

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 11th December, 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
Clerk Designate S Doyle

3 members of the public were in attendance – Mr and Mrs Etchells (7.35 to 8.05 pm) and Mr T Fish (7.45 to 8.05 pm)

CO7/1 **Apologies for Absence** – County Cllr Sanderson and K Woods.

CO7/2 **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November, 2024 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and duly signed.

Matters Arising:

- i. Re: 8.6 (i) Cllr Boyle will arrange a meeting with the Football Club to review the Partnership Agreement in the New Year.
- ii. Re: 8.6 (ii) NCC has responded to say that the request for speed restriction signs at Church View/Whitegates will be added to the public requests for the following years Local Transport Plan.
- iii. Re 8.6 (ix) Mr Percy has agreed to be the representative to be in charge of the flag flying on the Village Green.
- iv. Re: 12.4 Cllr Boyle confirmed that the litter bin on the West Road has been removed.

CO7/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda**

None tendered.

CO7/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings will be 8th January and 12th February 2025.

CO7/5 **County Matters** – County Cllr Sanderson was not in attendance but supplied an email covering the following:

- i. Preparations for the police speed camera van to visit the Village have been completed.
- ii. NCC is awaiting the Governments settlement for the financial year 2025/26 – due to the increasing demands for adult and children’s social care the budget preparation is proving to be very difficult.

CO7/6 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – Members received and noted the Police Report dated 1st December.

The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk has sent a letter to the Chief Constable regarding our disappointment of the police not attending parish meetings.

CO7/7 **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for December 2024, totalling £2,453.60.

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

7.3 **CCTV Upgrade.**

Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that the work will take place in the New Year.

7.4 **Budget 2025/26**

Members received version 3 of the Budget. The Clerk informed the meeting that the budget had been adjusted for the revised printing and advertising for the Tree newsletter. She didn't envisage any further changes and members were minded to propose the precept of £30,460 to the January meeting of Council.

7.5 **Quotations for Tree Works along the A697** – Members considered the three quotations for the works and unanimously agreed to accept Company C £10,780 (TC Tree Services).

CO7/8 **Routine Items for Review**

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

- 24/03557/DISCON Discharge of conditions 5 (Foul and Surface Water), 8 (Tree Protection) and 10 (Contamination) re Land East of Normandy Terrace – **PERMITTED**
- 24/03617/DISCON Discharge of condition 9 (Biodiversity Landscaping Plan) and condition 19 (Construction Management Plan) at Land East of Normandy Terrace – **PERMITTED.**

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

8.1c) The following applications are to be kept on the Agenda in order to ensure that they are not forgotten - **None at this time.**

8.2

Moor Management Committee – Cllr Pott’s gave the following update:

- i. Members were saddened to learn of the death of Tom Voyce, the Moor Contractor, who sadly was reported missing following the storms at the weekend. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.
- ii. Natural England and members of the Committee attended a site meeting on the Moor on 4th December, following a complaint raised about the works recently carried out. It was agreed that 3 test areas be established to gauge the future work required – No management at all, Tree clearance by hand and Tree clearance and heather seeding.
- iii. It was also agreed that an officer from Natural England will attend future Committee meetings.
- iv. It was agreed to consider the setting up of a “Friends of the Moor” group of volunteers.
- v. Natural England reiterated the need for consent for any works to be carried out on the SSSI area,
- vi. The Clerk will try to arrange a meeting of the Committee, Natural England and George Dodds as he cannot attend those dates proposed by NE.

8.3

The Old Church Wood – report by Cllr Alcock

- i. The estimates for the installation of footpaths are in the region of £30k. It was agreed to defer the project until funding is available.
- ii. The proposal to form a “Friends” group is being looked into to focus people’s attention in a more formal manner and this may open up opportunities to seek funding which parish councils cannot tap into.
- iii. P Ford / T Fish are assisting with the removal/recycling of old tree guards through Northumberland Wildlife Trust.
- iv. The Clerk was asked to source signage to be placed on the gate notifying drivers that they can only access the cemetery.
- v. The Committee were reminded that the preferred contractor for the Wildflower Meadow was Tom Voyce.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.00 pm to allow parishioners to speak

1. Mr and Mrs Etchells thanked the Clerk for all of the work she has undertaken during the last 9 years and wished her good luck for her retirement. The Clerk thanked both for their kind words which were much appreciated.

No other issues were raised and the meeting recommenced at 8.05 pm

8.4

Play Areas

- i. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the contractor to chase-up the hopscotch motif for Church View.

