

## Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Present** Cllrs: S Alcock  
P Boyle  
N Douglas (Chaiman)  
J Parker  
A Peat

Clerk G Turner

1 member of the Public

**CO2/1** **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs K Bell and T Potts and County Cllr G Sanderson.

**CO2/2** **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

**CO2/3** **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda**

Cllr Peat declared an interest in item 8.9 re: grant application for the Village Fete as she is a member of the Committee.

**CO2/4** **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings will be 10<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**CO2/5** **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance but provided the following updates:

- i. Permission was requested to park-up the speed camera van on the verge next to the Whitegates entrance – members unanimously approved this request.
- ii. He is also pressing for the old camera boxes to be renewed with new technology.

**CO2/6** **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – no report received.

**CO2/7** **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for June 2024, totalling £7,669.56.

7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of May, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.

- 7.3 **Final Accounts 2023/24 Internal Auditors report.**  
Mr Kennedy had supplied members with a copy of his report on the audit of accounts. Members, received, considered and endorsed his report and noted page 3 of the AGAR.
- 7.4 **Final Accounts 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement Section 1** (previously circulated) – Members received, considered and approved Page 4 of the AGAR.
- 7.5 **Final Accounts 2023/24 Accounting Statements Section 2** (previously circulated) – Members received, considered and approved Page 5 of the AGAR.
- 7.6 **Final Accounts 2023/24 Supporting Documents** – Members received, considered and approved the Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Explanation of Variances, Explanation of High Reserves and the dates proposed for the Exercise of Public Rights.

**CO2/8 Routine Items for Review**

8.1a) **Review of Planning Decisions –**

- 24/01227/TREECA Trees in a Conservation Area T1 cut overhanging branches at the Paddock, West Road - Decided.
- 24/01042/FUL Demolition of existing wooden conservatory and rebuild new conservatory at West House, West Road – Permitted.
- 24/00919/FUL Erection of new agricultural steel framed shed for storage of manure at Paxton Dene Farm – Permitted.
- 24/1080/FUL Conversion of former livestock building to create a single private dwelling house with partial demolition of further building to create a garage at Land South West of Field Head House – Granted.

8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications – None received.**

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** – The Clerk informed the meeting that the next meeting of the committee will take place on site on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

8.3 **The Old Church Wood – report by Cllr Alcock**

- i. Northumberland Rivers Trust arranged for volunteers from Brewers Dolphin & Bank of Canada - spent 2 days in the Church Wood on 22 & 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, erecting bird boxes, in and around the old Church, and removing tree guards from more mature trees in the Church Wood.

- ii. Tim Fish & Cllr Alcock met with Peter Kerr to identify suitable trees (for the boxes and also the guards).
- iii. Contacted James Chisholm to ask him to mow the paths in the Church Wood. He attended on Friday 7th June, and will go again in a couple of weeks to try to bring the pathways under a bit more control! He also strimmed under the picnic benches as requested.
- iv. Extending the wild flower meadow in the Church Wood – proposal distributed together with additional grant funding applications to Windfarm to fund bulbs for inside the old church £263.
- v. Drainage in church wood – contacted Northumbria Drainage. They are of the opinion that not much can be done to improve the drainage in the field. The number of trees will not be helping the issue, as the roots go into the drains and cause blockages and will not be soaking up the water.  
Historically the field had good drainage when it was just a grazing field - a good number of drains - but they are old. When the pond was added it caused damage to the main drain and this could cause issues in the graveyard in years to come. Another meeting with Northumbria Drainage has been arranged on site on Sunday to discuss further.
- vi. Pathway in Church Wood – messages left with various contacts and will contact Pegswood PC to see if they know who did the paths in their community wood.
- vii. The Central pathway, which is a PROW, was discussed and Mr Fish agreed to take this forward.
- viii. Members approved the 2 funding applications to go forward to the Windfarm Community Fund for the wild flower areas and for bulbs inside of the Church.
- ix. Mr Fish also agreed to contact a representative from Rothbury re: quote for the wildflower meadow.

#### 8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the monthly maintenance report.
- ii. The Clerk to chase up the hopscotch and balance beam with Wicksteed. It was also pointed out that water is pooling at the bottom of the slide.

#### 8.5 **Allotments**

- i. The Clerk was informed that the tenant of allotment No, 9 has moved out of the Village and as such is no longer entitled to hold the tenancy.
- ii. Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the summerhouse for the community area is arriving on 24<sup>th</sup> June and he will be purchasing the relevant materials for installation.

#### 8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- Car Parking on Common – nothing to report at this time.
- Mr Paterson has cut the circles around the trees in the orchard and has applied the mulching as requested.
- The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson about the issue of mud collecting at the Haining which needs to be scraped back.
- Cllrs Alcock and Parker agreed to arrange a meeting to create a logo for the Parish Council.
- The recent collision outside the Village Shop was discussed. Cllr Alcock to enquire with the Shop if any contact details were given.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the D Day Beacon Event, Final Accounts and the Clerk's advertisement.

8.9 **Donation Requests:** - members considered the small grants application from the Village Fete Committee. It was unanimously agreed to provide a grant of £250.

*Cllr Peat had declared an interest in this issue and left the room taking no part in the discussion.*

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Peat presented her written report to the meeting covering the following:

- i. A structural engineer has been to survey the roof and will provide a full report.
- ii. Feedback re social events was received.
- iii. Warm Spaces continues to be popular.
- iv. With regard to Hallmark accreditation, it has been decided not to apply this year.
- v. The new defibrillator has been received.
- vi. The installation of a ramp at the Fire Exit has been approved.
- vii. A locked storage for the bins will be purchased.
- viii. The Clerk to send details of the documents held re ownership of the Car Park.
- ix. Village Hall policies are to be written and placed on the website.
- x. The Village Hall was broken into and damaged caused – police were in attendance and CCTV coverage has been given to the police.
- xi. Several of the blue chairs have splits in the back and this issue has been reported to the manufacturer.
- xii. There is a balance of £20,899 in the bank.
- xiii. A resume of the proposals for the Village Fete Day was given.

**CO2/9 Items Carried Forward**

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

a) South Road Development – nothing to report at this time.

9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Parker informed the meeting that she is continuing to review the plan and has made contact with Mr Etchells, who was heavily involved with the production of the original plan.

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

9.4 **Welcome Letters** – A new resident at 18 Whitegates.

**CO2/10 Other Agenda Items**

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

10.2 **D Day Celebrations** – Members noted that the Beacon Event was well attended and the lighting of the beacon went brilliantly. Just a note to be kept in mind for future events of flying the Union Flag.

CO2/11 **Other Items for Information** – no issues raised.

CO2/12 **Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)** – no issues raised.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.