

## Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Present** Cllrs: S Alcock  
K Bell  
N Douglas (Chaiman)  
J Parker  
A Peat (7.20pm onwards)

County Cllr Sanderson (7pm to 7.30pm)

Clerk G Turner

**CO11/1** **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs P Boyle and T Potts.

**CO11/2** **Minutes** of the Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.

**CO11/3** **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda** – None.

**CO11/4** **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council will be 8<sup>th</sup> May (AGM) and 22<sup>nd</sup> May for the Annual Parish Assembly and Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**CO11/5** **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson presented the following updates:

- i. Potholes continue to be a massive problem, not only in Northumberland but throughout the country. The excessive amounts of rain / surface water are hindering repairs and creating new potholes. Additional budgets have been sourced to bolster the LTP budget.
- ii. The Peer Review of NCC has taken place, and recognises the changes in management structure and style over the last 3 years. There are still several small areas to sort out but is proud of the progress made to date.
- iii. Investment in the county is continuing with funding for the Hirst region in Ashington adhering to the Hirst Master Plan for regeneration. Blyth too is receiving funding for investment in the area. The building of a new Superschool in Seaton Valley has begun, with others in Amble and Berwick starting in 2025 and 2026 respectively.
- iv. There is also funding for a new Maltings Theatre in Berwick through the Borderlands Initiative.
- v. The new Northumberland Line will hopefully be beneficial for commuters looking for work in the area.
- vi. There are issues regarding the backlog of grass cutting due to the heavy rainfall.
- vii. Funding has also been given to the local school and church.

- viii. There could be great benefits to the county through the new Combined Authority following the elections in May.

A question was raised about the continuing localised flooding in Whitegates – Cllr Sanderson agreed to chase up the need for NWA to carry out a camera survey of the culvert to locate where any blockages are occurring.

A question was raised as to the deployment of the speed camera van in the Village – a meeting has been arranged with the police to determine the appropriate location to place the van.

Cllr Sanderson left the meeting at this time 7.30 pm

**CO11/6 Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – Members were disappointed to hear that a report has not been received again this month. Cllr Bell reported that Northumbria Connect was citing an issue of poaching in our area.

**CO11/7 Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for March (ii) 2024, totalling £1,417.33.

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

**CO11/8 Routine Items for Review**

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

- 24/00623/TREECA – Trees in a Conservation Area Crowns to be reduced and lower limbs removed at Horsley Tower - Approved.

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

- 24/01080/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 – no objections at this time.
- 24/01046/AGRGDO Notification of prior approval for proposed steel framed agricultural calf building at South Linden Farm – No objections.
- 24/01042/FUL Demolition of wooden conservatory down to dwarf wall and rebuilding of a new conservatory to include glazed roof and rendered columns at West House, West Road – No objections.
- 24/00919/FUL Erection of new agricultural steel framed shed for storage of manure at Paxton Dene Farm – 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

8.2 **Moor Management Committee** – The Clerk informed the meeting that:

- i. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> April on site.
- ii. Members had been issued with the recent report prepared by RPA following their visit in January.
- iii. The draft Wildfire Risk Assessment has been prepared and circulated.
- iv. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation for fencing works to the Moor adjacent to Moor Edge Cottage.
- v. Cllr Bell reported seeing 5 ponies, 5 cattle and 21 sheep.

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

- i. The next meeting of the working party has been arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> April. Maintenance of the beds and area within the Church ruins will be undertaken.
- ii. Northumbria Drainage to be contacted regarding the problem of drainage in the area.
- iii. A question was raised as to the impact the new South Road development could have on the water run-off in the area.
- iv. The road/track access down to the Old Church is very uneven – this should be reported to NCC.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the monthly maintenance report.

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

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- Car Parking on Common – nothing to report at this time.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Annual Assembly, D Day Beacon Event.

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

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Peat presented her written report to the meeting – members received and noted the content. The Clerk was asked to look at the VH documents to ascertain who owns the car park.

8.11 **Climate Change** – it was agreed to remove this item until notification from NCC is received.

**CO11/9 Items Carried Forward**

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

- a) South Road Development – Members noted that work has commenced on the site and the proposed date of the land exchange should take place in May.

**9.2 Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Parker informed the meeting that she has started the review process.

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

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

**CO11/10 Other Agenda Items**

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

**10.2 Community Awards 2024** – Members considered the nominations and looked at the spreadsheet to determine the number of nominations cast. It was agreed that there are 3 joint winners this year and the Clerk will invite the winners to the Annual Assembly.

**10.3 D Day Celebrations** – Members noted that the Beacon Event has been officially registered, with a lighting time of 9.15 on 6<sup>th</sup> June being confirmed.

**10.4 Disability Issues Around the Village** – Members considered an email received from a local resident highlighting several issues encountered by residents using mobility scooters and walking frames:

- The Haining Gate – Members believe that the gate cannot be kept open at all times as this might encourage vehicular access. The Clerk was asked to investigate the installation of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  wooden gate and a  $\frac{1}{4}$  gate for wheelchair/pedestrian access.
- Ramp requested near recycling bins – Members noted that the Village Hall Committee is considering improvements to the fire escape which might solve this issue.
- Additional signage by disabled parking bays – Members believed that the current markings are sufficient to remind people that they are reserved for disabled users.

**CO11/11 Other Items for Information** – The Clerk presented the new official portrait of His Majesty King Charles III, marking the start of the new reign, for use in public buildings. This was provided free by the UK Government. The VH Committee will be asked for its opinion as to where it should be situated in the VH.

**CO11/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)**

- 12.1 Cllr Parker highlighted that some drug paraphernalia had been found adjacent to Archies Pond during the recent litter pick. It was agreed to keep the area under review to ascertain whether of not the items were old or whether new items appear.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.