

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 24 June 2021.

**Present:** Cllrs E Davidson, D Green and T Jackson. County Councillor Sanderson  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

Cllr Marshall took the Chair in Cllr Allan's absence

**19 Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs S Allan

**20 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – None

**21 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person)** – None

**22 The minutes of the meeting 13 May 2021** were agreed as a true record.

**23 Matters Arising therefrom:**

- a) Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint – still outstanding by NCC Clerk
- b) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked – still outstanding by NCC Clerk
- c) Leak at riverside – Clerk waiting on rain Clerk
- d) Bus Shelter opposite Northumberland Arms – Clerk to check when this work will be done Clerk
- e) Street light request for East Thirston – Residents have reported after meeting with NCC re the speeding measure to be put in place that as the scheme will include repeater sign there is no requirement from a highway perspective for additional lighting. Clerk to look into this. As a minimum the missing light should be replaced. Clerk
- f) Letter to Highways and NCC re traffic diversions – Felton PC has not written their letters as yet however CC Sanderson has taken up this issue and has reported that NCC has agreed that they will put temporary traffic lights in Felton village to overcome any difficulties with vehicles not being able to pass. These are to be monitored overnight by them to ensure they are working effectively. This would also allow any issues to be identified and changes made for subsequent nights. They have also agreed to delay the closure start until 9pm each night so that traffic flows through the village are reduced. There will also be VMS signs to recommend HGVs travel via alternative routes.
- g) Replacement bus stop sign – still outstanding by NCC Clerk
- h) Directional sign, left over the bridge – The Clerk now knows where this sign is, it is just before the Northumberland Arms Car Park and is actually covered by trees as well as being bent over. Clerk to inform NCC. Clerk
- i) Auditor report – make up of Recreation Field Group – Cllr Marshall stated that as there is a new regime for Felton Parish Council look to see how this now progresses before any decisions are made.
- j) VAT reclaim for zoom – Clerk has added to the VAT claim which cannot be reclaimed until the VAT amount hits £100 so hopefully the deadline will not be past for last years claims before this amount is reached. Clerk
- k) Bank Signatories – all paperwork duly completed and Cllr Allan has received the relevant login information from Lloyds and Mrs Lindley has been removed as a signatory.
- l) Stage 2 Complaint to NCC – After no response from the Stage 1 complaint and a cursory acknowledgement that it had been received with no log number the Stage 2 complaint was submitted on 7 June and yet again just a standard response with no log number. A full response should be received within 15 working days which is 28 June. It was agreed to write to Mrs Lally to remind her of the deadline for responding to the Stage 2 complaint. Clerk

**24 Report by County Councillor Sanderson**

Cllr Marshall congratulated County Councillor Sanderson on his reappointment and election to Leader of the Council.

The new Council is getting into the swing of thing.

Positive news re potential employment sites in the County. Over the next 4 years look to take the County out of the Covid shadow by ambitiously encouraging new jobs but also looking after those who need our help. There are issues with social injustice and child poverty, the

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expert think it will get worse including stress and anxiety in family. The Councils over-arching aim is to put money into these issues.

Re the Stage 2 complaint the Chief Executive needs to be reminded a response is required. Clerk  
New boundaries – PCs need to speak out if they feel strongly about it. Currently CC Sanderson's area covers Wansbeck and Berwick. In terms of CC Sanderson's role the boundary changes does not make any difference.

There are proposals to reduce the service on the East Coast Mainline to shave off a few minutes from the London to Edinburgh/Glasgow routes. Morpeth and Berwick will be affected. It is essential to make it clear to LNER and Government and MPs that people are strongly against this. Also environmental and convenience wise it is ridiculous to cut the services, must consider the impact on climate change.

Cllr Jackson raised the issue of the series of application for Burgham Park Golf Club and requested that the change in use of holiday lets to residential wait for a decision after all other applications are considered as the order of decision makes a difference to the whole development. CC Sanderson asked for a summary note to be sent to him and he will arrange a zoom meeting with the Planners and the PC. Clerk

## 25 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Cemetery Meeting took place but no one from Thirston PC was able to attend.

## 26 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – A lot of working is being undertaken by The Skill Mill, the social enterprise providing employment for young ex-offenders in watercourse and horticulture services. They have done a lot of work along the riverside and have been working at the zoo. A letter of thanks to be sent and also seek to have a meeting to see what other potential projects the team can do in the parish. Clerk

b) Landscaping – Anne and Nick Morton have offered to plant up the tubs on the bridge.

c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – The Independent Examiner has recommended some minor modification to the plan in preparation for Referendum. We have 5 weeks from the date of the Examiners report to modify the plan and get NCC to sign it off after which time we have 8 weeks within which to hold the Referendum. Need to advertise this in the Bridge Newsletter. Clerk

d) Councillors to suggest short term/medium term/long term projects. The PC would like to move forward with positive ideas and see if there is anything we can do in the parish ie welcome signs and planters at entrances to settlements.

ALL

## 27 To report on any planning decisions:

**21/00432/FUL** - Ivy Cottage West Thirston - Remove existing roof, construct new pitched roof to kitchen and bedroom 2 [including new dormer window]. Construct new utility room to rear. Convert garage to 1 bedroom annex – APPROVED

### Planning applications pending:

**19/03659/VARYCO** – Eshott Airfield – make temporary hours of 7am to 11pm permanent – objections submitted.

**20/02026/COU** – Cottages at Burgham Park Golf Club – Change of use from holiday cottages to residential dwellings – No Objections

**20/02094/FUL** – Land NW of Burgham Park Golf Club - Remove green keepers compound and erection of 56 dwellings plus upgrade of access road, electric sub station, SUDs, domestic package treatment works and domestic gas storage

**20/04177/FUL** - Land North East of Felmoor Caravan Park - Extension to existing holiday comprising 139 no. pitches for holiday lodges plus ancillary features including water feature, play area and vintage vehicle museum

**21/00940/FUL** - Land East of Bockenfield Manor – Agricultural storage shed – no objections

**21/02109/VARYCO** - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 17/01468/FUL for the removal of rear porch, addition of front porch and changes to the chimney structure - Silverwood 10A Burgham Park – No objections

## 28 Requested Agenda Items:

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**Policy Review** – Defer to next meeting

**Boundary Commission Review** – This review is undertaken every few years and this year they proposal to move Thirston Parish from Berwick to Hexham. This is to promote democracy and constituencies being realistic in size and evening out of size. This would show that Felton and Thirston are very different despite the Local Plan wanting to put the two villages together as per Northumberland Estates request. Clerk to put information into the Bridge Newsletter for residents to make their representation on this matter.

Clerk

## 29 Correspondence:

- **NCC – Proposed Local Plan Amendments consultation** – linking Felton and Thirston. Northumberland Estates did make a representation at the Regulation 19 stage suggesting that West Thirston should be linked with Felton. On further review, the Council considered that not grouping West Thirston with Felton was inconsistent with the approach applied elsewhere in the county, and therefore put forward a modification to address this. The grouping of nearby settlements relates to how they function in planning terms. This function is largely blind to administrative boundaries, whether they relate to a parish or wider electoral constituencies. The grouping of the settlements should have no impact upon the Thirston Neighbourhood Plan. Quite correctly the Thirston Neighbourhood Area is identified in Policy HOU 3 in its own right. If anyone wishes to submit a representation on this matter during the Main Modifications consultation, please do so using the form available on the website quoting the appropriate Main Mod reference number, MM3. The PC to respond to state they have a different view however if this NCC can guarantee this linking does not affect the zero housing allocation under Policy HOU3 then the PC will accept this linking. Clerk to put information into Bridge Newsletter.
- **NCC – Cemetery Double Charge Rate** – the rate has reduced to £41 and payment should be received in the next few weeks.
- **NCC – Free cycle training for adults** – information has gone on the PC website
- **A1 Dualling** – notification of amendment to timetable – for information
- **Proposed merger of Felton GP Surgery** – information has gone on the PC website
- **Email consultation - Gilbert Ward Academy Consultation** - a new Special Free School for Children Aged 11-16 – the PC to response stating they support this academy.
- Resident reported bikes on narrow bank footpath being ridden dangerously – children are cycling at speed down the pathway that runs adjacent to Thirston House, this dangerous activity has results in one resident having to move out of the way quickly to avoid being hit. Is there something that can be installed to stop this behaviour? It was agreed the PC would alert NCC to this situation and see what, if anything, can be done.
- Email from CC Sanderson re diversions from A1 through Felton – covered above in 23f.
- Email re blocking of junction to Wintrick – a car is once again parking at the junction and blocking it for road users when swapping children on a school run. PC Teasdale has been informed with photographic evidence but a request has been made to see if the PC can get NCC to do something about this. It was agreed this is a police issue and Clerk to ensure the police are given all evidence of cars involved and to request the police take action which should stop the issue occurring as it appears to be the same people every time.
- Email re lack of response to enforcement issues in relation to Eshott Airfield – for information, NCC has not responded to this email
- Email - copy of email send to NCC re low flying over Eshott Village – for information, NCC has not responded to this email
- Emails in relation to helicopter training at Eshott Airfield – for information, NCC state they will address this in the outstanding planning application however this issue has nothing to do with the outstanding application as helicopter training has to have its own planning approval

Clerk  
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Clerk

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- which Eshott airfield does not have.
- Emailed NALC updates

## 30 Finance

- a. **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £14,487.95.
- b. **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB117	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 24 hours at £15.50 (£372.00) 10 hours for Neighbourhood Plan (£150.00) 2 x zoom (£22.78) 2 x home working allowance (£22.18) Postage for banking and election (3.45) Cartridge Payment for black ink (76.60)	£647.01
IB118	Northumberland Estates Rental	£5.00
IB119	Viking Direct – colour ink	£53.09

- c. **Income** – None

## 31 Urgent Items – None

## 32 Items for next agenda – Policy Review

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm  
Date of Next meeting: 5 August 2021