

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 13th December, 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

Clerk G Turner

1 Member of the Public was present (7pm to 7.25pm)
1 Member of the Public was present (7.30pm to 8.20pm)

CO7/1 **Apologies for Absence** – Councillor K Bell and County Cllr Sanderson.

CO7/2 **Minutes** of the Council Meeting held on 8th November, 2023 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

CO7/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda** – None

CO7/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council will be 10th January and 14th February, 2024.

CO7/5 **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance but supplied an email containing various updates, which members noted and received.

Members also welcomed the results of the recent speed surveys on East Road, West Road and A697 (north and south). The results of the re-positioning of the strips were in line with members concerns i.e. of the 24,231 vehicles recorded travelling southbound, some 21,539 or 88.89%, were exceeding the 30-mph speed limit.

CO7/6 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police**

The monthly police report from PC Sutcliffe was received by members, noting that there were no crimes or incidents to report covering the period 27th October to 11th December 2023.

CO7/7 Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for December 2023, totalling £1,974.38.
- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of November, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 30th November, 2023.
- 7.3 **Budget 2024/25** – Members received and noted Version 3 of the budget documents which included the revised figure for bank interest. Members considered the proposal to create another wildflower area at Old Church Wood but deferred their decision to the January meeting of Council when issues concerning the land sale for the South Road development would be known.

CO7/8 Routine Items for Review

- 8.1a) **Review of Planning Decisions** –
- 23/01595/FUL Retrospective application re: external alterations, installation of solar panels, and changes to boundary wall and railings at Belmont East Road – NCC **REFUSED** this application.
- 8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications** – None,
- 23/04402/DISCON Discharge of Condition 3 (Protected and notable species method statement) on application 20/00107/FUL re Land South of East Road – LPC had no objections.
 - 23/04283/FUL Retrospective application to remove 5.0m high conifer trees and reduce front garden wall length at Freestones West Road – in the interest of safety LPC had no objections.
 - 23/04481/TREECA Trees in Conservation Area T2 (Holly) remove ivy to 3m, T4 (Lawson Cypress) fell to ground level, T5 / T9 / T11 / T12 / T14 (Common Limes) remove epicormic growth, at St Thomas Martyrs Presbytery West Road – LPC had 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) Moor View – the Clerk was asked to contact NCC regarding their comment about Village Green not being mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan for planning purposes, when it is protected separately by Secretary of State.

- 8.2 **Moor Management Committee – update by Cllr Potts**
- i. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to 3 companies, which were on a list from Natural England, to prepare the Heath and Scrub management plans. She has received 2 quotations and she and the Moor Committee Chairman are meeting with the third representative on Tuesday 19th December for a tour of the Moor.
 - ii. Trevow Vegetation has now completed the scrub removal on the southside of the track.

- 8.3 **The Old Church Wood – verbal update by Cllr Alcock**
- i. P Ford is standing down as the liaison representative and suggested Tim Fish as her replacement.
 - ii. The working party of volunteers met on 19th November, but it was a poor turnout. Cllr Alcock suggested promoting the group in the next edition of the Tree.
 - iii. Cllrs Alcock and Boyle met with the Rivers Trust, Peter Kerr, Cllr Boyle to arrange a follow up meeting with Mr Hedley regarding diversion of spring water into the pond.
 - iv. It was proposed that the Clerk contact Mr Paterson about installing a path running parallel to the current one to avoid the boggy/muddy entrance.

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

1. Mr Richard Hogg addressed the meeting about concerns over litter in and surrounding the Village. He has been out litter picking and is astounded by the amount of litter. He asked if there was a formal group who could assist on the A697. The Clerk advised that our insurance would not cover this work as the A697 is a major road and could be dangerous for volunteers to be working on the verges. Ms Chisholm organises litter picks in the Village and could use the Tree to promote activities.

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

- 8.4 **Play Areas**
- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
 - ii. The maintenance of the MUGA surface has been carried out.

- 8.5 **Allotments** – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that:
- i. The proposal for the new community area on part of allotment 13 fits nicely with the Wingates funding grant and will be completed in the Spring.

- 8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**
- i. Car Parking on Common – nothing to report.
 - ii. Another tree has blown over at Reivers Gate.
 - iii. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson to arrange cutting circles and mulching around the trees in the Jubilee Orchard.
 - iv. Flooding – Cllr Boyle emailed the NCC Officer (Nick Watson) about the issues at Whitegates – NCC is awaiting funding to carry out further investigations as to where the exact blockage is.

- v. The drain on the southeast corner of the Village Hall car park, nearest the path, is blocked.
- vi. The manhole cover on Drummonds Close, next to the Tree is cracked and could be a tripping hazard.
- vii. The Clerk has reported blocked drains/gullies at West Road and East Road via Fix My Street.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Beacon Event and to thank those involved with the Christmas Tree etc.

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

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Peat read out her report from the last committee meeting covering:

- Emergency Service Grant
- Success of Warm Space
- Solar Power Community
- Outdoor Sensor Light
- Village Day
- Hallmark
- National Grid Funding
- Occupational License
- Bank Balance

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

CO7/9 Items Carried Forward

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

- a) South Road Development – members discussed the earlier meeting held with Simon Beeby. The Clerk will forward the spreadsheet to our solicitor and ask for advice.

9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Members were issued with a letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, who had raised our concerns in support of Staffordshire in Parliament on our behalf.

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 meeting that there were new residents in 45 Whitegates.

CO7/10 Other Agenda Items

- 10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – due to the recent bad weather, the area is too boggy at the moment for the containers to be pushed back. The work will be carried out once the ground is hard enough to enable vehicles on site.

CO7/11 Other Items for Information – none

CO7/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

- 12.1 Members had received reports about the BT Exchange building on West Road between Roselea and Freestones, that the generator is kicking-in causing problems to neighbours due to the smell, smoke, fumes and noise. The Clerk was asked to contact BT.
- 12.2 The path between Drummonds Close and the A697 is overgrown and very slippery – the Clerk to ask Mr Paterson to take a look and remedy the situation.
- 12.3 Some fly-tipping has appeared at the top end of Archies Pond – Cllr Boyle to take a look and report back.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.