



The Monthly Parish Council Meeting of Longhoughton Parish Council was held this evening at Howick Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair), Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Ellis (BE), Green (CG), Horsley (HH) and McEwen (PM).

In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) and 1 member of the public.

Abbreviations Used in Minutes:

PC – Parish Council; NP - Neighbourhood Plan; NCC – N’land County Council; LCVL – Longhoughton Community Ventures Ltd; LTP – Local Transport Plan; NE – N’land Estates LC&SCT – Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre; LAA – Longhoughton Allotment Association; NALC – N’land Association of Local Councils; CAN – Community Action N’land; AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; TTRO - Temporary Traffic Regulation Order ; UCR Unclassified Road.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting		
Minutes		Action
Members of the Public - Questions: Debbie Burton advised the PC she had raised concern with NCC about the state of the road in Bowmere and had also complained direct to NCC about the poor standard of grass cutting, which had prompted a successful return visit by NCC and a much better job.		
1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Barras (JB) and Thomas (CT)	
2.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15 May 2023. It was noted that Joan Ford had requested the following corrections to the minutes: 1)The minutes state that Cheryl and I 'both' claimed that the blast on 20/3/23 had caused cracks and windows to rattle on our property. I did not claim this, I said our whole house had vibrated with the shock from the blast and we had not had anything like this in the 20 plus years we had been living here. 2) It was I that said my husband Ed Ford was in discussions with Alec Guy at the planning dept. regarding the level of blasting. The requested corrections were agreed and otherwise, the minutes were approved as a correct record.	
3.	Actions from Last Minutes (unless an agenda item) Public RoW Stanford Burn: Still no response from Philip Bradley, NCC Footpath Officer re poor state of repair of bridge on Public RoW over Stamford Burn at Littlemill. Litterpicks: HH/JB/AH to review of the need for a litterpick in Longhoughton/Boulmer. Doorstep Glass Collection: WP advised NCC’s glass trial has been very successful, providing NCC with lots of useful data and being very well received by residents who are participating. The trial has been extended to March 2024. NCC are waiting for government to finalise their plans and announce the funding arrangements for a range of new recycling services, subject to that guidance being released, NCC are planning to introduce kerbside glass collections across the County in 2024/25. Longhoughton Playing Field: HH also flagged the grass is often long. To be monitored with a view to a quote being obtained to have it cut more often, should funding/use require. Quiet Lane: AH confirmed the definition had been sent to Ann & Ted Brixey. Burnside Entrance: AH to review the late notice/poor visibility of the one-way system signage as flagged at the last meeting. VARYCO Planning Training: ET to contact Rob Murfin, Head of Planning, NCC arrange a date for planning training dealing with VARYCO planning applications.	HH/JB/AH AH ET

