

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

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

County Councillor G Sanderson (7 pm to 7.20pm)

Clerk G Turner

5 Members of the Public were present (8pm to 8.20pm)

CO3/1 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr K Bell.

CO3/2 **Minutes** of the Annual Meeting held on 14th June, 2023 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO3/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda** – Cllr Bell declared a permanent disclosable pecuniary interest in the East Road Development – ownership of land.

CO3/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council 13th September and 11th October, 2023.

CO3/5 **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson gave the following update:

- i. The new Energy Centre and Learning Hub at Blyth for 16 to 19yr olds has opened.
- ii. The main aim of the Wellbeing Centre at Blyth is to reach some 7,000 people with the aim of getting them back into work. Northumberland is now below the national average.
- iii. NCC is committed to tackling inequalities.
- iv. NCC is investing £16m in areas such as Ashington and Berwick.
- v. NCC is also getting funds into Towns such as Bedlington and Rothbury.
- vi. NCC is refreshing the Climate Change Action Plan. Officers are taking the lead on Environmental issues with organisations such as Northumbrian Water (re cleaning up of rivers), concentrating on Parks and Green Spaces and trying to sort out the problem of discarded litter on roadside verges. Putting the Environment first means that people are also thinking about Climate Change issues.

- vii. The new Chief Executive has been appointed together with the new Executive Team. Two reports are still pending into the former Chief Exec. Management issues.
- viii. Locally, the Paxton Dene road repairs have been completed and the Fieldhead road repairs have commenced.
- ix. The improvements at Wingates/Todburn areas are also to be done.
- x. The “Fix-My Street” App is now up and running.
- xi. There is to be a trial/pilot scheme (£1/2m) for investing to save measures in the West and North of the county regarding potholes – proper repairs maybe more costly but should last longer and thus save money in the long-term.
- xii. There are on-going issues with road repairs throughout the county – our roads were not built for the larger type of vehicles that are now in use.
- xiii. He has organised for speed monitoring equipment to be deployed in the Village to gather more information about the problems residents are reporting.
- xiv. The Clerk asked him if NCC has got the carbon emissions tool ready yet – he will take this forward on our behalf.
- xv. Cllr Boyle asked him to assist with organising a meeting with the Footpaths Officer to sort out issues with PROWs at the Old Church – the Clerk will email Cllr Sanderson.
- xvi. Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that at long last he has heard from M King re the Smallburn Road passing place site meeting.
- xvii. Cllr Peat reported that the footpath between Longhorsley Tower and the Catholic Church was in a poor condition and people were walking on the road. The Clerk informed the meeting that this issue had been included in the LTP requests several years ago and that it had been placed on the maintenance schedule – The Clerk to email Cllr Sanderson with the details.

Cllr Sanderson left at this point of the meeting 7.20pm.

CO3/6 Update on behalf of Northumbria Police

Members noted the monthly report of officer Richardson stating that there were no incidents or crime trends of concern to local residents.

CO3/7 Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for July 2023, totalling £2,992.40.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of June, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 30th June, 2023.
- 7.3 **Quotations.**
 - i. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had arranged the cutting of the trees as per T&CTS quotation under her powers of H&S (as per Financial Regulations 3.4) – members endorsed this action.

- ii. Members considered the quotation re installing a new gate at Archies Pond. It was agreed to remove the gate but not replace at this time and Cllr Boyle would investigate the history as to why the gate was installed at that location.

7.4 **Anticipated large funds due to Sale of Land** – the Clerk has received an email to say that the sale of PC land is coming to a closure. She will compile an investment strategy for the September meeting to include opening an account with CCLA.

CO3/8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Review of Planning Decisions –

- 23/01992/AGRGDO Steel frame building for storage of farm vehicles and goods at Smallburn Farm – GRANTED by NCC.

8.1b) Review of Planning Applications – none.

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 cattle grid has been cleaned out by J Chisholm.
- ii. The Clerk has contacted Northumbrian Fencing to order 6 x 6ft and 6 standard marker posts to keep walkers on the right path.
- iii. Mr Moffat has been contacted to carry out the birch and piri-piri spraying.
- iv. Mr Voyce of Trevow Vegetation has been booked in for 2 days in October for scrub and birch clearance.
- v. Mr Foggon to be contacted re strimming of the footpath.
- vi. The Wildfire Plan has been updated and is with Fire Rescue for their input,
- vii. The Clerk has had confirmation from Natural England that we can continue with our planned works as scheduled in our notice to them dated 20th November 2021 and that we do not need any further consents – this agreement will last until December 2026.
- viii. The Clerk has received the funding forms to complete re: compiling a Heath Management Plan (£1,200) and a Scrub Management Plan (£1,200). Natural England will supply a list of recognised experts in these areas.
- ix. The Clerk has started to compile a checklist of works carried out during the year to accompany the Management Plan.
- x. The noticeboard at the Moor needs cleaning and maintenance.
- xi. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 2nd August.