8.5

Allotments

- i. Nothing to report at this time.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- i. Members considered the various quotations for matting to be placed on the Common entrance. Members agreed that the best option was for 15mtr at a cost of £4,056. The Clerk was asked to submit an application to the Windfarm to ask for funding – if not then this project will be deferred until funding is available.
- ii. Update from NCC re resident's email requesting speeding restrictions at Church View/Whitegates estates. NCC will add this request to 2026 Local Transport Plan items.
- iii. Members considered residents concerns regarding the Ash Tree at Church View/Whitegates. As this is on NCC land members requested that the resident reports the issue through Fix-My-Street,
- iv. Mr Woods was not in attendance to talk about taking over duties re grounds maintenance but will come to the January meeting of Council.
- v. Storm damage to a large tree at Archies Pond was reported. The Chair and Vice-Chair had inspected the tree and determined that it requires heavy duty machinery to right it. The Clerk was asked to contact Town & Country Tree Surgeons.

8.7 **Website** – The new Clerk's details have been added.

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree** – There is no edition of the Tree in January.

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

8.10 **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Peat gave the following update from the last Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2024:

- Feedback on social events was given including the Coffee Morning (£544), the Wine Tasting event (£466), the Pub Quiz (£685), the Wreath Making event (£550). The Coco Club is becoming very popular twice as many attended the second week. The Flower Club and Bowles Club combined to host a fundraising event to raise funds for the boiler.
- The ownership of the Village Hall was discussed, this is becoming an urgent issue especially because of the work that needs to be done to the roof. A Peat reported that the Clerk, was going to write to the CEO of Karbon Homes. The Committee asked if the Parish Council would raise it with Glen Sanderson at the next Parish Council meeting.
- It was agreed to employ a local cleaner once a month, the first Saturday morning starting on the 4 January. The money from the Warm Space will pay for it.
- A lot of discussion about repairs to the Village Hall roof. The structural survey has been completed by Simon Brent from Jasper Kerr. and it had been paid for. Fiona Knox from NCEL is drafting a letter to go to prospective contractors. NCEL would want the VH Committee to pay and they would reimburse, the VH would not be able to do this as there are not sufficient funds. A question was raised as to if it was worth the investment, what the life span of the Village Hall was. The chair to ask Jasper Kerr to do a whole hall survey. Funding for the work needed to be secured before any work could take place.

- The Treasurer reported that we had just over £20k in the bank. The Windfarm had paid £1,200 towards the new defibrillator. Reported that the Post Office use the Hall 2 mornings a week, is not financially viable and may have to close. It was suggested the rent could be reduced to try to keep the service.
- The date for next year's Village Fete was confirmed, 5 July 2025.
- Future meetings of the Village Hall Committee would take place the first Wednesday every other month, starting 5 February 2025.

CO7/9 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** – nothing to report at this time.
- 9.3 **Village Green** – on-going.
- 9.4 **Welcome Letters** - the Clerk issued a letter Akenside Cottage on the West Road and was asked to send a letter to 44 Church View.

CO7/10 Other Agenda Items

- 10.1 **The Common – Longhorsley Football Club** – nothing to report at this time.
- 10.2 A traffic survey strip has been placed on the A697, by the bridge, outside of the Village – no communication has been received as to why and by whom.
- 10.3 Fieldhead Speed Limits and Gate Entrances – residents concerns have been forwarded to NCC for action. Members agreed to raise this issue with Cllr Sanderson.
- 10.4 Several Estate Agents sign posts have been placed on Village Green land at the entrance to Church View. The Clerk to write to the Agents to ask for them to be removed.

CO7/11 Other Items for Information – nothing to report at this time.

CO7/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda) –

- 12.1 An email had been received from a local resident regarding cars being parked in front of her property. The Chairman had responded informing her to contact NCC.
- 12.2 The Clerk was asked to investigate if there had been a change of use granted for Lyndhurst which is now being advertised as an air b and b.
- 12.3 Cllr Bell gave feedback from the latest meeting of the Windfarm:

- Blyth Valley Scouts - Spylaw Cottage upgrade - A grant of £3000 was awarded.
- Alnwick Dolphins – Equipment - A grant of £2,000 was awarded.
- Scots Gap Methodist Church - Kitchen refurbishment – A grant of £2,000 was awarded.
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust Coquetdale Group - Sand Martin Wall - A grant of £4416 was awarded.
- Longhorsley Village Hall - Warm Space Coffee Morning - A grant for £500 was awarded.
- Wingate Village Institute - PA System - A grant for £2765 was approved

12.4 A report of fly-tipping on the East Road has been received – this should be reported to NCC through Fix-My-Street.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm