

## Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

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

Clerk G Turner

1 member of the public (re Planning)

**CO9/1** **Apologies for Absence** – County Cllr Sanderson.

**CO9/2** **Minutes** of the Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

**CO9/3** **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda** – None

**CO9/4** **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council will be 13<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

**CO9/5** **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance but supplied a report containing the following:

- i. He is awaiting a response from Northumbria Police regarding the speed camera van being deployed following the recent speed survey results.
- ii. The recent period of bad weather and storms have caused a number of expensive landslips which need fixing as well as a spate of potholes.
- iii. An extra £7m has been acquired for pothole repairs which includes £3m for permanent patching and this work will commence once the weather improves.
- iv. Protecting frontline services and investing in the County form the basic priorities of the budget which should be agreed at the 21<sup>st</sup> February Council meeting.
- v. The budget is about making sure that services such as litter picking, grass cutting, investment in parks, adult care and education are not cut back, whilst at the same time providing leisure centres, new schools and free parking in the towns.

**CO9/6** **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – members received and noted the police report dated 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**CO9/7** **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for February 2024, totalling £3,032.24.

- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of January, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024.
- 7.3 **Final Accounts 2023/24** – Members considered and approved the following documents:
- i. Internal Audit – Review and Checklist
  - ii. Annual Risk Assessment
- 7.4 The Clerk reported that she had contacted CCLA regarding the opening of the new deposit fund account and confirmed that the documents had been received by CCLA but there is currently a backlog of new clients.

**CO9/8 Routine Items for Review**

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

- 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 – NCC **PERMITTED** this application.
- 23/04402/DISCON Discharge of Condition 3 (Protected and notable species method statement) on application 20/00107/FUL re Land South of East Road – NCC **PERMITTED** this application.
- 23/04283/FUL Retrospective application to remove 5.0m high conifer trees and reduce front garden wall length at Freestones, West Road – NCC **PERMITTED** this application.

8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications –**

- 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 – 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 The Chairman asked Mr Singleton to give a brief description of the works undertaken and why they were undertaken. Members agreed to support this application going to NCC Planning Committee for consideration.
21/01300/VARY	Caravan at Low Southward Edge
21/02183/FUL	1-2 South Road

8.1d) 23/02636/FUL 2 storey rear extension with alterations to access and parking to the front of 3 Normandy Terrace – NCC had **REFUSED** this application and notification has been received to inform LPC that this is now going to appeal.

8.2 **Moor Management Committee – Cllr Potts informed the meeting that:**

- i. The pond issue has now been sorted and is filling appropriately.
- ii. The meeting with agents from Defra had taken place and the area had been digitally mapped during the visit. However, increased documentation is required by Defra re Risk Management Plans, Register of Livestock and Register of chemicals and equipment used – it was agreed that George Dodds be asked to assist with the documentation whilst he is drawing up the Heath and Scrub Management Plans.
- iii. A revised plan of area NZ1593 4522 has been received showing a slight decrease but this is for land held by Smallburn Farms not our parcel of the Moor.
- iv. The Clerk was asked to issue the residents of Moor Edge a letter about the skip and spoil being on Moor land.

8.3 **The Old Church Wood – verbal update by Cllr Alcock**

- i. The volunteer working party met on site on 4<sup>th</sup> February.
- ii. Cllr Alcock has arranged a meeting with Mr Fish to sort out the date for the next working group.
- iii. Cllr Boyle has met on site with the representative of the River's Trust and the dam has been removed (as per the request of Mr Hedley) and reinstalled on the other side.
- iv. There is still some work for Mr Paterson to do on the new path once the weather has improved.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Paterson.
- ii. Church View Play Area Refurbishment - the Clerk informed members that the site handover had been originally planned for 15<sup>th</sup> February but due to the bad weather will be postponed to early next week.

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.
- ii. It was agreed that the ditch at the side of the Haining need to be cleared out – the Clerk to contact Mr Chisholm.
- iii. There is a fallen tree to also be removed.
- iv. The Clerk was asked to inform Mr Paterson that there is a damaged tree at Reivers Gate to be removed and replaced.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Community Awards, Church View Play Area and Fix My Street.

8.9 **Donation Requests:** - none received this month. A donation of £50 has been **received** from the Longhorsley Ball Committee and will be used to fund one of the new benches in the play area. A vote of thanks was extended to the Ball Committee.

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

- i. There was a discussion about the purchasing of new tables, which are expensive and would be difficult to store because of the design. Decision made to keep existing tables and store in the same cupboard but not on the trolley.
- ii. There has been some delay in finding a structural engineer to advise on the strength of the roof for solar panels. The chair is now going to take this forward.
- iii. The Chair has contacted Shepherds in Morpeth re quote for a Blue Plug. Will get a Solar light from Amazon.
- iv. A canopy is going to be fitted across all 3 doors at the front of the building.
- v. A date has been arranged for the first meeting of the Longhorsley Gathering, 27 Feb at 7pm in the Village Hall.
- vi. Social Activities reported, Wine Tasting on 17 Feb, 23 March Easter Family Quiz, 18 May Ceilidh, Music Night 7 Sept, Table Top/Car Boot Sale 12 October, Wreath Making 7 Dec. Coffee Morning in memory of Kate Foreman 24 Feb.
- vii. The Occupational License for the Playgroup/Explorers has been checked by solicitors and signed by both parties. CAN has been informed. Ms Leighton will now be invited back onto the committee as a Trustee/ health and safety rep.
- viii. The Post Office hire agreement has also been completed and monthly payments agreed.
- ix. The Treasurer reported the village hall balance £20,113, having recently paid the TV License and boiler service. The insurance cost is expected to increase, the Treasurer to ask Allied to do a free valuation. There was some discussion about possibility of putting some money into a savings account to earn more interest for when needed for work on the village hall.
- x. Training was taking place CAN for anyone able to attend.
- xi. Advice regarding Hallmark being sought, to see if this is something that is definitely needed.
- xii. Warm Space continues to be popular and is attracting new residents from the village. Representatives to attend meeting with VCS Liaison Group to share ideas from other Warm Spaces across Northumberland. The Chair to contact CAN regarding the Warm Space status now that the issue of the Playgroup/Explorers has been resolved.

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

## **CO9/9 Items Carried Forward**

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

- a) South Road Development – Members noted that the Clerk and Chairman had reviewed recent documents supplied by the developer's insurance company.

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

9.3 **Village Green** – The Clerk and Chairman will arrange a meeting once the registers have been updated at NCC for the recent disposals.

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

#### **CO9/10 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.

10.2 **Community Awards 2024** – Members approved the process as presented by the Clerk. The awards will be publicised in the March edition of the Tree and on our website. The closing date for nominations being 31<sup>st</sup> March and will be considered at the April meeting of Council with the award being presented at the Annual Parish Assembly in May.

10.3 **Additional Defibrillators in the Village** – Members considered the installation of additional machines in various locations – agreed to defer this issue to March Council meeting allowing members time to speak to businesses in the areas proposed.

#### **CO9/11 Other Items for Information –**

11.1 The Clerk informed the meeting that the next Town and Parish Conference with NCC will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March – The Chairman and the Clerk will be in attendance.

11.2 The Clerk has ordered an official portrait of King Charles III, which is provided free of charge to public authorities.

11.3 Cllr Boyle will attend a meeting with officers from NCC and Mr Hedley on 15<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the PROW and the locations for wayfarers markers.

11.4 CCTV – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that he has spoken to Atom Alarms who have said that it would be very difficult to extend the system via a mobile camera. Cllr Boyle to investigate laying a mains feed further up the Haining to site further cameras, plus requesting from NCC permission to install cameras on lamp posts around the village hall.

11.5 NCC is to serve notice on BT regarding the generator cabinet opposite the Village Shop due to the problems of noise and fumes.

#### **CO9/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)**

12.1 The Clerk raised the issue of the King's Garden Party on 21<sup>st</sup> May – members agreed to nominate Cllr Boyle to be put forward.

12.2 The Clerk was asked to investigate the proposal of installing new speed cameras which collect statistics of speeding vehicles following the recent speed survey results.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.