



The Monthly Parish Council Meeting of Longhoughton Parish Council was held this evening at LC&SCT Westfield Park at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Barras (JB), Ellis (BE), Green (CG), McEwen (PM) and Thomas (CT).

In attendance: Cllr Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair) (via Zoom), County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) and 3 members 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		Action
Minutes		
Members of the Public - Questions:		
MOD Trees: Jules Tilley was in attendance re the overgrown MOD trees on Eastfield and Eastmoor which haven't been properly maintained for the last 17 years+ and so are overgrown and need attention and a proper maintenance schedule going forwards. PB confirmed Station Commander Charlotte Best had confirmed this issue will be reviewed and addressed and co-ordinated by Laura Rowberry the new RAF Representative. It was noted the PC could only pass info onto the RAF but had no jurisdiction to address or rectify the problem. Jules Tilley agreed to let the PC know if the problem was not addressed in the forthcoming weeks. CT flagged a complaint from Ian Davison about self-seeded trees on Portal Place which need to be dealt with or they will grow and damage the stone wall. These are on MOD land so Laura Rowberry (LR) to be asked to pick up and action. Ann Brixey flagged a problem with overgrown hedges on Bader Crescent. Another action for LR.		LR LR LR
Low Steads Parking Proposals: Ann & Ted Brixey were in attendance for an update. It was noted James & Louise Forsyth/David Baring would attend the meeting to give an update.		
1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllr Horsley (HH) and Laura Rowberry (LR) (RAF Representative)	
2.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19 June 2023. The minutes were approved as a correct record.	
3.	Actions from Last Minutes (unless an agenda item) Public RoW Stanford Burn: Philip Bradley, NCC Footpath Officer has confirmed he will try to resolve the bridge on Public RoW over Stamford Burn at Littlemill. Litterpicks: HH/JB/AH to review of the need for a litterpick in Longhoughton/Boulmer. Burnside Entrance: AH suggested there needs to be a 'No left turn' sign a few metres before the entrance to Burnside. It was agreed to make this request to Highways. VARYCO Planning Training: ET not yet heard from Rob Murfin, Head of Planning, NCC arrange a date for planning training dealing with VARYCO planning applications. WP to make contract to help try to progress. Bank Account Signatory: BE confirmed he now had access to online banking. PB to progress his online access. A mandate form is now with HH to complete.	HH/JB/AH AH WP/ET
4.	Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT.	
5.	County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had circulated a report prior to the meeting.	

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	<p>Boulmer Car Park: WP suggested the PC use a donation box or QR Code to collect donations for the use of Boulmer Car Park for the remaining year under PC responsibility to assist with costs. It was noted this has previously been investigated but dismissed due to the insecurity of a donation box and the need for acceptable arrangements for emptying the box on a daily basis.</p> <p>Environmental Plans: NCC is to place greater emphasis on improving the environment for everyone over the coming years. From dealing with littering to creating more green spaces and woodlands, the council will be working hard to ensure the county's stunning natural resources are protected and enhanced, now and in the future.</p> <p>Childcare Support: For info about different types of childcare support available, contact Northumberland Communities Together on 01670 620015 - 9am to 6pm.</p> <p>Apprenticeships: NCC has 14 vacancies offering a range of career opportunities across the county - applications opening 16/6/23. Visit: https://nland.cc/apprenticeships</p> <p>Home to School Transport: After an in-depth review of the service and listening to feedback from young people and families, plans are underway to transform education transport across the county including a new 'one-stop-shop' for school admissions and a team of independent travel trainers to provide 1:2:1 support to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).</p>	
6.	<p>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: CG confirmed all ok. The length of the grass around the perimeter was discussed. The hedge and perimeter is cut every summer and it was agreed monitor and leave the cutting schedule as agreed with NCC. PB to ask the Community Gardeners if they might consider including weeding the footpath cut from Lacey Street to the playing field as part of their remit.</p>	<p>CG</p> <p>PB</p>
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 place on 16/6/23 and the notes circulated. Key points to note: from the 8 monitoring visits this year, the vibration from blasting is within the stipulated range. All blasting is monitored independently. The vibration range is set by Government for the nation in National Planning Regulations. The blasting on 27/3/23, although within range had caused many complaints. The Quarry Manager said that it was a one-off and would not be repeated. NCC Environment Protection will investigate the negative impact of the vibration caused by blasting under the Environment Protection Act. National Rail is aware of the blasting and visit the Quarry. The one breach of planning regulations is to do with the now redundant western quarry which needs more work doing before it can become a nature reserve. MGL have purchased a new wheel wash to be in operation within 2 months. A blast took place on 4/7/23 but was for limestone and was not severe.</p> <p>Lacey Street: Following AH's email to Robin McCartney, NCC on 1/6/23, NCC accept that the CCTV monitoring over the Coronation public holiday was not helpful due to the weather. However, NCC are unable to help with the 'advisory signs' as they would then become official NCC Highways signs, for which they do not meet the required criteria. The signs can no longer be progressed. NCC are to offer guidance on the use of contractors to tarmac over the grass and lower the kerb. It was agreed the PC was running out of support/help that it could offer within its jurisdiction. It was agreed the PC to try to broker a meeting between NCC, The Running Fox and residents.</p> <p>Liaison with RAF: Sgt Laura Rowberry to the new RAF representative for the PC. Carol Moyle to represent the RAF Beacon Centre at the Police Liaison meetings. The RAF are trying to find part-funding for the replacement Astro-turf pitch at LCSCCT. It was agreed PC/LCSCCT and RAF to co-run a 2024 Summer Event such as a fete. The RAF have put forward a budget of £1,000 but expect to exceed this once it is clear that the</p>	<p>AH/PB/CG</p>

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	<p>event will go agreed. The PC agreed to contribute £1,500 – proposed JB, 2nd PM – all agreed. It was agreed there needs to be a working group to review the functions of LCSCT and RAF Beacon Centre – review to start in September. The RAF are trying to get the Youth Club operational over the summer and LCSCT are putting on summer activities for young people with Annie Arscott the main organiser.</p> <p>Liaison with N'bria Police: AH/PB attended a meeting with N'bria Police on 15/6/23. The lack of progress with Speedwatch was flagged.</p> <p>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. This has been reconfirmed in an email from Paul Jones on 30/6/23. NCC to approach N'land Estates to negotiate a lease for the car park. They expect to take over the car park in Spring 2024 and for it to be a 'pay' car park. NCC has nominated Robin McCartney to work with the PC on formulating a parking strategy for the whole of Boulmer for when the 'pay' car park opens. 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. AH had circulated a map of the remaining area with a view that the PC consider continuing to hold the lease on a peppercorn rent for the whole area apart from the car park to include the areas that the fishermen continue to occupy, the village green area, the meadow area and the dunes area to the south. The suggested map for the new lease was agreed – proposed CT, 2nd BE – all agreed. AH to contact N'land Estates in the first instance.</p> <p>Boulmer Memorial Hall Car Park: AH met County Councillor John Riddle and Paul Jones on 29/6/23. The key issue for NCC to developing this car park is the potential impact on the endangered wading bird species. The assessment of Natural England on this is critical and if they were to object to a planning application the proposed car park could not go ahead. It was agreed a way forward was for NCC to put a more detailed statement to Natural England to obtain their views. AH provided info to be included. If Natural England's feedback is they would object to a full planning application for the site, then there would be no purpose in raising a full planning application. It was also agreed the timing of an NCC letter to Boulmer residents would be better done once a view has been obtained from Natural England.</p> <p>Medical Facilities in Longhoughton: AH and WP met with Integrated Care Board (ICB) who had officially agreed to close the existing Medical Centre in Longhoughton as it is not fit for purpose. One condition is that that Alnwick Medial Group (AMG) has to work closely with the Longhoughton Community to provide a level of local medical services such as AMG considering using LCSCT. ICB to play a facilitating role.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion A report had been previously circulated by AH.</p> <p>a) NP Update: The final version of the Strategic Environment Assessment from AECOM was received on 12/7/23 and is with AH/PB for checking. Once checked, the public consultation process can commence.</p> <p>b) Longhoughton Update:</p> <p>Howick Burn: It's hoped Scottish Woodlands will commence tree clearing in August. CT has organised Angus McNiff Tree Service to clear the permissive footpath from Longhoughton to Cherry Wood by September.</p> <p>Vehicle Parking on School Green: If this becomes a regular issue, the PC may need to consider an advisory sign that vehicles should only park in the bays and that no overnight camping is allowed.</p> <p>AONB Traffic Design Brief: AH/PB have finally been given a link to the Traffic Design Code for the AONB. It is an aspirational document and there is a lot of visual detail about what should and should not be acceptable. Longhoughton is used as a case study. There are a number of suggested road treatments and devices that would be appropriate to help reduce speeding in the village but it would</p>	

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	<p>be an expensive programme. PB to circulate the link. AH/PB to seek clarification on the design, its status at NCC and how we prioritise the works in NCC budgets.</p> <p>c) Boulmer Update: Ragwort Pulling: All the ragwort was removed from Boulmer Meadow, the village green and surrounding areas 8 & 9/7/23 – with thanks to the team of volunteers. N’land Estates have been contacted to remove the ragwort on their land. Boulmer Meadow Harvesting: Arrangements have been made for the harvesting of the meadow. Groundworks will again cut the meadow. Howick Estates have been asked if they will turn the grass and bale it, and the Frater farmer’s have offered to take the baled grass to be used for cattle feed. Boulmer Ward Vacancy: The vacancy remains open.</p> <p>d) Howick Update: Howick Ward Vacancy: The vacancy remains open.</p> <p>e) Greenways. The PC has given the Aln Valley Greenway its support.</p> <p>f) Newsletter: It was agreed to spend an extra £90 per print run for the next two editions of the newsletter on a trial basis (£180 total cost) on better quality printing ink. Proposed JB, 2nd CG – all agreed.</p> <p>g) Chartered Incorporated Organisation (CIO): AH reminded the PC about the paper agreed in February 2021 to create a CIO. The next steps are to set-up a bank account before it can be submitted to the Charity Commission for registration. The proposed name is ‘LBH Community Trust’. The purpose of this Charity is to assist the many community organisations and to make funding applications for funding which is not open to the PC. PB/AH to review the pros and cons of proceeding with setting up the CIO with the PC before proceeding.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>9. Correspondence</p>	<p>a) NCC Highways LTP Programme 2024-25 Consultation Following the AONB Design Guide, it was suggested the response to the LTP should take that report into consideration. It was agreed the PC’s top 3 priorities would be as follows: 1. Following extensive discussions with NCC Highways and the AONB, to introduce new road layout and signage throughout Longhoughton with view to reducing vehicle speed throughout the village and making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists. These changes to be based on the discussions that have already been held and the new AONB Design Guide. 2. Support for the creation of a new car park for Longhoughton to be located in the south western half of the old Recreation Ground at the bottom of Crowlea Road. 3. Footway improvements between Boulmer Village and Longhoughton. In places the surface need to be repaired and in many places it is too narrow. This footway is being used by many people who are staying at the Coast and Castles Camp Site to walk to the beach at Boulmer. In its present state this footpath is dangerous in places and not suitable for families. The permitted road speed for part of the way to Boulmer is 60mph. With traffic going at this speed makes it very unsafe for pedestrians of any age.</p> <p>b) NALC June ENews 2023 - noted</p> <p>c) NCC AONB – Minutes of AONB Partnership Meeting 15/6/23 - noted</p> <p>d) NCC Library Service News - noted</p> <p>e) NCC Local Area Committee (LAC) – 27/7/23 - 7pm – Warkworth Village Hall. NCC wishes to encourage attendance at these LACs from PCs and the public. On 27/7/23, there will be 3 presentations, as follows: 1. Stronger Shores (a project to protect coastlines, nature and communities from flooding and erosion risks). 2. Local Services: grass cutting and weed spraying policy is widely misunderstood so NCC Local Services, Bob Hodgson will be presenting and taking questions. 3.</p>	

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	<p>Northumberland Local Bus Board (an opportunity to reporting/discuss service changes; service reliability, service improvements, highways infrastructure measures, fares initiatives and information to the public, etc).</p> <p>f) Age UK – info on services provided – passed to AH/CT for Newsletter/Website</p>	
10.	<p>Parish Financial Matters:</p> <p>a) LCSCT (Room Hire - £7 Police Liaison Mtg, £7 ICN Mtg) - £14 - agreed</p> <p>b) Clerk (Wage July & Aug) - £1,044.92 - agreed</p> <p>c) HMRC (PAYE July & Aug) - £0 (PAYE account in credit) - agreed</p> <p>d) Longhoughton Community Gardeners (Remainder of £430 Grant) - £200 – agreed</p> <p>e) Northumberland Accountants (Quarterly Payroll Fee) - £54 - agreed</p>	
11.	<p>Plans:</p> <p>a) 23/02223/VARCCM – variation of condition 2 (extraction cease date) on 20/01330/CARCCM - Howick Quarry, Howick, – there were no objections to this application – any comments to BE for collation before instructing feedback to NCC.</p> <p>b) 23/00420/PREAPP – further eastern extension and restoration of western extension using inert waste to assist with stabilisation of rick faces - Longhoughton Quarry, Longhoughton – A number of points were submitted in response to this application raising a number of concerns noting the breach of the existing application and raising concern over blasting impact on local residents.</p> <p>WP left the meeting.</p>	ALL
12.	<p>Low Steads Parking Proposals: At 8.45pm David Baring and James & Louise Forsyth attended to give an update on the proposals. Ann & Ted Brixey were also in attendance as volunteers who manage the gate closure. David Baring explained the rationale behind Howick Trustees proposal of installing an ANPR system with a charge for parking of £3.50 per car (more for motorhomes) with effect from October 2023 was to protect the environment at the beach and links and make it sustainable for the future. A “locals” rate would be applicable. Blue badges would be accommodated and there would be time to drop off people at the beach without incurring a parking charge. A sign indicating the number of spaces was not permitted at the top of Beach Road but a sign indicating the parking fees was. The scheme would be administered by Howick Trustees who would employ people to supervise the site including opening and closing. A group consisting of Howick Trustees, the Forsyth Farmers and representatives of the Parish Council would meet annually to agree the distribution of any surplus that would include Longhoughton Church. NCC had stated earlier that double yellow lines would not be permitted on Beach Road to prevent parking on the road – they would permit only stones, which would not be feasible due to lack of space. It was thought that NCC would not give Beach Road Quiet Lane status as the AONB had concerns about the excess signage required to introduce this. There could be no overhead bar as farm machinery needed access. It was noted that there are current parking issues on Lacey Street but it was anticipated this would not exacerbate the issue, particularly if parking on the playing field could be progressed. It was noted a page of the next newsletter is to cover this topic. The Newsletter article written by David Baring has the link to a new web site www.longhoughtonbeach.co.uk but this is not yet live. It was suggested that questions and answers are compiled and held on the PC website until the new website is available. It was suggested that the proposed car park in the old recreation ground be opened on a temporary basis for 56 days each year. [NOTE: The regulation for this came in for COVID and was reversed in 2022 back to the original 26 days per annum.]</p>	AH/PB
13.	<p>Matters for Information/Next Agenda: None</p>	
14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: No meeting in August. Next meeting 7.30pm - Monday 18 September – Boulmer Memorial Hall</p>	ALL

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9.45pm the meeting ended.

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