8.3 The Old Church Wood – verbal update by Cllr Alcock

- i. Cllr Alcock informed the meeting that a working group is planned for Saturday 15th July, (10 to 12), weather permitting. This event was advertised in the Tree so hopefully a few more volunteers will turn out to assist.

- ii. The paths have been cut but the Old Churchyard looks unsightly – the Clerk to contact NCC.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
- ii. The annual ROSPA Inspection was carried out in June – Mr Paterson to carry out any maintenance works as highlighted in the ROSPA reports.
- iii. The Clerk will ask for 3 quotes from reputable companies for the refurbishment of Church View play area.

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

1. 5 members of the football club were in attendance to discuss the end of year awards/presentation night. They believed that the system that they had in place for car parking worked really well and feedback was positive. There have been no complaints from local residents and all litter was cleaned up at the end of the evening. The event was successful and all of the young people together with accompanying adults had a good time. Over 120 children were present and everyone received an award. Some £1,300 was raised for the club on the night.
2. Remedial works to rectify the clubhouse i.e. cladding, decking and position of the containers is to commence over the weekend.
3. The Clerk was asked to source a set of nets for the MUGA (no frames required at this time).

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.20pm

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

- i. A quote to replace all of the external boundary fencing has been received £4,820. It was agreed to not undertake the whole fence replacement at this time and to make do and mend where possible. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson to ask him to install a new post at the top gate.
- ii. The Clerk was asked to check with the Allotments Officer as to if anyone is waiting to be placed on the waiting list.
- iii. Several negative comments have been received about the state of the Playgroups allotment – the Clerk to issue a letter.
- iv. At the September meeting of Council, a decision will be taken as to the Wingates funding of the proposed community area at the allotments.

8.6 Village Maintenance Issues

- i. Car Parking on Common – as discussed in public session above.
- ii. Grass Cutting Issues – the Clerk had circulated the reply from NCC re: information re core standards.
- iii. The Clerk has received an email from a local resident who has found an old parish noticeboard in a garage. The Clerk has replied that we will make arrangements to pick it up in order to access if it is still usable.

- iv. The hedgerow at Wilding Place was raised as it is overhanging – the Clerk to ask JP Garden Services to cut the hedges as he is already doing the grass cutting at that location.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Bench and Moor Grants for the September issue.

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

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

There was an extraordinary meeting held on 29th June to discuss the installation of solar roof panels. Longhorsley Village Hall is one of five premises selected for the trial in Northumberland. The roof survey is to be further discussed on 25th July together with the renewal of the Hallmark Quality Standard Scheme.

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

CO3/9 Items Carried Forward

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

- a) South Road Development – the outstanding planning issues have now progressed. The Clerk was asked to contact the vendors in order to give an update at the September meeting of Council.
- b) East Road – The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received a breakdown of costs from GF Whites re the outstanding invoice for South and East Road developments – as the Parish Council had not paid any final invoices members agreed to pay it. The Clerk has received an email today from Muckles to say that East Road is concluding and a spreadsheet detailing the allowable deductions. The Clerk was asked to contact Muckles to ask if there has been an uplift to the sale price since negotiations took place and to ask whether the cost of the disposal advert should be included.

(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 been contacted by a local resident asking that this Council reviews the decision taken some years ago not to repay amounts received allowing resident to cross Village Green to access their properties. The Clerk informed the meeting that at that time the PC was advised not to ask for any payments but to wait for any applications – the PC was not in a position to refuse any application as per the Countryside and Rights of Way Act S68. However, this legislation was later rescinded. The Clerk has contacted Muckles for legal advice and was given the following advice “***Although that section was repealed it was replaced with very similar wording by reason of the Commons Act 2006***”. Members agreed therefore that the previous Council decision stands i.e. no repayments are necessary.

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

CO3/10 Other Agenda Items

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

10.2 **NCC Local Transport Plan 2024/25** – members discussed projects to be included and decided on the following 3 priorities:

- i. Request a later Bus Service to the Village
- ii. Extension of the 30mph zone both to the north and south of the Village
- iii. Install/improve roadside kerbs along East Road

CO3/11 Other Items for Information - None

CO3/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

12.1 **Residents No Parking Sign Drummonds Close** – Cllr Alcock raised the issue of the newly erected sign. It had been brought to her attention that the wording could affect residents elsewhere in the Village. Members agreed to purchase 3 new signs saying “RESIDENTS PARKING ONLY”.

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.