

**Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June, 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

Clerk G Turner

4 Members of the Public were present

**CO2/1** **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr T Potts and County Cllr G Sanderson.

**CO2/2** **Minutes** of the Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

**CO2/3** **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda** – Cllr Bell declared a permanent disclosable pecuniary interest in the East Road Development – ownership of land.

**CO2/4** **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council 12<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

**CO2/5** **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance.

**CO2/6** **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police**  
Officer Richardson sent in a report showing that there were no incidents or crime trends of concern to local residents.

**CO2/7** **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for May 2023, totalling £5,527.43.

7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of May, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2023.

- 7.3 **Final Accounts 2022/23 Internal Auditors report.**  
Mr Kennedy had supplied members with a copy of his report on the audit of accounts. Members, received, considered and endorsed his report and noted page 3 of the AGAR.
- 7.4 **Final Accounts 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement Section 1** (previously circulated) – Members received, considered and approved Page 4 of the AGAR.
- 7.5 **Final Accounts 2022/23 Accounting Statements Section 2** (previously circulated) – Members received, considered and approved Page 5 of the AGAR.
- 7.6 **Final Accounts 2022/23 Supporting Documents** – Members received, considered and approved the Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Explanation of Variances, Explanation of High Reserves and the dates proposed for the Exercise of Public Rights.
- 7.7 **Village Noticeboard** – members received the quotation for the replacement of the VH noticeboard. On reflection members agreed to pause/defer the decision until further investigations can be carried out.
- 7.8 **Electricity Contract** – the Clerk informed the meeting that the current “fixed-rate” electricity contracts for the MUGA and Village Green come to an end on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Members agreed not to enter into a fixed-rate contract at this time due to the fluctuating energy prices and to review the situation quarterly.

## **CO2/8 Routine Items for Review**

### **8.1a) Review of Planning Decisions –**

- 23/00972/FUL Replace rotten shed with timber potting shed and replace on a like for like basis the annexe clay pantiles with a stone ridge tie to existing house at The Old Vicarage Drummonds Close – GRANTED by NCC.
- 23/00973/LBC Listed Building Consent to replace rotten shed with timber potting shed and replace on a like for like basis the annexe clay pantiles with a stone ridge tie to existing house at The Old Vicarage Drummonds Close – GRANTED by NCC.
- 23/00796/FUL Kitchen extension to rear of 4 Linden Cottages – GRANTED by NCC.
- 23/00475/DISCON Discharge of conditions 4, 6, 11, 12, 13 and 16 on approved application 19/00790/REM at Land South East of the Shoulder of Mutton – GRANTED by NCC.
- 23/01195/FUL Single storey rear kitchen and bedroom extension at Ingle Cottage, Green Edge – GRANTED by NCC.
- 23/02105/MISC Removal and replacement of Communications Mast at Causey Park – GRANTED by NCC.

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

- 23/02105/MISC Removal and replacement of Communications Mast at Causey Park – no objections.
- 23/01992/AGRGDO Steel frame building for storage of farm vehicles and goods at Smallburn Farm – no objections.

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 – the Chairman circulated an email from the owner detailing the current works being carried out – members were minded to accept the proposals.
21/01300/VARY	Caravan at Low Southward Edge
21/02183/FUL	1-2 South Road

8.2 **Moor Management Committee**

The Chairman presented the draft Minutes of the meeting which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

8.3 **The Old Church Wood – verbal update by Cllr Alcock**

Cllr Alcock informed the meeting that she has met with Ex-Cllr Ford to go through the history of the Wood. The perimeter paths and inter-line mowing has taken place together with some strimming works. Richard Thompson is to give a talk on the wildflowers and a further volunteer work session has been organised for 15<sup>th</sup> July (an article for the Tree to cover this issue).

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
- ii. The ROSPA Inspection is to be carried out later in the week and it was agreed to wait their Report prior to any decisions being made regarding Church View play area.
- iii. There are some damaged trees at Wilding Place and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson to liaise with Cllr Alcock and arrange removal and replacement of the said trees together with tree guards.

