

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 13th March, 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: K Bell
P Boyle
N Douglas (Chaiman)
J Parker
A Peat
T Potts

Clerk G Turner

CO10/1 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr S Alcock and County Cllr Sanderson.

CO10/2 **Minutes** of the Council Meeting held on 14th February, 2024 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO10/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda** – None

CO10/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council will be 10th April, 8th May (AGM) and 22nd May for the Annual Parish Assembly.

CO10/5 **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance but supplied a report containing the following:

- i. He is still awaiting a response from Northumbria Police regarding the speed camera van being deployed following the recent speed survey results. Hopefully there will be a meeting before Easter to decide the location.
- ii. The budget for the forthcoming year was agreed in February – there will not be any cuts to frontline services.
- iii. The new Northumberland Line will open in the Autumn linking Ashington and Blyth and other stations along the way to Newcastle with two trains per hour.
- iv. Free town centre parking is being maintained.
- v. The new Morpeth Leisure Centre is going really well, with over a 100% increase in users over the old one.
- vi. The building of a new Superschool in Seaton Valley has begun, with others in Amble and Berwick starting soon.
- vii. £7m more has been allocated to roads because of the damage caused by flooding. Potholes are unfortunately commonplace across most counties in England at the moment but staff are working flat out to fix them – over 1,000 since January.

CO10/6 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – no report received.

CO10/7 Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for March (i) 2024, totalling £89,671.53.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of February, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 29th February, 2024.
- 7.3 **Final Accounts 2023/24** – Members considered and approved the Asset Register document.
- 7.4 The Clerk informed the meeting that she has received confirmation from CCLA that our new account has been set-up.

CO10/8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Review of Planning Decisions –

- 24/00295/MISC Re: 22/01182/MISC The intention to apply for an exemption to operate as a 5 van site for a period of 21 days at The Lakes, South Linden Farm – Application is Permitted Development.

8.1b) Review of Planning Applications –

- 24/00623/TREECA Works to Trees in Conservation Area at Horsley Tower, West Road – members had no objections to this application.

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 – Cllr Potts informed the meeting that:

- i. Harriet Oglesby from Natural England has carried out a site visit with George Dodds.
- ii. Moor Edge Cottage – Cllr Sanderson is contacting NCC Officers. The Clerk confirmed that a letter has been issued to the owners.
- iii. The next Moor Committee meeting will take place on site on 17th April at 6pm.
- iv. Cllr Bell reported seeing 5 ponies, 5 cattle and 21 sheep.

8.3 The Old Church Wood – report by Cllr Alcock

- i. The wood is currently very boggy due to frequent and heavy rainfall.
- ii. The path from the main gate is part finished.

- iii. Cllr Alcock is going to speak to Mr Fish about what can be done to make the main pathways around the wood stand up to the wet weather i.e. additional field drains.
- iv. A couple of dates for the next working party has been suggested towards the end of April.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. There was not a maintenance report this month.
- ii. Church View Play Area Refurbishment - the Clerk informed members that the official opening will take place on 15th March at 11am.

8.5 **Allotments** – nothing to report at this time.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- i. Car Parking on Common – Cllr Boyle agreed to proceed with obtaining a quote for the installation of hexagonal matting. Mr Chisholm may not be able to undertake this work and another contractor will be contacted.
- ii. The grit bin beside the shop has been damaged and the Clerk was asked to source a replacement.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Annual Assembly, Church View opening and photographic proof for voting.

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

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

- i. The wine tasting event was well received and supported as was the coffee morning in remembrance of Kate Foreman.
- ii. Another wine tasting evening is planned for November.
- iii. A Sunday afternoon tea is also planned – maybe for D Day weekend.

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

CO10/9 Items Carried Forward

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

- a) South Road Development – Cllrs Douglas and Boyle met with the developers on site. In order to carry out work from the A697 to the site a road closure will be necessary. A bird nesting/ecology certificate has been produced. However, time is now a major concern. The report also highlighted the presence of certain unwanted species of plants, for example Japanese Knotweed – the area is to be fenced off.

9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Parker agreed to lead the review of the NP.

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

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

CO10/10 Other Agenda Items

10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – nothing to report at this time.

10.2 **Revocation of Tree Preservation Order** – Members received and noted that following the review of orders undertaken by NCC in November 2023, the Borough of Castle Morpeth (Horsley Tower) TPO has now been revoked due “*to the trees no longer being worthy and do not meet the requirements of protective status*”.

CO10/11 Other Items for Information – none.

CO10/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

12.1 **Retirement of Clerk** – the Clerk announced that she will be retiring at the end of December. It was agreed that a Staffing Working Party be established which will meet at 6pm prior to Council meetings – all councillors to be included.

12.2 A group would like to use the MUGA on Sunday mornings between 10-11 am. It was agreed that their details should be added to the timetable on the MUGA noticeboard.

12.3 Residents have raised the issue of a potentially dangerous wall at St Helen’s Church plus the high number of mole hills around the graveyard – the Clerk was asked to write to the PCC.

12.4 The Clerk was asked to check with Kevin Woods about the planter outside of the Village Shop -is it maintained by us or does it belong to the shop?

12.5 Cllr Bell reported that the last Windfarm meeting was cancelled due to no applications being received.

12.6 The Clerk was asked to find out the arrangements for the lighting of beacons for the D Day weekend.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.