

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 11th October, 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

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

Clerk G Turner

2 Members of the Public were present (8pm to 8.15pm)

CO5/1 Apologies for Absence – Cllrs Alcock and Parker.

CO5/2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th September, 2023 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO5/3 Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda –

- Cllr Douglas declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Planning Application 23/03124/FUL Moor View.

CO5/4 Date of Next Meeting(s) – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council will be 8th November and 13th December, 2023.

CO5/5 County Matters – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance.

CO5/6 Update on behalf of Northumbria Police

No update report received - the Clerk was asked to contact the Police requesting regular information/updates.

CO5/7 Finance

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for October 2023, totalling £2,905.70.

7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of September, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 30th September, 2023.

7.3 **Conclusion of External Audit 2023/24** - Members received and endorsed the Conclusion of Audit documents as received from MAZARs, namely Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return, noting that there were no concerns raised and no matters arising from the audit. The “Notice” of conclusion of audit has been duly signed and put onto the noticeboard and website.

7.4 **Budget 2024/25** – Members received and noted Version 1 of the standstill budget documents. The Clerk informed the meeting that NCC will be producing the revised taxbase in November. She also reiterated that tweaks to the budget could be made up to the January meeting when the precept will be set.

CO5/8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Review of Planning Decisions –

- 23/02892/PRUTPO Tree Preservation Order application T1 Ash to reduce to a 7m pollard at 56 Church View, Badgers Ford – NCC **PERMITTED** this application.

8.1b) Review of Planning Applications –

- 23/03515/DISCON Discharge of Conditions 4 (samples) and 5 (roof timbers and purlins) on approved application 23/00973/LBC as the Old Vicarage, Drummonds Close – 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 – works are on-going
21/01300/VARY	Caravan at Low Southward Edge
21/02183/FUL	1-2 South Road

8.1d) The Clerk reminded members about the files received from the Planning Officer re: Training and Living in a Conservation Area.

8.2 Moor Management Committee – update by Cllr Potts

- i. The draft Minutes of the site visit held on 4th October were distributed.
- ii. Members noted the issue with the lack of water in the Pond and consent needed from Natural England to install marker posts on the Moor.
- iii. The Clerk was asked to contact both the Rivers Trust and Straughan’s to carry out remedial works to both the Moor Pond and Old Church Pond as a matter of urgency.
- iv. The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Voyce from Trevow Vegetation had carried out a trial patch of scrub removal today to assess which machine would be better to do the required works.

8.3 The Old Church Wood – verbal update by Cllr Alcock

- i. P Ford is continuing to work on quotes for the rewilding area.
- ii. The perimeter pathways and wildflower areas have been mown last week.
- iii. The date for the next working party of volunteers has still to be agreed.

- iv. Members agreed that another sign, directing people to the Old Church Wood and Old St Helen's Church, should be added to the signage at the bus shelter.

8.4 Play Areas

- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
- ii. Members agreed the revised plans provided by Wicksteed for the refurbishment of Church View play area.

8.5 Allotments – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that:

- i. An Autumn/Winter gathering has been organised for tenants on 29th October.

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

- 1. 2 members of the football club were in attendance to give members an update on the remedial works to rectify the clubhouse. Due to the wet weather and boggy conditions, there has been a delay in the push-back of the clubhouse. Once the colder weather and harder ground conditions appear the push-back will then take place. The problem trees have been cut back and the pathway at the side is to be cleared. Some stone has been laid where the decking had been. The season has started but some games have been called-off due to the weather.
- 2. Mr Archibold will organise the replacement goal nets.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.15pm

8.5 (contd) Allotments

- ii. Cllr Boyle reported that the tenancy agreement documents had been hand delivered to the Playgroup but as yet have not been completed. The allotment site has been recently tidied-up.
- iii. Tenants will be discussing the Community Area at the social meeting on 29th so that any decisions about the allotment funding obtained from the Wingates Community Fund can be made at the November meeting of Council.

8.6 Village Maintenance Issues

- i. Car Parking on Common – nothing to report.
- ii. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Chisholm to look at the reported problem of potholes on VG land along the East Road as Cllr Boyle had noticed 3 particular areas when doing the site inspection.

8.7 Website – nothing to add at this time.

8.8 Longhorsley Tree

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Audit of Accounts, new bench by the Village shop and our request for speed strips to be placed in different locations.