8.5 **Allotments** – The Clerk reported that CAN needed an update about the Community Area grant for their next meeting. Cllr Boyle to follow-up.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- a. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that there had been no issues reported of late. However, he is aware that there is to be an end of season BBQ/Awards Presentation evening on Friday with some 300 people expected to attend. He has a meeting with the Chair of the Football Club to discuss arrangements for parking, closing time etc.
- b. Members discussed the email from the resident of Harelaw re fallen timber and decided that work was not needed at this time.
- c. Grass Cutting Issues – the Clerk has written to NCC requesting information re core standards etc and will circulate data once received.

- d. The Clerk to contact Tony Derbyshire for a site visit to discuss the Old Church pathways.

8.7 **Website** – updates will be required for the statutory Final Account Information.

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Final Accounts, Grass Cutting issues with Cllr Alcock writing an article re the Old Church Wood volunteer working group.

8.9 **Donation Requests:** - Members agreed a donation of £50 re: Citizens Advice Northumberland.

8.10 **Village Hall Committee –**

- Emergency fund - Everything has been bought that was needed £3000 left, it was suggested this could go towards new flooring for the kitchen and the cost of decorating. The quote received for redecoration is £1780.
- The monthly electric bill is now £550, this is following negotiation of a new deal.
- The Warm Space continues to be popular with between 14-16 village residents attending each week. The last Warm Space meeting for this session is 24 May, it will recommence 6 September.
- There is still Post-Office money of £1500 outstanding from previous provider, it was decided not to pursue the claim.
- Update on the Solar Power Community Building Project, we are one of five first submissions to go ahead. It will be fully funded. A meeting will take place on 29 June, with the team, to discuss the details. If we wish to proceed a Co-operative needs to be set up and a Legal Agreement drafted.
- Discussion took place regarding the installation of an; outdoor sensory light, a canopy over the front door and a Blue Plug. The Blue Plug will come under Emergency Help Funding and a local builder will be asked to quote for the canopy.
- Audio equipment had been purchased; a blue tooth speaker and microphone.
- It was decided the Village Hall should review its Web site, it was last done in 2018, to encourage more bookings for social events/parties etc. as this was needed to provide ongoing income for the Village Hall. Comparisons were made with other local Village Hall activities/entertainment.
- The Treasurers Report: £24824 remaining in the budget (this includes the £3000 left from emergency grant). The budget had dropped by £12000 in last 2 months. £1400 was spent on oil in the last year. After negotiation Gas/Electric from January had been reduced by £200 per month.

- Next meeting AGM 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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

## **CO2/9 Items Carried Forward**

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

- a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time.
- b) East Road – The Clerk confirmed that on 9<sup>th</sup> June, the closing date for representations, no objections had been received re: the disposal of land. The Clerk has received an email from G F White, the previous solicitors working on this development, stating that there were still outstanding monies due for work carried out. The Clerk was asked to request an itemised breakdown of costs.  
(Cllr Bell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this issue)

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

9.3 **Village Green** – nothing to report at this time.

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

## **CO2/10 Other Agenda Items**

10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – Cllr Boyle has a meeting arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the plans for remedial actions re: the recent planning application refusal.

## **CO2/11 Other Items for Information - None**

## **CO2/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)**

12.1 **NCC Speeding Survey Siting** – Members discussed where the survey counter should be positioned and decided upon “near to the crossing island between Church View and the Whitegates junction – both north and south directions and it should be in the summer when there are more tourists using the A697.

12.2 **Wingates Windfarm Community Fund** – Cllr Bell updated members following the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June:

- Those schemes on hold from the last meeting, requiring further information, had their grant applications approved (Netherwitton PC, Solidarity Farm, The Roost and Wingates Village Hall).
- Coronation grants were given to Parishes within the area of £200.

- Members attended the Archies Pond Event and it was very successful.
- The total amount available for spending this year is £99,699.
- Grant Funding Decided – Cambo Village Hall £5k, Netherwitton Village Hall £7k, Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst PC £455 and £553, Longhorsley Village Flower Club £500 and Coquetdale Wildlife Trust £1,234.
- Next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September.

12.3 A question was raised about the issuing of Dog Fines/Fixed Penalty Notices – the Clerk informed the meeting that a person must be trained and accredited in order to issue FPNs.

12.4 Cllr Boyle raised the issue of a booking system for the MUGA – members decided not to pursue this issue at this time.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.