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



	<p>Recognition of Volunteers: 7 individuals and 6 teams have been nominated under the Recognition of Volunteers scheme and were included in the June Newsletter. No feedback had yet been received. The PC will have to decide how often it runs this scheme. Annually may be too frequent.</p> <p>Boulmer Road: NCC will progress works to make the 5 trees in that location safe. Works will involve a road closure notice which will take 12 weeks to process so timescales are approx. August.</p> <p>Boulmer Ward Parish Council Vacancy: NCC has confirmed the PC can co-opt but no applications/expressions of interest have been received yet.</p> <p>Bank Account Signatory: AH to contact Barclays to progress making HH a 4th signatory on the PC bank account.</p> <p>External Audit: ET confirmed the external audit was submitted.</p>	AH
4.	<p>Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT.</p>	
5.	<p>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had circulated a report prior to the meeting.</p> <p>FixMyStreet: a new online service for residents to report problems to NCC. Residents can now photograph, locate and highlight an issue using their mobile phone. Issues can be reported simply by going to https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/ on a mobile phone, computer, tablet or the council’s website. All reports go straight into the council’s digital systems where they can be assessed, allocated for any necessary actions and if the user sets up an account they can be informed of progress and completion. FixMyStreet Pro can be used to report a range of issues from potholes and faulty street lights to abandoned vehicles and incidents of flytipping.</p> <p>Northumberland Holiday Provision: School holidays can be tough, long, and expensive for many families. NCC have a fantastic free programme of activities being delivered right across the County for families and young people in Northumberland. The holiday provision takes place during Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays for children aged between 5 and 18. To find out more and to book activities or take part in the holiday programme or for further information please email, admin@leadinglink.co.uk Leading Link are managing the Holiday Activity Provision on behalf of NCC.</p> <p>Howick: WP advised a request had been made to resurface the road through Howick.</p>	
6.	<p>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: CG confirmed all ok.</p>	CG
7.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a) Chair’s Matters Arising Paper (a report had been previously circulated by AH)</p> <p>Longhoughton Parish Quarries Liaison Group: The first meeting took 16/6/23. AH is Chair and Robert Nicholson (a resident with experience of managing a quarry) is Vice-Chair. David Love, Planning Officer, NCC reviewed the reports on quarry blasting from the last 2 years and also all complaints raised by residents. It was noted the blast on 27/3/23 was particularly bad, but still within blasting range allowable. The quarry have confirmed this blast was a one-off and won’t be repeated. David Love confirmed central government set the range allowable in the national planning guidelines, not NCC. MGL are operating within these guidelines. Currently, the restoration of the West Quarry remains the one item out with compliance with the regulations – N’land Estates are working to remedy this but have issues to resolve with water pumping and the depth of quarrying undertaken. One possible way forward to resolving residents’ complaints about the impact on their properties is for NCC to use the Environment Protection Act where possible damage to property is seen as a “nuisance” under the act. David Love to look into this. The PC may be required to help identify on a map those properties in the worst and least impacted areas. BE enquired about the definition of nuisance – this is for NCC to determine. The meeting recognised that whilst operating within the</p>	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



national guidelines, some households were experiencing vibrations. Network Rail are aware of the quarry blasting operating near the East Coast Mainline and carry out their own independent investigations/reports at the quarry. Regarding mud on the road, the quarry pay NCC to sweep the road 4 x per week but new equipment has also been purchased to help resolve this problem. The next meeting is scheduled for 22/9/23 but it was recognised an interim meeting may be required if NCC Environmental Services get involved and progress investigations into the residents' complaints about damage to their property under the Environment Protection Act.

Lacey Street: AH wrote to Robin McCartney, NCC on 1/6/23 asking for an update on the Lacey Street situation. No response has been received. AH flagged that the Coronation weekend, when the CCTV equipment was in use, was not representative of a typical Bank Holiday weekend due to the Coronation and poor weather compared to the Spring Bank Holiday weekend for which CG has photos of the parking congestion and parking right up to the B1339. Robin McCartney was going to report back on the wording of the 'advisory signs' for Craster to see if he could come up with some words that are acceptable for Lacey Street and advise on the use of contractors to tarmac over the grass and lower the kerb. It was noted there have since been noise complaints and also a vehicle collision due to a failed handbrake. AH to pursue.

AH

Liaison with RAF: Sgt Laura Rowberry to be the new RAF representative for the PC. In addition, AH/PB attended a meeting with the Station Commander with a view to working closely with the RAF and the RAF having a representative on the Quarry Liaison Group, Greenways Group and Police Liaison Group. The PC/LCSCT and RAF to also consider co-running a 2024 Summer Event such as a fete.

Liaison with N'bria Police: AH/PB and Councillor Pattison attended a meeting with N'bria Police on 15/6/23. The lack of progress with Speedwatch was flagged.

Boulmer Beach Car Park Lease: At the meeting with NCC on 17/4/23 NCC offered to take over the existing Boulmer Beach Car Park. NCC would have to approach/liase with N'land Estates to negotiate a lease, which would take around 1 year for all the preliminaries to be completed for them to take over. This means that the lease the PC holds for the whole of the Boulmer sea-front will need to be split up and re-negotiated. It was agreed AH to put together a map of the remaining area with a view that the PC consider continuing to hold the lease for the whole area apart from the car park. This would include the areas that the fishermen continue to occupy, the village green area, the meadow area and the dunes area to the south.

Low Steads Parking Proposals: It was noted that David Baring has made the decision as Landowner to go ahead, despite the PC's advice, to install in September/October an ANPR system which will monitor arrivals/departures and require payment for parking. There will be a sufficient grace period for anyone to be dropped off. Payment will be via APP/telephone up to midnight on the same day. Charges will be for a day ticket and there will be the option to buy a season ticket. Howick Trustees to take on the management role in its entirety and invite a PC representative and Lowsteads Farm representative to an end-of-year meeting to discuss the allocation of any surplus funds generated by the car park. The rationale behind this decision is to protect the environment at the beach and links and make it sustainable for the future. The PC discussed the need for consultation before the project is progressed. BE flagged potential problems with parking on the lane, when NCC have advised no double yellow lines will be installed. HH flagged it will exacerbate parking problems on Lacey Street. PB advised it will have implications for the rest of the village and parish. PM flagged the counter and space availability signage should be at the very top of the road and a turning area made available. It was agreed the PC would reserve its position on the scheme until the detail is available. David Baring had offered a meeting to discuss the PC's concerns but Councillors thought there was insufficient time if the scheme is to go

AH

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	<p>ahead in September/October. The PC agreed to offer David Baring one full page of the August Community Newsletter to put the case for the Parking Scheme and to invite comments and questions direct to the Estate.</p> <p>b) Boulmer - Proposed Car Park (next to the Memorial Hall) – Response to NCC (a report had been previously circulated by AH)</p> <p>At a meeting between the PC and NCC on 24/4/23, NCC informed the PC that due to the guidance given in a Pre-Planning Application, the proposed new car park at Boulmer would not go ahead. This decision following 5 years of discussion and promises that a small car park would be built in Boulmer next to the Boulmer Memorial Hall. A copy of the Pre-Planning Application had been supplied by NCC and stated that the principle of development would not be acceptable for the following reasons: the impact on the ecology of the area which is highly protected; the impact on the setting of the historic village of Boulmer; disturbance to the rare birds that feed on the pasture next door; the impact on the AONB. The PC considered this appraisal does not take into account the needs of the community because: there was no input from the PC or the Boulmer community or WP; no consideration is given to the social/economic needs of the Boulmer community; no consideration is given to the needs of the Boulmer Memorial Hall and its viability; no consideration is given to the policies that are contained in the emerging Longhoughton, Boulmer and Howick Neighbourhood Plan; no consideration is given to the need to better manage vehicle parking in Boulmer and not to encourage more visitors; a proposal to develop the existing Beach car park as an alternative to the proposal was made without any consideration of the implications, planning issues and local knowledge (extending the existing car park had previously been rejected by the Boulmer community); the conclusions are reached without a wider understanding of vehicle parking issues in Boulmer, Longhoughton and other local places on the coast. AH suggested that a full planning application should still have been progressed to enable stakeholders to formally and openly have their say and allow public opinion to be heard and to consider the balance of environmental and community needs. PB questioned whether the environmental stakeholders had advised “no” in the Pre-Planning Application would they respond differently to a full Planning Application which would contain more evidence. The PC is still left with the need to resolve the problem of parking in Boulmer and the lack of parking for Boulmer Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall Trustees had sent a letter of support which commented on the need for the car park to support the viability of the Hall. BE commented the management of tourism and management of tourists’ cars is a real problem for Northumberland and NCC should be looking a park n ride options to the coastline. This is not just a problem for Boulmer but for the whole AONB. WP flagged the draft letter NCC sent to the PC on 5/6/23 that NCC wanted to send out to residents to notify them of the decision and it was noted that this letter only refers to the environmental reasons and does not mention the needs of the community. It was agreed AH to first speak with Paul Jones and Councillor John Riddle at NCC to see if there was any room for manoeuvre on NCC’s decision.</p>	<p>AH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion A report had been previously circulated by AH.</p> <p>a) NP Update: AH advised AECOM have completed the first draft of the Strategic Environment Assessment which is an independent assessment of the Draft Submission Plan. They have developed a scenario for the building of 97 houses in excess of the target of 88 houses (set by NCC) and this is for a comparison to the 27 houses in excess of the target which the Submission Plan puts forward. This had been considered by the Chair and Vice Chair and they had suggested that a further scenario be included which would be achieving the target of 88. This would show the Submission Plan to be quite a reasonable proposition. This was agreed.</p>	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



