

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 8th March, 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: S Alcock
K Bell
P Boyle
N Douglas (Chaiman)
P Ford
A Peat
D Pringle (arrived at 7.30 pm)

Clerk G Turner

2 Members of the Public were present

CO10/1 Apologies for Absence - County Cllr G Sanderson

CO10/2 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th February, 2023 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO10/3 Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda – Cllr Bell declared a permanent disclosable pecuniary interest in the East Road Development – ownership of land.

CO10/4 Date of Next Meeting(s) – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be: 12th April and 10th May with the annual Parish Assembly on 24th May 2023.

CO10/5 County Matters – Cllr Sanderson gave the following information via email:

- i. **Budget 2023/24** – The budget has now been agreed and although it has been a difficult process to manage, no cuts in frontline services, no town centre car parking charges introduced, and a support scheme for this year only to aid Council Tax were included. The rise is 4% which includes 2% being ringfenced for Adult Social Care.
- ii. **Devolution** - Consultations re the Devolution project are now taking place. Public meetings have so far been held in Alnwick, Berwick and Seaton Delaval with others taking place across the County, including NALC. The other Councils involved (Durham, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland) are also holding consultation events. He believes that it is a good deal for Northumberland and all concerns have been met by respectful negotiation.
- iii. Last week Michael Gove visited Blyth to announce a new £22m package for the town including new educational facilities. Mark Harper (Minister for Transport) also announced the final arrangements for the Northumbria Line. Due to

increased inflation levels heavily hitting the cost of construction, both the Government and NCC have found extra millions to see the job finished by next year.

- iv. **A1** – NCC are now looking to remake the case for the A1 again.
- v. He has been in regular talks with the prospective buyer of British Volt.

CO10/6 Update on behalf of Northumbria Police

No reports received.

CO10/7 Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for March (i) 2023, totalling £1,306.53.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of February, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 28th February, 2023.

CO10/8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) **Planning Decisions:** None

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

23/00661/AGRGDO Notification of Prior Approval for steel frame building to be used as a muck store at Smallburn Farms– no objections

23/00475/DISCON Discharge of conditions 4 (surface water, Estate Street Phasing, external lighting, bat/bird boxes, landscape planting and archaeological work) at Land South East of the Shoulder of Mutton South Road – no objections.

23/00472/DISCON Discharge of conditions 3 (Highways Site Management Statement, road condition survey, dust management, scheme to deal with contamination of land or pollution, assessment of noise emanating from traffic, noise assessment for neighbouring public house, topographical survey, landscaping and planting and maintenance of the site, retention of approved trees) at Land South East of the Shoulder of Mutton South Road – no objections.

23/00455/DISCON Discharge of conditions 8 (cycle parking facilities, foul water disposal, surface water, protective measures, temporary lighting, integrated bird and bat boxes and energy consumption) at Land South East of the Shoulder of Mutton South Road – 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** – change of use approved by NCC. *A response has been received from Planning Enforcement. Awaiting the results of the site survey carried out by the owner.*

21/01300/VARY
21/02183/FUL **Caravan Low Southward Edge.**
1-2 South Road – *A response has been received from Planning Enforcement to say that works being carried out fall within permitted development thus no breach of planning control and no action taken.*

8.2 **Moor Management Committee – nothing to report at this time.**

8.3 **The Old Church Wood – update by Cllr Ford**

- i. Some spare Hawthorn and Willow trees have been received from Felton.
- ii. There will be a further working party at the end of March for weeding and tree checks.
- iii. Reinstatement of pathway from Old Church to Burn – the Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with Mr Hedley and Cllrs Boyle and Douglas.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
- ii. The old wooden picnic table in Adamson Park is to be removed to the allotment site – Cllr Boyle to arrange removal.

8.5 **Allotments** – The new pipework and tap has been installed. Cllr Boyle is still trying to obtain quote for fencing works.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- i. Car Parking on Common – It was noted that some of the home team cars were still parking-up at the Common – Cllr Boyle to speak to the Football Club.
- ii. Pot Holes – the issues on the Track will be completed in warmer weather.
- iii. Members considered and approved the quotation from Town & Country Tree Surgeons for the pollarding of the Ash Tree to the rear of 76 Church View (£1,008.00).
- iv. Members received the two designs for the brass plaque to go onto the new Queen’s Memorial Bench and approved option 2.
- v. Signage for the “No Parking on Village Green Land” and “No Dog Fouling” at Reivers Gate were received.
- vi. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC to remind them not to mow around the trees in Jubilee Orchard and to leave a natural strip.
- vii. The railings around the Village Green and Beacon Post need repainting and fencing/posts checked.

8.7 **Website** – nothing required at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.00 pm to allow parishioners to speak

1. Mr Potts informed the meeting that there was a requirement within planning applications which sets out the issue of developers cleaning the roads of any surface

mud etc. and that he believed that there was a public footpath sign on a building at Smallburn Farm.

2. Mrs Parker mentioned the issue of potholes in Whitegates Estate being filled with black tarmac whereas the road is pink. Unfortunately, due to the cost of having to change materials in machinery, black tarmac is used by NCC.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.10 pm

8.8 Longhorsley Tree

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering: the retirement of Cllrs Ford and Pringle, and the Annual Assembly.

8.9 Donation Requests – none received.

- 8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – The next meeting will take place on 28th March 2023. Cllr Peat reported that the Warm Space project is growing in success with 15 people attending on a weekly basis and more volunteers are needed.

8.11 Climate Change – nothing to report at this time.

CO10/9 Items Carried Forward

9.1 Housing Developments and Planning Matters in the Village

- a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time. Members noted the comments given by the owner’s agent at the meeting to update members on the progress of the development which was held earlier in the evening.
- b) East Road – the Clerk informed the meeting that the developer and legal team have now submitted their documents to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the exchange of land to be added to the application.
(Cllr Bell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this issue)

9.2 Neighbourhood Plan – nothing to report at this time.

- 9.3 **Village Green** – the Clerk has made contact with the legal officer at NCC who had attended the last meeting and has been informed that the Team are currently reviewing all matters/issues to be carried over following Mrs Lancaster leaving the organisation.

- 9.4 **Welcome Letters** – letters were sent to number 4 and 38 Church View. New residents have taken 16 Reivers Gate and 41 Whitegates.

CO10/10 Other Agenda Items

- 10.1 **Longhorsley Football Club Memorandum of Understanding** – The agreement can now be signed-off and Cllr Boyle will contact the Football Club to arrange completion.

- 10.2 **Review of Councillor Duties** – members were asked to look at the current list of duties in light of the pending resignations of Cllrs Ford and Pringle.
- 10.3 **Community Awards 2023** – The Awards have now been publicised in the March edition of the Tree and on the council’s website. The closing date for nominations is 31st March and the award will be presented at the Annual Assembly in May.
- 10.4 **Kings Coronation Events** – the Clerk confirmed that a grant application for £500 has been submitted to NCC Community Chest. Cllr Peat gave the following update as to arrangements:
- i. Events will take place in the VH car park on 7th May between 2pm and 5pm.
 - ii. Various groups are coming together to make the day a success.
 - iii. Events include: a 5-a-side tournament, school, nursery and toddler groups, crown making and procession by the children, tombola, caricatures and face painting, treasure hunt, music, quiz, flower festival, Victoria Sponge Baking competition and bunting.

CO10/11 Other Items for Information

CO10/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

- 12.1 Cllr Boyle is meeting Atom Alarms on 17th March to look at obtaining remote access for the system.
- 12.2 Windfarm Report – Cllr Bell reported that although there were several applications for funding received at the last meeting, no funding was given out as all applications required more information to reach a decision.
This is year 9 of the Windfarm Community Fund and there is some £69k in balances, with £201k being given out to projects.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.