

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 10th July, 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: S Alcock
K Bell
P Boyle
N Douglas (Chaiman)
A Peat

Clerk G Turner

No members of the public were present

CO3/1 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs J Parker and T Potts and County Cllr G Sanderson.

CO3/2 **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th June, 2024 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and duly signed.

CO3/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda**
None tendered.

CO3/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings will be 11th September and 9th October 2024.

CO3/5 **County Matters** – County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance but provided the following updates:

- i. An agreement is now in place for the deployment of the camera speed van. The legal niceties have to be completed which will take approximately 2 months – this is necessary in order to ensure that all the apparent loopholes can be addressed. Hopefully late summer will see these completed.
- ii. Staff are still working flat out on road repairs – the weather is definitely hindering progress but reports of potholes have dropped by over 50% and some 12,588 defects have been corrected since April.
- iii. Work has started on next years budget. NALC has been asked to arrange a meeting with Town Council representatives and one for Parish Council representatives to discuss the budget plans and to have an input into the process.
- iv. The financial report for 2023/24 has been signed-off showing a small underspend of £350,000 which is welcomed. The biggest cost pressures continue to be in the areas of Adult Care and Children’s services. £2.7m has had to be moved from other budgets to help with the increasing numbers of Special Educational Needs children and Cared For children. This is a cost pressure that all councils are working on – for example the weekly cost of a specialist home is at least £6k per week per child and some are out of the

County, which is not what is wanted. NCC are working on an Invest to Save scheme which will involve a large amount of money to build or buy specialist accommodation for the County.

- v. The Clerk informed the meeting that as she had not had any feedback on the progress of the plans being drawn up for the improvement of the Old Church junction, she had escalated this issue up to Cllr Sanderson and he is currently trying assist us with this issue.

CO3/6 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – no report received. The Clerk was asked to find out why no reports had been received for the past 2 months when we know that there had been incidents in the Village i.e. the break in at the Village Hall.

CO3/7 **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for July 2024, totalling £3,445.88.

7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of June, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 30th June, 2024.

7.3 **CCTV Upgrade.**

Cllr Boyle had met with Atom Alarms to discuss CCTV provision in the Village. A proposal of upgrading the current 4 camera/channel system to 8 channels with higher definition, together with an improved hard drive was discussed. Members were minded in principle to upgrade the system and asked Cllr Boyle to seek firm costs and specifications and bring back to September council.

CO3/8 **Routine Items for Review**

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

- 24/01360/FUL Conversion and Alterations to Existing Conservatory to form Sunroom at 28 Church View, Badgers Ford – Permitted.
- 24/01164/LBC Listed Building consent re partial demolition of the existing conservatory at Linden Hall – Permitted.

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

**Members agreed that Cllr Douglas submit comments supporting the report received re the retrospective planning application from the owner.*

8.2 **Moor Management Committee** – Members noted the draft Minutes of the site visit held on 19th June and the Clerk read out a report prepared by the Committee Chairman following the site visit.

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

- i. Cllr Alcock met with Kevin at Northumbria drainage on 16th June to discuss various issues:
 - Trees are causing the drainage issues, particularly the ones next to the driveway.
 - Remedial works can be undertaken to improve the drainage on the walkway that runs adjacent to the A697.
 - Likely to have significant drainage issues with the trees near the main driveway, especially if we want to create a meadow. So, it is important that we undertake tree management to mitigate some of the effect.
 - Agreed: Some of the older trees need to be thinned out (adjacent to the path next to the 697).
 - Agreed: Removal of 2 trees next to seat (next to pond) as they are right on top of the main drain.
 - Agreed: Remedial works to the pond to rectify the drainage issues - outfall in wrong place & level out the 2 areas in the pond to become one. Arrange a further meeting with Tim Fish, Pete Kerr & Kevin from Northumbria drainage to agree scope of work, so quote can be sought.
- ii. The Clerk was asked to contact J Foggon to ask him to carry out some tree maintenance works.
- iii. Pathway around the perimeter - Contact Staughan's to obtain a quote for this work.
- iv. Funding for the wild flower areas and for bulbs inside of the Church – applications to be sent to Wingates Community Fund.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. No report this month as Mr Paterson has been on holiday.
- ii. The Clerk chased-up the hopscotch and balance beam with Wicksteed. The balance beam has since been replaced and the hopscotch-infill, will be carried out over the summer.

8.5 **Allotments**

- i. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted the tenant of allotment number 9 with the notice to quit requirement and had received confirmation from the tenant. She then offered the allotment tenancy to the next person on the waiting list, who unfortunately, due to work commitments, cannot now commit to the tenancy. As there are no other people on the list the vacancy will be advertised.
- ii. Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the summerhouse for the community area has been installed and well received. Members thanked him for all of his hard work in bringing this project to fruition. Cllr Boyle requested permission to purchase some folding chairs and other equipment for the site. The Clerk informed the meeting that the total project was underspent and she was asked to contact CAN to ask if the equipment could be added to the claim for the project. If not, members agreed to fund this equipment.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- Car Parking on Common – nothing to report at this time. Cllr Peat informed the meeting that parking had been requested for the Village Fete (Saturday 13th July).
- Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the container has been moved back into the correct position.
- The Clerk was asked to purchase some No-Fly Tipping signs and CCTV in operation signs.

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

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the upgrade to the CCTV system, allotment community area (thanking Windfarm) and repairs to the balance beam.

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

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Peat informed members that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 30th July 2024. Members asked that the Clerk contact NCC Estates to start the review of the lease of the VH land to determine who owns the land etc.

CO3/9 **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 had prepared an email stating that she was making progress on the Plan and should be in a position to report back after the summer.

9.3 **Village Green** – the Clerk has received notification from NCC that the official register has now been updated for the East Road and South Road deregistration.

9.4 **Welcome Letters** – the Clerk confirmed that letters had been issued to 2 properties in Reivers Gate and 1 at Whitegates.

CO3/10 **Other Agenda Items**

10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – covered above at 8.6.

10.2 **Notice of Polling Districts and Polling Places Review** – members received and noted the documents and agreed that no response was necessary.

10.3 Members noted and received the email from a local resident reporting several maintenance issues:

- Overgrown trees from the Common (Smallburn Road and Lonnen) – this work is scheduled to be carried out after the nesting season has ended in September.

- Trees and grass at the entrance to the graveyard – Town and Country Tree Surgeons have been asked to review the survey of trees in that area.
- Rubbish dumped in Haining ditch – the Clerk to ask Mr Paterson to remove and CCTV signs to be erected in the area as well as No Fly Tipping signage.

CO3/11 Other Items for Information – no issues raised.

CO3/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)

- 12.1 The trees and hedges opposite the speed camera, from the bus stop heading North up to Dawn Cottage need trimming.
- 12.2 The Clerk was asked to send T&CTS a copy of the last tree survey which is to be reviewed.
- 12.3 The Clerk was asked to contact Northumbria Fencing re the Haining Gate replacement.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.