	<p>This work highlighted a weakness in the Submission Plan in that it may only satisfy a proportion of the affordable homes that could be needed. Jo-Anne Garrick's suggestion is therefore to also include a policy in the Submission Plan that provides for "small scale rural exception sites" exclusively for affordable housing. These sites would be outside the Longhoughton and Boulmer boundaries and would be for up to 10 houses which must be for local need. After discussion/debate took into account a possible population fall by 2040, nevertheless this proposal was agreed.</p> <p>b) Longhoughton Update: No time for any updates.</p> <p>c) Boulmer Update: No time for any updates.</p> <p>d) Howick Update: No time for any updates</p> <p>e) Greenways: No time for any updates</p> <p>f) Local Transport Plan Programme 2024/25 Consultation: to be rolled forward to July agenda for discussion/agreement</p> <p>g) Community Development Strategy: AH had put together a draft paper for review. AH advised a NHS Committee had met on 13/6/23 and had agreed to formally close the existing medical facility at Longhoughton but that they would work with the community to find and develop alternative facilities. AH/PB/WP have a meeting scheduled for 23/6/23 with the Integrated Care Board (ICB), which funds GP services, with a view to reviewing what the alternative facilities could be. AH wanted to send the ICB a copy of the Community Development Strategy paper for their review, prior to the meeting, which demonstrates a need for medical facility/services in the village, the type/nature of services desired/requested and the availability of LCSCT as a venue for the provision. The paper also covers all the stakeholders involved. BE enquired if the ICB has the resources to fulfil the requests? It was agreed AH to send the paper to ICB and to progress talks with ICB with a view to retaining as many of the desired/requested list of medical facility/services in the village as possible.</p>	<p>AH</p>
<p>9. Correspondence</p>	<p>a) NALC May ENews 2023 - noted</p> <p>b) Kate Appleby – request for additional/larger dog bin for the bottom of Crowlea Road – the existing bin is already a large Topsy 2000 dual purpose litter bin. The situation to be monitored to see if a dog poo bin is also required.</p> <p>c) Iain Fletcher – Boulmer Accessible Toilet – the closure issue had been flagged with NCC who would put up a closure notice and would repair/re-open asap.</p> <p>d) Boulmer Memorial Hall – Letter of Support re Proposed Car Park - noted</p>	
<p>10. Parish Financial Matters:</p>	<p>a) LCSCT (Room Hire - Quarry Liaison Meeting 16/6/23) - £16.00 - agreed</p> <p>b) Howick Village Hall (Annual Insurance) – £753.36 - agreed</p> <p>c) Clerk (June Wage) - £425.26</p> <p>d) HMRC (PAYE) - £97.20</p> <p>e) St John's Ambulance (Kings Coronation) - £190.08 - agreed</p> <p>f) MOD (Allotment Car Park Rent) - £24 – agreed</p> <p>g) Greenfingers (Boulmer Grass Cutting) - £108 – agreed</p> <p>h) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £98.40</p>	
<p>11. Plans: None received</p>		
<p>12. Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transport Plan Programme 2024/25 Consultation 	
<p>13. Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm Monday 17 July – LCSCT Westfield Park.</p>		<p>ALL</p>

9.35pm the meeting ended.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____