

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

Present Cllrs: S Alcock
K Bell
P Boyle (Vice-Chair)
N Douglas (Chairman)
J Parker
A Peat
T Potts

Clerk G Turner

1 Member of the Public was present (7pm to 8.15pm)

CO6/1 Apologies for Absence – County Cllr Sanderson.

CO6/2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th October, 2023 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO6/3 Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda – None

CO6/4 Date of Next Meeting(s) – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council will be 13th December, 2023 and 10th January, 2024.

CO6/5 County Matters – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance.

CO6/6 Update on behalf of Northumbria Police
The monthly police report from PC Sutcliffe was received by members, noting that there were no crimes or incidents to report covering the period 1st September to 27th October.

CO6/7 Finance

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for November 2023, totalling £7,391.90.

7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of October, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31th October, 2023. It was agreed to add an additional line

to the summary document to remove the amount for the sale of land so that the budget position could be easily identified.

- 7.3 **Budget 2024/25** – Members received and noted Version 2 of the budget documents which included the revised taxbase which was slightly lower than the previous year. She also reiterated that tweaks to the budget could be made up to the January meeting when the precept will be set.

CO6/8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Review of Planning Decisions –

- 23/O3124/FUL Demolition of existing out-building and construction of replacement at Moor View, South Road – NCC **PERMITTED** this application.

8.1b) Review of Planning Applications – None,

- It was noted that the County Highways Department had removed its objection to the Normandy Terrace application.
- It was also noted that NCC Planning had made a comment about Village Green issues not being taken into account as it was not in the Neighbourhood Plan. Members disagreed with this stance and stated that Planning cannot discount Village Green as this is a Statutory provision and thus asked the Clerk to contact NCC.

- 8.1c) The following applications are to be kept on the Agenda in order to ensure that they are not forgotten:

20/01242/FUL	Belmont – ongoing – works are on-going
21/01300/VARY	Caravan at Low Southward Edge
21/02183/FUL	1-2 South Road

8.2 Moor Management Committee – update by Cllr Potts

- i. The Clerk has received confirmation from the Rural Payments Agency granting funding for a Heath Management Plan to be compiled - £1,200. She will contact them to find out whether or not we were also successful in obtaining a Scrub Management grant.
- ii. Cllr Boyle met with the Rivers Trust and Straughan's to discuss the lack of water in the pond. It was agreed that the problem will be rectified at their own expense before the end of the year.
- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the additional 5 cattle belonged to Mr Thompson, and had been selected in consultation with Mr Comber.

8.3 The Old Church Wood – verbal update by Cllr Alcock

- i. P Ford is continuing to work on quotes for the rewilding area and any figures must be considered prior to the budget being set.
- ii. The date for the next working party of volunteers is arranged for 19th November.

- iv. Cllr Boyle met with the Rivers Trust, Straughan's and Mr Hedley to discuss the pond issues. It was agreed that Cllrs Alcock and Boyle meet with the River Trust on site to assess the situation and remedy.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
- ii. The Clerk informed members that the Church View refurbishment will take place in the New Year.
- iii. The Clerk has received an email from a local company who could carry out the annual maintenance on the MUGA. The current company is seen as unreliable as they are based in the South of the country and have only attended once since COVID. It was agreed to obtain a price and if within budget to progress with the new company.

8.5 **Allotments** – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that:

- i. The end of season gathering was most successful. At the event the Community Project was discussed and it was agreed in principle to install the community area on part of the Explorer site in mutual agreement with the tenant.
- ii. The tenancy agreement for plot 13 (Explorers) has been duly signed and received.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- i. Car Parking on Common – nothing to report.
- ii. The meeting was informed that the potholes adjacent to St Helen's Church area and those on the East Road have been repaired.
- iii. The Clerk was asked to arrange with Mr Paterson to remove the tyre adjacent to the allotments.
- iv. The path near the MUGA end is very slippery – Mr Paterson to lay some road planings/dust.
- v. One of the trees at the Jubilee Orchard has died and needs replacing.
- vi. Cllr Alcock kindly donated a Silver Birch tree to replace the dead tree at Wilding Place.

8.7 **Website** – nothing to add at this time.

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Beacon Event, Church View Play Area Refurbishment and success with the repositioning of the speed survey strips.

8.9 **Donation Requests:** - none received this month.

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – the next meeting of Village Hall Committee is 5th December.

8.11 **Climate Change** – nothing further to report at this time.

CO6/9 **Items Carried Forward**

9.1 **Housing Developments and Planning Matters in the Village**

a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time.

9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – The 2022 Five Year Housing Land Supply Update has been received. Members considered and noted the report. It was also agreed that the Clerk contact Mr Etchells to say that Council welcome his assistance and continued involvement with the NP Process.

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

1. Mr Lister was in attendance to update members following the recent flooding in the Whitegates area. Cllrs Sanderson and Boyle met with Mr Lister on site to discuss the long-standing problem in the area. Cllr Sanderson has contacted the responsible officer at NCC in order to pursue the investigations with Northumbria Water et al.

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

9.3 **Village Green** – it was agreed that this issue be followed-up in the new year.

9.4 **Welcome Letters** - The Clerk has issued letters to the new residents in 29 Drummonds Close and the Old Vicarage.

CO6/10 Other Agenda Items

10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – due to the recent bad weather, the area is too boggy at the moment for the containers to be pushed back. The work will be carried out once the ground is hard enough to enable vehicles on site.

CO6/11 Other Items for Information – none

CO6/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

12.1 An extraordinary meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee has been called to discuss various issues surrounding Charitable Status.

12.2 **New Year's Eve Beacon Event** – members discussed the organisation of the event and it was agreed that Cllr Boyle will arrange for the Beacon lighting and Cllr Douglas will arrange for the PA system and Boiler/Drinks dispenser to be in situ on the night.

12.3 The Clerk had issued members a copy of an email received from Northern Powergrid requesting permission to carry out works to be undertaken to install a modern connection at 1 Green Edge, Ingle Cottage and The Nook. This work will be subject to a Wayleave/License agreement.

12.4 The Clerk had issued members a copy of an email from a local resident containing various issues in the Village. The Clerk to arrange remedial maintenance with Mr

Paterson for some of the issues, whilst others are the responsibility of NCC and need to be reported through the Fix My Street programme.

- 12.5 The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Lishman about the provision of a Christmas Tree,
- 12.6 The Chairman raised the issue of the seat opposite the Shop and members agreed that the local History Society can add a plaque and take over the maintenance of the seat for the next 10 years with the proviso that the plaque is supplied by the same company the Council uses for all of the other dedicated seats in the Village.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.