations**

Members reviewed and endorsed the Financial Regulations as dated 11th May 2022 and added a note about the payment of cash into bank. Due to the closure of local branches, the Clerk now paid in cheques into the local post office using a Barclays envelope but can not pay-in cash using the envelope. Members agreed that the Clerk can pay-in cash on line from her bank account.

CO1/11 **Routine Items for Review**

11.1a) **Planning Decisions** –

- 22/01182/MISC re: Application for exemption to operate as a 5-van site at the Lakes at Linden, South Linden Farm – GRANTED by NCC.
- 22/00853/TREECA re: Felling of on Goat Willow at Dawn Cottage – GRANTED by NCC.

11.1b) **Review of Planning Applications** – none.

- 11.1c) The following applications are to be kept on the Agenda in order to ensure that they are not forgotten:

20/01242/FUL	Belmont – change of use (approved by NCC April 2022)
21/01300/VARY	Caravan at Low Southward Edge
21/01561/FUL	Westridges

11.2 **Moor Management Committee – verbal update by Cllr Pringle**

The report from last week's Annual Assembly has not changed:

On reading last year's report there seemed very little change year on year, but on reflection much work has been undertaken by the Moor Committee of the Parish Council.

During 2021, due to the invasion of birch seedings, the Council undertook a new spraying regime on a trial area in the hope of eradicating the birch. At this time, it is difficult to say whether or not the trial was successful – we will wait another year in order to assess the situation.

The Trackside ditch and cattle grid have been totally cleared out and our thanks go to J Chisholm for his excellent work on the Moor.

During the on-site Moor Committee meeting in April, members were joined on their "walk-about" by the 5 wild ponies and the sheep – just keeping an eye on what was happening on their patch!!

Some burning of the heather was carried out during the year but we had planned to do more as the "Big Burn" had to be put on hold due to the extra dry conditions making it unsafe to do so.

Northumbria Fencing inspected and repaired the South West boundary fence.

We were also very thankful that although Storm Arwen did some damage, this was not as bad as in other areas.

11.3 **The Old Church Wood – report by Cllr Ford**

The report from last week's Annual Assembly has not changed:

Old Church Wood continues to flourish and is still proving a very valuable and well used asset to the community.

The Friends of Old Church Wood group has an enthusiastic core and supportive members and they have checked and weeded the new hedgerow on the southern and southwest boundary and many are now involved with the Old Church project.

New members are always welcome, it's a very flexible setup.

Luckily, the big storms did not cause any significant damage, just a little straightening up in a few places.

The wildflowers grew well last year, although not very visibly amongst the grass. We cut the areas in August and left the hay on the ground for the seeds to fall before removing it. I'm hoping there will be good growth again this year, although a wildflower meadow in all its glory can take several years to develop.

A very big thank you to all who have helped and to Tim Fish for his help and advice.

Our path contractor, James Chisholm has been keeping the paths mown and has been able to source some new equipment so the inter row mowing can resume. My thanks for his hard work and advice.

The River's Trust will be doing some tree maintenance this month with a party of volunteers from Northumberland Water.

Cllr Ford has entered the Old Church project for the Love Northumberland Awards scheme.

11.4 **Play Areas**

Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.

11.5 **Allotments** – The Clerk has received a copy of the Wingates Grant Acceptance Form for the Allotment project which was duly signed by Cllr Ford and the Clerk.

11.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- a. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that there is a problem with the new gate as when it swings open, people are forcing it down under the bar so that it is now not level and therefore does not fit into the housing. He will investigate an opening/closing mechanism or spring latch with Northumbria Fencing.
- b. Archies Pond Project – Mr Paterson informed the meeting that the new decking and 3 benches have now arrived on site, and should be in situ within the next week or so. Members agreed that one of the benches should be dedicated to our past Chairman, Iain Elliott. The Clerk was asked to order the new information board from Spotty Dog Signs.
- c. Ash Die Back – nothing received from NCC.
- d. Tree Issues – T&CTS have been out to rectify the Sycamore tree at the corner of Drummonds Close and the Ash tree at Church View.

11.7 **Website** – updates will be required for the new Chairman/Vice-Chair.

11.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the new Chairman and Vice-Chair Community Awards result, Archies Pond and Northumbria Connected.

11.9 **Donation Requests:** - none received.

11.10 **Village Hall Committee** – next meeting to be held in June.

CO1/12 Items Carried Forward

12.1 Housing Developments and Planning Matters in the Village

- a) South Road Development – the options have now been agreed and exchanged.
- b) East Road – the Statement of Case is now being prepared.
(Cllr Bell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this issue)
- c) Kirkups Corner – the Clerk was asked to furnish the Planning Inspector with maps associated with S17, 18 and 19 which refer to Village Green18 so hopefully a conclusion is now in sight.

12.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – nothing to report.

12.3 **Village Green** – members noted the email from NCC stating that officers were meeting to discuss the way forward.

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

CO1/13 Other Agenda Items

13.1 Queen's Jubilee Project Update – The Clerk informed the meeting that the grant application to NCC has been approved and £500 awarded. This will cover the Jubilee Orchard, PA system for the Beacon Lighting and the new Jubilee Flag. The Clerk was asked to source some flags for waving on the night. Members also considered a grant to purchase Queen's books for the Church "Songs of Praise" on Sunday 5th June.

13.2 NCC bid for Electric Charging points – members were in agreement that the VH Car Park would be an ideal place for charging points to be installed as long as only 2 spaces were tied up and that the location would not become traffic bound if lots of people used them at busy times. The car park must be kept open for users of the Village Hall. The Clerk would inform the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee about this proposal.

13.3 Councillor Duties – members considered the list of councillor duties and re-allocated duties due to the change in Chairman and a new councillor coming on board.

CO1/14 Other Items for Information - none

CO1/15 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

15.1 It was agreed that the Clerk draw up a draft partnership agreement between the Council and the Football Club for the use of the Common Football pitch.

15.2 It was also agreed to monitor the trees on the Common to ensure that NCC can cut the grass underneath the branches.

15.3 The Clerk to look at producing an insert to be included in the "Tree" listing what services the Council carries out and those responsibilities undertaken by NCC.

The meeting closed at 9:05 pm.