8.9 Donation Requests: - none received this month.

8.10

Village Hall Committee – Cllr Peat gave the following verbal report:

i. **The Village Hall AGM took place on 3rd October** covering:

Chairmans report:

- The Kings Coronation event held in the village hall, was a great success and he thanked all those involved.
- He highlighted the Warm Space started in 2022, it was a regular Wednesday morning coffee morning it had been excellent bringing the community together, he thanked the organisers.
- The Solar Panel project was ongoing and a step to the village hall becoming carbon neutral.
- The new Social Committee had been repurposed, it was driving forward a calendar of social events to provide revenue for the village hall.
- A number of the village hall facilities had been improved over the last 12 months this included the purchase of new white goods. Grant funding had been used to support these developments and the hall was now of a high standard.
- It was reported a rebranding of the Longhorsley Village Playgroup, would now be known as Longhorsley Explorers. A new verbal agreement with regards to their use of the hall was being formalised.
- The committee remembered Maureen Taylor who sadly died suddenly, she had contributed to a number of different village hall activities, she would be greatly missed.

The Treasurers Report:

- The end of year accounts had been approved and audited. There had been an in-year loss, mainly due to some grants coming in late and the increase in electricity charges. The Treasurer said we should break even next year. Plus, there will be the extra revenue.
- The next AGM – 8th October 2024

ii. **Village Hall Committee meeting**

- A discussion took place about the purchase of new easy access wheeled tables, it was decided to carry this forward and review next year when finances were available.
- Warm Space update, it was continuing to be very popular attracting between 18 to 22 people each week, both men and women. A bid could be put into the Windfarm for extra funding if the numbers continued to rise.
- The Solar Power Project was on hold until a structural engineer has assessed the roof to establish if it was strong enough for the Solar Panels. Liz Elliott said she would be happy to pay for the work to be done in memory of her husband Ian, the committee suggested that it could possibly be funded 50:50 by Liz and the village hall.
- An outstanding issue regarding a canopy for over the door, a sensor light and blue plug, Gary to ask Shaun Brown.
- A new village day was discussed, could be called Longhorsley village gathering so it wasn't expected to be like the village day that we used to have. A meeting to discuss would be advertised in The Tree to be held on 21 November. All those interested urged to attend. A suggestion was made that some event could be on the village green football area. The chair asked for permission from the Parish Council.

- The activities to take place to raise money for the village hall, included; The Pub quiz at the Shoulder of Mutton, Table Top Sale, Wreath Making, Valentine's wine tasting and Easte4r quiz. Next meeting of the Social Committee 7 November.
- The Heritage of Northumberland Village Halls Project, A book aims at being a celebration of what village Halls mean to the community. We are going to send information about how the village hall helped following storm Arwen, the role of the toddler group during lockdown and how the warm space has developed to bring the village together. All the activities enhance the community spirit.
- The Hallmark recertification was almost ready.
- The treasurers report reported on outgoings in September i.e., payment for redecoration and new kitchen flooring, leaving a balance of £21.915, it was suggested investing £10000 of the balance so money is earning some interest.
- A document was tabled about the running of the playgroup and the costs paid out over the last 12 months on behalf of the hall. It was agreed that these expenses in future would be paid by the Village Hall and offset against the monthly rent the playgroup had agreed to pay.

Next meeting of village hall committee 5 December.

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

CO5/9 Items Carried Forward

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

- a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time. However, the Chairman noticed workmen on site recently.

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

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

9.4 **Welcome Letters** – none issued this month. Members informed the Clerk of new residents in 29 Drummonds Close and the Vicarage.

CO5/10 Other Agenda Items

10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – as discussed under public session above.

CO5/11 Other Items for Information – The Clerk informed the meeting that she and the Chairman had attended the Town & Parish Conference at County Hall where presentations on FixMyStreet and Local Services were given. A letter has been received from the Leader of NCC saying that he proposes that the conference will be held twice per annum.

CO5/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

- 12.1 Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that he had met with Mr Alan Hedley the Estate Manager for Mrs Patricia March's estate, to walk the Public Rights of Way from the Old Church through to Fieldhead. Mr Hedley acknowledged that better signage was required in order to keep members of the public on the PROW which crosses Mrs March's private land. Members noted that Mr Neil Dawson, of NCC, has taken over the responsibility of PROWs from Mr Tony Derbyshire. Cllr Boyle will inform NCC as to what is required in terms of signage etc. Mr Hedley also raised concerns about the Moor Pond and the Old Church Wood Pond discharging into Whemley Burn and Paxton Dene burn respectively. See Minute 8.2 (iii) above re action to be taken - both Cllrs Boyle and Potts to keep the situation under review.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.