

## Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Present** Cllrs: K Bell (arrived at 7.10pm)  
N Douglas (Chairman)  
J Parker  
A Peat

Clerk G Turner

No members of the public were present

**CO4/1** **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs S Alcock, P Boyle and T Potts and County Cllr G Sanderson.

**CO4/2** **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and duly signed.

**CO4/3** **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda**  
None tendered.

**CO4/4** **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings will be 9<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**CO4/5** **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance.

**CO4/6** **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – no report received. The Clerk was asked to write to the newly appointed Police Commissioner regarding the general lack of police support over the last few years.

**CO4/7** **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for September 2024, totalling £7,223.89.

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

7.3 **CCTV Upgrade.**

Members noted that Cllr Boyle had met with Atom Alarms and assessed the potential to spread the CCTV coverage up the Haining and Church View play area. They also discussed upgrading the cameras and the recorder box. All of the information was taken away to work on a price. Northumbria Drainage are to provide the duct for the cable to go into the trench which Mr Paterson and Cllr Boyle will undertake.

#### 7.4 **Final Accounts 2023/24**

Members received the External Auditors letter confirming the conclusion of the audit of the 2023/24 Accounts. There were no significant matters arising from the audit to be reported to Council. One minor scope for improvement was to minute the re-appointment of the Internal Auditor annually. The Council was also asked to highlight a statement regarding the incompatibility of two pieces of legislation (Accessibility Regulations and “wet signatures”).

#### **CO4/8 Routine Items for Review**

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

- 24/02545/AGRGDO Notification of Prior Approval for steel frame storage building at Land South West of View Law Farm – Permitted.
- 24/02541/CLASSR Notification under Class R for change of use of an existing barn to a flexible use falling within Class 1 (Hotel) at Hemmel South of Fieldhead – Permitted.

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

- 24/02417/FUL Retrospective application for windows, roof, solar panels, access and parking and gates at Belmont, East Road – no objection (NCC Granted permission 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024). *This item can now be removed from the Agenda.*
- 24/02990/NONMAT Amendment for alterations to the layout, housetypes, parking and visitor parking at Land South East Shoulder of Mutton – no objection.
- 24/02982/VARYCO Removal of condition 4 to allow applicant to work from home and operate accountancy company from studio at Oak Tree House, Drummonds Close – no objection.
- 24/02964/TREECA Trees in Conservation Area Removal of one Cherry Blossom Tree at The Paddock, West Road – no objection.

8.1c) The following applications are to be kept on the Agenda in order to ensure that they are not forgotten:

21/02183/FUL                      1-2 South Road

8.2 **Moor Management Committee –** Members noted the draft Minutes of the site visit held on 7<sup>th</sup> August and the Clerk read out a couple of updates provided by the Committee Chairman following the site visit:

- i. A quote for maintenance works has been received and accepted from Trevow Vegetation Management for £8,784. It had been mentioned that the works be carried out over 2/3 years but due to the current maintenance agreement time restraints it was decided to proceed this financial year.
- ii. The controlled burn of the Heather will be assessed once the Moor maintenance works (as in i. above) have been carried out.
- iii. Mr Paterson has met with Mr Comber to assess the work required to upgrade the surfacing under the gates.

- 8.3 **The Old Church Wood – report by Cllr Alcock**
- i. Members noted that the 2 funding application forms have been submitted to the Wingates Community Fund re: the Wildflower Area and Bulbs for the Old Church. The original meeting of the Wingates Fund has been rescheduled from 5<sup>th</sup> September to 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
  - ii. Cllr Alcock supplied an email with the following updates: Mr Chisholm has continued to maintain the pathways during the summer.
  - iii. A working party has been arranged for Sat/Sun 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> September to tidy-up the Church beds and ensure that the newer trees are continuing to grow.
- 8.4 **Play Areas**
- i. Members received and noted the September report by Mr Paterson.
  - ii. The Clerk has received confirmation from Wicksteed that the hopscotch insert is now a matter of priority for the contractors.
  - iii. Members received and noted the ROSPA Annual Inspection Reports – copies to be sent to Mr Paterson to action any of the remedial works as highlighted.
- 8.5 **Allotments**
- i. The Clerk informed the meeting that allotment number 9 has now been let and all plots are now occupied. Several residents have contacted the Clerk to be added to the waiting list following the recent Tree article.
  - ii. Cllr Peat reported that the shrubbery adjacent to the allotment area is very overgrown and out of control next to the footpath. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson to cut the foliage back.
- 8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**
- i. Car Parking on Common – nothing to report at this time.
  - ii. A resident reported an issue with overgrown trees and shrubs behind 23 Church View. Members looked at the issue and found that the boundary belongs to the neighbours and would be their responsibility.
  - iii. Members considered an email from the adjacent parish re poor sight-lines at West Moor to the A697. Members had difficulty in identifying the area in question and asked the Clerk to find out more information.
  - iv. The path from the Village Hall down to Church View is also overgrown with shrubs overhanging the pathway. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson to cut back the area.
  - v. It was reported that the step next to the grate in the VH car park was creating a problem when dark. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paterson to see if he could use some reflective paint to highlight the step to residents.
  - vi. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC to ask for the gullies to be cleaned out along the West Road and VH Car Park.
  - vii. The Clerk to source a noticeboard to be installed on the site of the Longhorsley Tree.
- 8.7 **Website** – The Clerk to add the legal documents relating to the closure of the 2023/24 Final Accounts.

## 8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Audit and Conclusion of the 2023/24 Final Accounts, to remind residents to maintain private hedges in order to prevent them from blocking pathways, to remind residents not to park-up on grassed areas to prevent them being churned-up during the winter.

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

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – the Clerk informed the meeting that she has not had a response from Karbon Homes regarding the lease. Cllr Peat informed the meeting of the following items discussed at the Village Hall Committee held on 3 September 2024:

- i. **Village Hall Roof** – Solar panels to be put on hold. If it is decided to go ahead a discussion with a Structural Engineer re weight bearing etc. will take place. An estimate for carrying out structural work required to make roof safe will be sought. The Chair will contact CAN for advice regarding financial support that may be available to carry out the work.  
The committee thought this was urgent, and felt a Risk Assessment needed to be done. Warning signs regarding dangerous roof no access are in place but the committee felt larger signs needed to be erected plus possibly anti vandal pain on certain parts of the roof.
- ii. The repairs following the break-in are now almost complete, should be completed in the next few weeks.
- iii. **Social events** - the Music Night had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Upcoming events include; CarBoot/Table Top, Coffee Morning, Wine Tasting and Wreath Making. There will be a Christmas Quiz in the S of M and the Warm Space Coffee Morning on the 25 September will fundraise for MacMillan Cancer Support.
- iv. The ramp for the fire exit, waiting for a quote.
- v. Free On-line governance training to be circulated. All Trustees advised to complete.
- vi. Discussed possible activities that could be provided for young people in the village. Taster sessions may be provided, kickboxing, street dancing suitable for 11-year-olds and upwards.
- vii. Treasurers report – current balance is £17,505. Awaiting possible funds from the Wind farm to pay for replacement defibrillator, and also, money from the insurance claim.
- viii. It was brought to our attention that the Village Shop is directing people to the Village Hall to use the toilet, they are not for the general public it is a safeguarding issue for Longhorsley Explorers. The shop to be informed.

## CO4/9 **Items Carried Forward**

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

- a) South Road Development – members noted that a non-material planning application had been lodged.

- 9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Parker reported that she was making progress on the Plan.
- 9.3 **Village Green** – on-going.
- 9.4 **Welcome Letters** – the Clerk was asked to send a letter to Oak Tree House.

**CO4/10 Other Agenda Items**

- 10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – nothing to report at this time.
- 10.2 **Local Transport Plan** – members asked the Clerk to re-submit those priorities from the 2023/024 submission as they are still relevant.
- 10.3 **VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Members considered the request from Bruno Peak (Pageantmaster) to take part on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 re: Beacons & Lamp Lights of Peace event. Members unanimously agreed.

**CO4/11 Other Items for Information** – Cllr Peat informed the meeting that the Village Fete, in July, had been a huge success and many positive comments had been received. A request was being issued for new volunteers to support next year's event.

**CO4/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)**

- 12.1 Members had received a copy of the latest Tree Survey carried out by Woodsman. The report highlighted that many of the trees along the A697 were suffering from Ash-dieback and urgent works were required to remedy the situation. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for the works and to contact the NCC Tree Officer to inform him of the situation.
- 12.2 An enquiry has been received about the possibility of transferring some land at Old Church Wood to the Church to enable additional graves to be situated on site. The Clerk will look into the situation and will report back to the October meeting of Council.

**CO4/13 Exempt Business – Exclusion of Public and Press**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to resolve that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

- i. Members received an update re: the Clerk Vacancy

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.