

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 9th February, 2022 in the Village Hall, at 7pm

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

Clerk G Turner

1 Parishioner

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs K Bell and A Hedman, County Cllr G Sanderson and PC Teasdale.
2. **Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th January, 2022 (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 9th March and 13th April, 2022, with meetings being held in the Village Hall.
5. **County Matters** – Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance and the Clerk read an email he had submitted:
 - i. Passing Places on Smallburn Road – the works to install the passing place, together with some repairs and drainage works have now been completed and he hoped the scheme met with members approval.
Despite councillors meeting with NCC officers to discuss the appropriate location, the passing place has been installed right next to the start of the Muckley footpath and cars are now parking up so that people can walk the path, which is not helping the "safe passing place" situation at all. Councillors pointed this problem out at the time but when they attended the site, when the works began, only contractors were on site and they said that they had to adhere to the map and instructions they had been given. Councillors are now frustrated that their comments at the original site meeting have been ignored and that the problems they raised with the siting of the passing place are coming to fruition - local residents are also unimpressed as the problem they highlighted has not been sorted out due to visiting cars using the pull in to park-up.

The only solution is to have signage installed to inform the public that this is not a layby and is to be used only to ensure that safe passing can take place.

- ii. The Budget for 2022/23 is now compiled and the key issue is that frontline services have been protected.
- iii. New initiatives are being launched, including a £10m scheme for Todstead on the A697 to Rothbury Road, which has been plagued by landslips for a number of years. This will be a permanent fix.
- iv. He has asked for an extra £2m for U and C class roads of which there are hundreds of miles in the county – lots in Longhorsley.

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 9th February, 2022, totalling £2,046.54.

7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of January, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31st January 2022.

7.3 **Final Accounts 2021/22** – Members considered and approved the following documents:

- i. Review and Effectiveness of Internal Audit.
- ii. The Internal Audit Checklist.
- iii. The Annual Risk Assessment.
- iv. The Asset Register

8. **Routine Items for Review**

8.1a) **Planning Decisions:** none

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

21/01300/CLEXIS Application for a lawful development certificate – existing use of the site as residential for a rural worker and single storey dwelling at Southward Edge Barns - no objections.

8.1c) 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
21/01561/FUL	Westridges

8.2 **Moor Management Committee** – members received the draft Minutes from the meeting held on 2nd February, noting the comments regarding the proposed Wetlands Project. Cllr Pringle will contact Northumbrian Fencing to assess the fencing repairs required.

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

- i. Nothing to report about the Wood since the last meeting.
- ii. Old Church Project – Cllr Ford has been to Hexham to source Larch treated benches, which will be in keeping with the area. The information boards are also under construction.

8.4 Play Areas

- i. Members received and noted Mr Paterson’s monthly report.
- ii. The scheduled surface repairs to Church View surfacing will take place on 10th February and a “breaking news” message has been issued to inform users that the area will be closed on that date.
- iii. Mr Paterson is looking into the use of injecting resin into damaged wood as a means of repair.
- iv. The token box plate from the MUGA has been returned to the supplier for the necessary adjustments to be made to prevent coins being used instead of the official tokens.

8.5 **Allotments** – the Clerk has emailed the resident who put their name down for an allotment but still has not had a reply. K Woods agreed to chase-up the issue. The Playschool has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Wingate’s Community Fund to update the equipment and furniture on the Toddlers allotment. Cllr Boyle will contact the Clerk to see if a grant could be applied for to finance the proposed Community Area.

8.6 Village Maintenance Review

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that a meeting has been arranged for 14th March with Mr Chisholm and Mr McMorrow to discuss what surface would be the best option for the area.
- ii. Archies Pond Project Update – Mr Paterson gave a verbal report including: the drainage pipes have arrived and will be installed over the next couple of days, there has been a problem with the delivery of the chippings for the path surfacing – Cllr Ford is to contact the company to see if we can collect rather than have them delivered, several trees have died in the area and Cllr Ford agreed to contact the Woodlands Trust for some “filler” saplings.
- iii. Ash Dieback – no response has been received from NCC as yet.
- iv. Community Orchard – In Cllr Hedman’s absence, Cllr Ford reported that the 8 trees have been planted up. Members agreed that the area will be named as the “Longhorsley Jubilee Orchard” in keeping with HM the Queen’s celebration – one tree for every decade of her reign plus a spare in case one tree doesn’t take. The clerk will source a plaque for the area.
- v. Cllrs Boyle and Douglas, cleared the Lonnen footpath and many compliments have been received from the public. Mr Paterson will look at the trees at Wilding Place which have died. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been contacted by the NCC Emergency Control Room during the last storms to ensure that everything in the Village was being taken care of – members were pleased that we are now on the system. Grateful thanks were extended to Cllrs Boyle and Douglas for their hard work.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree** – The next edition to include the MUGA lights, Community Award, the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, the pull-in point on the Smallburn Road and Archies Pond.

