

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 14th January, 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: N Douglas (Chairman)
K Bell
P Boyle
T Potts
J Parker
L McMillan

Clerk S Doyle

CO8/1 **Apologies for Absence.**
S Alcock

CO8/2 **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th December, 2025 (which had been previously circulated) were approved for content with an amendment to numbers noted in "Members of the public in attendance" and duly signed.

CO8/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda**
None tendered.

CO8/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings will be 11th February 2026 and 11th March 2026.

CO8/5 **County Matters** – County Cllr Sanderson was not present at the meeting but sent the following report:

- Praise goes to the staff and contractors who worked very long hours to keep the roads gritted and open during the recent bad weather.
- Budget still remains an issue but our key aim is to protect our frontline services across the board and to continue to invest in schools and leisure.
- The Mayor has begun discussions around a franchised bus service for the Combined Authority as she has the power to do this. I have cautiously agreed to look further at this but only if we in Northumberland get our fair share of the 0£8million a year it will cost to increase services and that rural bus services will be creative and more targeted in the County.
- She has also raised the idea of a tourist tax of around £2/night and I have argued against this given we want to encourage more tourist stays and not make them more expensive. However if this does meet approval from the other LA7 Councils then I have also said we must see any money raised in the County staying in the County.

CO8/6 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – Members received and noted the Police Report dated 2nd January 2026.

Police are looking for volunteers for the join the Community Speed Watch voluntary scheme, this is for individuals sign up to help tackle speeding issues within their community.

CO8/7 Finance

- 7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for January 2026, totalling £840.42
- 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 31st December 2025.
- 7.3 **Budget 26/27**
Members considered the 2026/27 budget papers. It was unanimously agreed to set an expenditure budget of £54,215 and a precept of £32,383. This represents a 4.75% increase in precept over the previous year or £3.78 per annum per Band D property.

CO8/8 Routine Items for Review

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

None at the time of the meeting

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

Demolition of existing single storey rear addition and construction of new single storey rear addition.

The Retreat East Road Longhorsley Northumberland NE65 8SY
Ref. No: 25/04367/FUL | Received: Wed 03 Dec 2025 | Validated: Mon 08 Dec 2025 |
Status: Registered

Extension, alteration and subdivision of 2no. existing residential properties (house and attached bungalow/cottage) to create 3no. dwellings with associated parking/garaging facilities and external amenity areas

Low Hedley Wood Longhorsley Morpeth Northumberland NE65 8RE
Ref. No: 25/04217/FUL | Received: Mon 24 Nov 2025 | Validated: Tue 09 Dec 2025 |
Status: Registered

- 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**

- i. Dates for Moor meetings are to be confirmed at the February meeting

8.3 **The Old Church Wood – Cllr Alcock was not in attendance but sent the following report**

- i. A Working Party will be held very shortly, date TBC. The Party will undertake pruning and weeding of the new hedge around the boundary.
- ii. The application to the Windfarm will be heard at the March meeting.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. Members considered and noted the report supplied by Mr Wood
- ii. Prices to be sought from local merchants for Bark Chippings.

8.5 **Allotments**

- i. The revised draft tenancy agreement is on hold for the short term
- ii. The Clerk has written to the first person on the waiting list to offer allotment number 3.
- iii. All correspondence between the Longhorsley Explorers and the Parish Council is continuing through Legal representatives.

8.6 **Village Maintenance Issues**

- i. Cllr Boyle is obtaining 3 quotes from external contractors for the trenchwork to allow cables to be laid for the CCTV extension.

8.7 **Website**

- i. Work to progress on the build of the new website. Cllrs Alcock and Parker along with the clerk will build the new website.

8.8 **Longhorsley Tree**

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the Cemetery widening work, the estimated length of time for the Ascent roadworks and the Community Speed Watch voluntary scheme.

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

8.10 **Village Hall Committee**

There has not been a committee meeting held since the last one that was reported on.

CO8/9 Items Carried Forward

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

9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr. Parker is making good progress with work on-going and will share work to date with the Council at the next meeting.

9.3 **Village Green**

a) **NCC Scheme & Management**

- i. On-Going

b) Common Land

- i. No meeting has been arranged yet with the Solicitor, they are completing the onboarding process for new clients and will be in touch with us very soon.
- ii. The draft MOU for the Fete Committee is to be considered after some small changes have been made.

9.4 **Welcome Letters** – none issued.

CO8/10 Other Agenda Items

10.1 **Parishioner Emails**

- a. The Clerk to write to St Helens and St Thomas with regards to the congregation being mindful of parking on the West Road due to multiple near misses because of parked cars and blocked vision.
- b. The Sycamore Trees on Drummonds close on both sides appear to be on Karbon Homes land. The Clerk to write to the resident to inform of this.

10.2 **Councillor vacancy**

Following the earlier meeting with those candidates applying for the vacancy, members endorsed the co-option onto Council of Lucy McMillan. Cllr McMillan duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form in front of the Clerk.

10.3 **PO Box address**

Further details to be sought before any decisions made on this.

10.4 **Expansion of the Cemetery entrance off the A697**

Work is expected to commence March 26.

10.5 **Flooding at Whitegates**

NCC are dealing with this and updates are awaited from them.

10.6 **Watercourse Maintenance**

Clerk to seek clarification on the area of the watercourse the email refers too.

10.7 **Lamp Light of Peace 2026**

The Parish Council will be flying the usual flag on November 11th so will not be flying a Lamp Light of Peace flag.

10.8 **Town & Parish conference 5th March 2026**

The Clerk and Cllr Boyle will attend the conference.

CO8/11 Other Items for Information –
11.1

CO8/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda) –
12.1 The Speed sign at the North End of the village is not working.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm