

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 12th April, 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: K Bell
N Douglas (Chairman)
A Peat

County Cllr G Sanderson (left at 7.18pm)

Clerk G Turner

3 Members of the Public were present

CO11/1 Apologies for Absence – Cllrs S Alcock and P Boyle.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that following the resignations of Cllrs Ford and Pringle at the end of March, the formal notice is on the noticeboard with a closing date of 25th April 2023.

CO11/2 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th March, 2023 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO11/3 Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda – Cllr Bell declared a permanent disclosable pecuniary interest in the East Road Development – ownership of land.

CO11/4 Date of Next Meeting(s) – It was agreed that the dates of the next meetings would be: the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 10th May, the Annual Parish Assembly on 24th May and the Parish Council meeting on 14th June 2023.

CO11/5 County Matters – Cllr Sanderson gave the following information:

- i. The new Goosehill car park is now up and running and is doing very well.
- ii. The new Morpeth Leisure Centre opened on 3rd April.
- iii. NCC has been given additional funding of £4m for pothole repairs. One of the main reasons for the damage is that our roads are being used by vehicles which are too large and heavy for them (this is a national issue).
- iv. Roadside litter continues to be a major issue with some £3m being spent on litter picking. It is also very difficult to prove someone has intentionally thrown litter out of their car. Adverts have been placed on petrol pumps etc. to inform motorists to be proud of the County.
- v. The works to improve Fieldhead road are to commence soon.
- vi. The “Fix my Street” reporting system will be going live in May.
- vii. There is to be a programme to review works undertaken by NCC to ensure efficiency, getting things right first time, better and quicker.

- viii. Some £17m worth of savings have been identified this year.
- ix. GT will follow-up the Smallburn Road passing places with Martin King.
- x. No decision has been made about the Old Morpeth Leisure Centre site.
- xi. A question was raised as to how to implement strategic directions to protect older buildings as they can now be altered without the need of a planning application due to permitted development rights. The Clerk was asked to invite the Planning Officer to a meeting to discuss enforcement.

Cllr Sanderson left the meeting at this point at 7.18pm

CO11/6 Update on behalf of Northumbria Police

The Clerk informed the meeting of a new police contact PC Daniel Richardson. She had obtained an email stating that there were no incidents or crime trends to report which would be of concern to local residents. The public could be reminded that regular updates are posted via the Northumbria Connected website.

CO11/7 Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for March (ii) to 31st March 2023, totalling £2,133.35.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** – Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of March, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31st March, 2023. All documents are now with the Internal Auditor for review.
- 7.3 Payroll SLA with NCC – members considered the document and approved the SLA.
- 7.4 The Clerk reported that the printer was now having issues with scanning and she will source a replacement.

CO11/8 Routine Items for Review

- 8.1a) **Planning Decisions:**
 - 23/00661/AGRGDO Notification of Prior Approval for steel frame building to be used as a muck store at Smallburn Farm – NCC APPROVED the application.
 - 23/00412/OUT Permission with some matters reserved for a bungalow at land North of 2 Linden Square – NCC REFUSED permission.
 - 23/00123/SOLAR Prior Approval to install roof mounted solar photovoltaic panels – NCC PERMITTED the application.
 - 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 – NCC gave partial consent and partial refusal.

- 8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications:**
23/00972/FULL Replace rotten shed with timber potting shed at The Old Vicarage, Drummonds Close – no objections

23/00973/LBC Listed Building Consent to replace rotten shed with timber potting shed at The Old Vicarage, Drummonds Close – no objections.

23/00796/FUL Kitchen extension to rear at 4 Linden Cottages – no objections.

23/01195/FUL Single storey rear kitchen and bedroom extension at Ingle Cottage, Green Edge – 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** – *A site meeting with Cllrs Boyle, Douglas and Peat was held to discuss the alterations. The owner seems willing to work with the PC. Whilst the side windows have been removed the window space at the front will be kept. The interior of the property has been sympathetically restored. However, no application for planning approval has been submitted. Evidence of rights of access to cross VG land has been requested.*
- 21/01300/VARY **Caravan Low Southward Edge.**
21/02183/FUL **1-2 South Road** – *Permitted Development Rights allows for changes to the façade as long as the property is not a listed building. Article 4 Direction can restrict changes but it is a laborious process.*
- 8.2 **Moor Management Committee** – a site meeting with officers from Natural England is scheduled for Friday 21st April at 10 am.
- 8.3 **The Old Church Wood** – Mr Paterson be asked to provide an estimate to improve the path as it is muddy and churned-up due to the wet weather.
- 8.4 **Play Areas**
i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
ii. Mr Paterson be asked to remove the balance beam at Church View as it is rotting.
- 8.5 **Allotments** –Cllr Boyle is waiting for the quote for fencing works.
- 8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**
i. Car Parking on Common – nothing to report at this time.

- ii. Pot Holes – J Chisholm has carried out the pothole repairs on the track adjacent to Adamson Park and several compliments have been received from local residents.
- iii. The event meeting the sponsors of Archies Pond is to be held on Saturday 22nd April at 2pm.
- iv. The Clerk was asked to write to Dobbies Garden Centre to ask if they would replace the Marie Curie sign at Church View, which is now looking worse for wear.
- v. Cllr Boyle is still waiting for Atom Alarms to give him remote access to the CCTV system,

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering: the police connected website, waste recovery site new opening hours and the continued problems of litter and dog poo bags left in inappropriate places.

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

- 1. Mr James Chisholm introduced himself to the meeting. He had worked with both Cllrs Ford and Pringle and hoped to be of continued assistance to the council. He was pleased with the result of the pothole repairs he recently carried out on the track. The Clerk informed him that the mowing of the perimeter paths and inter-row mowing is an on-going necessity at Old Church Wood.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.08 pm

8.9 **Donation Requests** – The Clerk has received a letter from Hospice Care and had issued a copy of the official grant application form for them to complete.

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Peat gave the following report from the meeting held on 28th March:

- i. Emergency Service grant (£6,800) update - to date only spent £2,400
- ii. Warm Space – becoming quite popular with 15 to 18 attending each week, now getting more men attending. There is £103 left in budget and the intention is to continue until end of May, having a 3-month break and to recommence in September.
- iii. Post Office dept outstanding £1,500, no response to request. Considering next step i.e. small claims.
- iv. Solar Community Building update – information has been sent, but there is an issue about the weight bearing load of the roof. Grant event coming up for lottery money.
- v. Consideration is being given to the location of outdoor sensor light.

- vi. Pest Control - a letter has gone out to the residents backing onto the Hall, asking them not to put food onto the roof for birds, as it was thought this could be one of the issues.
- vii. A new water heater has been purchased for the kitchen, which will be more economical, plus 2 new kettles.
- viii. Redecoration of the Village Hall discussed, quote given, considering the last week August.
- ix. Considering What 3 Words more accurate than google map, need to display in prominent position when calling emergency services.
- x. Treasurer - £26,092 in account, large outlay is insurance, electric (bill for Jan was £958 down in Feb to £500) and Oil (£786 for 10 months).
- xi. Considering increasing the hire price for the hall and advertising that it is available for parties and events.

8.11 **Climate Change** – Members considered the emails regarding the WGM Energy Lottery Fund and agreed that we should be part of the larger project.

CO11/9 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 – awaiting the decision of the Planning Inspectorate.
(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** – letters were sent to the new residents of number 16 Reivers Gate and 41 Whitegates.

CO11/10 Other Agenda Items

10.1 **Longhorsley Football Club Memorandum of Understanding** – The agreement has now been signed-off by the Club and Cllr Douglas will now sign on behalf of the Council. There have been a few issues with car parking which Cllr Boyle has addressed with the Club Chairman.

10.2 **Community Awards 2023** – the nominations were endorsed by members and the Clerk will contact the winner to invite them to the Annual Parish Assembly.

10.3 **Kings Coronation Events** – the Clerk informed the meeting that the two applications for grant funding have been successful - £480 from NCC and £500 from National Lottery.

10.4 **Civility and Respect Pledge** – members considered the statement and agreed to sign up to the civility and respect pledge.

- 10.5 **Northumbria in Bloom** – members considered the correspondence received regarding the “Its Your Neighbourhood” awards and agreed that it is something to be looked into for next year i.e. 2024.

CO11/11 Other Items for Information

- 11.1 The Clerk informed the meeting about the revised opening hours of the Morpeth Waste Recovery Site which will now be open 4 days per week (Friday to Monday) rather than the current 7 days per week.

CO11/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

- 12.1 A question was raised about the cost of allotment plots as the media was reporting increases of 200% in some areas. The Clerk informed the meeting that the council’s budget for 2023/24 did not include any increases to allotment rents - which are £10 plus water charges.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.39 pm.