8.9 **Donation Requests** – none received.

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Ford gave a verbal report of the meeting held on February 8th 2022:

- i. An entrance canopy is to be fitted over the main doors
- ii. The Village Hall is to be in the first tranche re solar panels
- iii. The issue of installing electric charging points in the car park has been raised
- v. A new COVID grant is available with the possibility of funding for a new cleaner
- vi. There is funding for an emergency services plan from NCC to cover items such as communal cooking, washing and assistance.
- vii. I pads for digital school training
- viii. The PAT testing of the defibrillator is to be part of the annual testing of the Village Hall
- ix. Approximately £21,500 is in the bank reserves
- x. Post office arrears are being chased-up
- xi. A storm toolkit is to be made available containing items such as 2-way radios to improve communication
- xii. The issue of a back-up generator is also being looked at

9. **Items Carried Forward**

9.1 **Housing Developments in the Village**

- a) **South Road Development** – Members had been previously issued with a copy of the full legal pack as prepared by Muckles. Members unanimously:
 - i. Agreed the contents of the legal pack with the proviso that the footpath leading down to Church Wood be acknowledged in the document
 - ii. Agreed to deregister the Village Green strip of land to allow access into the development
 - iii. Agreed to the exchange of land relating to this deregistration
 - iv. Agreed to the disposal of the land according to the legal pack containing the valuation formula.
 - v. No need to advertise the disposal in line with the legal advice received from Muckles relating to the current use of the land in question.
- b) **East Road Development** – members unanimously agreed:
 - i. Agreed the deregistration of the Village Green strip of land to allow access into the development
 - ii. Agreed to dispose of the land according to the formula set by precedent (noting that there would be no exchange of land as the size falls below the threshold)
 - iii. No need to advertise the disposal in line with the legal advice received from Muckles relating to the current use of the land in question
- c) **Kirkup's Corner** – members unanimously agreed:
 - i. To revise the deregistration application to only cover the land required to access the development i.e. the area marked-up in purple on the map

- ii. Agreed to dispose of the land according to the formula set by precedent (noting that there would be no exchange of land as the size falls below the threshold)
- iii. No need to advertise the disposal in line with the legal advice received from Muckles relating to the current use of the land in question

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

9.3 **Village Green Issues** – the Clerk has received an email from NCC. Unfortunately, the officer whom the Chairman and Clerk met in September has now left NCC. The Legal Officer has promised that a summary of the legal opinion will be issued in a couple of weeks.

9.4 **Welcome Letters** – a letter has been sent to Drovers Cottage.

9.5 **EWD Plaque** – ongoing. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had issued our response to the agent representing 1 / 2 South Road as agreed at the January meeting of council. Cllr Boyle will confirm that the plaque is still in situ before the next meeting.

10. Other Agenda Items

10.1 Councillor Vacancy – the closing date for representations by the public was 1st February. An email has been received from NCC saying that no signatures have been received to call a by-election and therefore we are to “co-opt” as soon as possible. The member of the public who was in attendance, is interested in joining the council, and members agreed that she be given time to consider fully, and once she had made a decision to inform the Clerk of her intention.

10.2 Community Award – members reviewed the form containing the criteria and nomination process and no changes were necessary at this time. The Clerk to include this topic within the articles for the next Tree.

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

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

12.1 **HM the Queen’s Jubilee** – the Clerk had issued the pack received from Bruno Peak regarding the arrangements for the June celebrations. It was agreed:

- i. The Clerk apply to NCC for funding
- ii. The Council’s event will be the official lighting of the beacon event on 2nd June
- iii. The Council will also plant 7 trees “Longhorsley Jubilee Orchard”
- iv. Recognise other organisations events throughout the bank holiday weekend.

- 12.2 A resident has complained about the charge for tokens for the MUGA Floodlights. It was explained that the charge was a contribution towards the electricity needed to operate the lights.
- 12.3 A question was raised as to who closes the Haining Gate? The Haining is a PROW and it was thought that due to COVID it was being kept open so that walkers did not have to touch it.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm