



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

Present: Cllrs Cllr Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair), Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Barras (JB), Green (CG) Horsley (HH), McEwen (PM), Tilley (JT) and Thomas (CT).

In attendance: Laura Rowberry (LR) (RAF Representative) and Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) and 4 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 Trust; LAA – Longhoughton Allotment Association;
 NALC – N’land Association of Local Councils; CAN – Community Action N’land; NL – N’land Coast National Landscape; TTRO - Temporary Traffic Regulation Order ; UCR Unclassified Road.

| Monthly Parish Council Meeting | | |
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| Minutes | | Action |
| <p>Members of the Public - Questions:</p> <p>Chancel Place Tree Screening: Ian Davison enquired about progress. AH advised Storey Homes had promised to complete the full job of tree planting/screening before the end of the planting season. Andrew Wilmott from St Peter & Paul Church confirmed the church took full responsibility for the fence and would liaise with Ian Davison and volunteers from the PC about installing a boundary fence and gate into the graveyard. A sign to be put up requesting dogs are kept on a lead in the graveyard. Andrew Wilmott noted Ian Davison had already bought chicken wire for the job.</p> <p>“No Entry” at Burnside: Andrew Wilmott enquired if there might be a timeline for the painting of the wording on the B1339 to prevent cars turning left into Burnside when it is now a one-way street. ET confirmed NCC had been contacted back in October with the PCs agreement to the painting of the wording on the road as per NCCs recommendation (and request for the 2 x red circular street signs to be left in-situ) but no timeline had been given. ET to contact NCC to enquire what the timeframe was.</p> | | ET |
| 1. | Apologies for Absence: Cllr Ellis (BE) and County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), | |
| 2. | Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20 November 2023. The minutes were approved as a correct record. | |
| 3. | <p>Actions from Last Minutes (unless an agenda item)</p> <p>School Patrol, Longhoughton: AH confirmed as the PC had no details on this vacancy it hadn’t been promoted in the newsletter but the school were now aware of the request for a School Patrol and would promote the vacancy within their community.</p> <p>General Maintenance: AH yet to contact Irene Bickerton for more specific detail on the location of the lack of maintenance as flagged at the October meeting.</p> <p>MOD Trees: JT advised an agreement had been reached and the trees would be cut back on 18/1/24.</p> <p>Boundary Commission: AH had liaised with Lesbury PC who were also concerned at the level of service going forwards following the Boundary Commission Review due to the vast area the County Councillor for Longhoughton Ward had to cover. Lesbury PC were to also contact Alnmouth PC who were also affected. AH to progress.</p> <p>Boulmer Village Green Stobs: AH yet to progress.</p> <p>Digital Phone Changeover: AH had liaised with iNorthumberland who confirmed the phone providers were responsible for communicating the message to their customers</p> | <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> |

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| | <p>but that they fully understood the difficulties some residents may have understanding the switchover and what action they need to take.</p> <p>NCC Open Space Assessment: AH confirmed this consultation had been completed and returned before Christmas.</p> <p>Seaton Point Steps: AH confirmed the steps damaged by the storm had been fixed.</p> <p>Graffiti at RAF Playparks: LR confirmed cleaning of both playparks was complete.</p> <p>Mud from Quarry: AH to flag the ongoing problem of mud on the road by Longhoughton Quarry at the next Quarry Liaison meeting. The poor layout/set-up of the new junction into the quarry to also be flagged and a request for better signage/lighting to be made – the opening looks like it is a continuation of the road not a junction.</p> <p>Flood by Railway Bridge: HH confirmed the flooding on the road by the railway bridge had been reported to NCC Fix My Street and seems to have been resolved.</p> | <p>AH</p> |
| <p>4.</p> | <p>Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT, PM is a member of Howick Art Group and PB's wife is a member of Longhoughton Community Gardeners.</p> | |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had circulated a report prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Bus Service 418: Borders Buses will take over service 418 Wooler to Alnwick via Belford, Bamburgh and Craster.</p> <p>Bus Travel Savings: Single journey ticket (excluding return) discounts include: £2 maximum fare cap adult bus travel or £1 under 21 until December 2024 . https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap#north-east</p> <p>All day ticket discounts include: - £5 adult bus travel in Northumberland, £6.80 adult travel or £3 travel if you are under 21 across Northumberland, Tyne & Wear & County Durham (includes bus, metro or Shields Ferry)</p> <p>There are options to claim a bus pass if you are of pension age or have a disability. Apply for an older person's bus pass if you have reached State Pension age: https://northumberland.concessionarytravelpass.co.uk/BusPass/login-or-register?ReturnUrl=%2FBusPas Check if you can apply for a disabled person's bus pass: https://beta.northumberland.gov.uk/transport/concessionary-travel</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grant: People with rapidly progressing terminal conditions, can now access non-means tested funding up to £6,500 to pay for urgently needed home adaptations. Visit www.northumberland.gov.uk for more information.</p> <p>Northumberland Communities Together: The team will be out and about across the county taking part in a range of community events. For info call 01670 620015 between 9am to 6pm, seven days a week or email NCT@northumberland.gov.uk</p> <p>Contacting NCC: CG raised concern about the inability to contact NCC officers direct and the only option now is to be "triaged" by contacting Customer Services who will pass on the message/provide an email address. CG to clarify with WP.</p> | <p>CG</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: JT confirmed all ok.</p> | |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a) Project Plan Update (a report had been previously circulated by AH and PB) The report detailed the current 44 projects that the PC is undertaking together with associated costs, timelines, lead and progress updates. The report was noted.</p> <p>b) 2024-25 Budget/Precept (a report had been previously circulated by AH and PB) A vote took place on whether to sign up to NCC's service of an additional 3 grass cuts for the parish at a cost of £797.84 per annum. This followed on from a complaint about lack of grass cutting in October. Councillors voted and 6 were in favour and 2 against. It was agreed to trial the extra 3 grass cuts for one year and add the cost to the precept.</p> | |

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| | <p>The report circulated by AH/PH was reviewed and the PC was unanimously in agreement to raise the precept to £26,798. ET to notify NCC accordingly.</p> <p>c) Chair's Matters Arising Paper (a report had been previously circulated by AH)</p> <p>Chancel Place Tree Screening: see public questions above.</p> <p>Lacey Street: A new date for the suggested meeting with residents is early February 2024. Since the November PC meeting, it is known that there has been considerable congestion in Lacey Street and due to parked vehicles and this has spilled over onto the B1339. AH to produce a paper for the meeting and it will be circulated to the PC.</p> <p>LowSteads Parking Proposals: No further contact has been received from David Baring on progress with the proposals until an email was received on 10/1/24 advising the scheme would go live on 11/1/24. The PC was very disappointed with this news as it had understood a full consultation would take place before the scheme went live. The lack of signage at the top of Beach Road notifying vehicles of the new parking charges was of concern. A number of derogatory and defamatory remarks had been posted on the Longhoughton and Boulmer Facebook page. HH to contact the administrator. Advice to be sought on the comments at the next Police Liaison meeting. The land at Longhoughton Beach is owned by the Howick Trustees and it is their parking scheme. The scheme for parking is fully described website www.longhoughtonbeach.co.uk where details of the charges and numerous questions and answers can be found including a 'contact' page for sending comments to Howick Trustees.</p> <p>Car Parks at Boulmer: Natural England has objected to building the car park on the field next to the Memorial Hall due to the presence endangered species of birds. However, County Councillor John Riddle has asked for a site visit with a representative of Natural England, the PC and WP in attendance. No date has been set yet. In the meantime, things are progressing slowly with the handover of the Boulmer Beach car park to NCC – NCC have recently asked for a copy of the existing lease.</p> <p>Medical Facilities in Longhoughton: The Health and Wellbeing section of NCC continue their talks programme at LCSCT. The talks are at 11.30am and include a clinic for those who wish to have their weight or blood pressure checked. Dates are: 15/2/24 and 21/3/24. Each session will last around 40 minutes. All the talks are free and are funded by a grant from Northumberland Communities Together.</p> <p>Boulmer Road: No further update on the pavement.</p> <p>Thursday Together: The Thursday Together sessions have moved to weekly until the end of March 2024. A soup lunch is being provided.</p> <p>Greenways: There is a possibility of funding for Greenways. We awaiting further info from the N'land Coast National Landscape (AONB).</p> <p>Gifts at Christmas: 55 parishioners were identified to receive a gift. The project was also supported by LPC, LCSCT, MGL Group, RAF Boulmer and Alnwick Lions.</p> <p>Community Lunch: MGL also gave £300 to cover the cost of the Community Lunch held on 20/12/23 plus an excellent bag of small gifts for each of the 30 participants.</p> <p>Free Trees: 60 free tree saplings were provided by NCC. AH had approached N'land Estates if they could be planted in the area rented by the Parish Council at Boulmer and further south but this was thought to be inappropriate due to the open landscape. A second choice was to plant them at LCSCT and N'land Estates have agreed to this. Subject to weather, planting will take place in January and will be a community event.</p> <p>Alnwick Medical Group: The New Practice Manager (Paula Breen) has responded to the PC's email/letter suggesting a meeting is held in Longhoughton in April for Paula to see the facilities at LCSCT and the Beacon. AH to try to push for a date sooner.</p> <p>Quarry Liaison Group: The next meeting is scheduled for 25/01/24.</p> <p>Liaison Meeting with Northumbria Police: The next meeting is scheduled for 24/01/24.</p> | <p>ET</p> <p>AH/CG/PB</p> <p>HH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> |
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| | <p>d) PC Outlook Account: ET advised the PC email account currently has 5GB of storage and is 84% full. The recommendation is to subscribe to a basic upgrade to 100GB at a cost of £19.99 per annum. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>e) Speedwatch Update: Peter McEwan and Adrian Brown are now trained and have held 5 sessions in 4 locations which caught 35 vehicles speeding. Max speeds reported were on North End at 33mph and Boulmer Road East at 48mph & Boulmer Road West at 52mph. An article to be included in the next newsletter. PM advised speeders receive a letter from the Police but also their driver records are updated accordingly. PM flagged that often the reason motorists were speeding was because they were unaware of the speed limit. PM suggested additional 20mph repeater signs and some 30mph signs. APM to attend the next Police liaison meeting to discuss this further with the police before a suggestion/request is made to NCC. A request to purchase 2 x high-vis jackets at a cost of £65.98 was agreed – proposed JB, 2nd HH. The PC extended thanks to both Peter McEwan and Adrian Brown.</p> <p>f) Climate Change Programme: HH reported 1 Volunteer has come forward. HH to liaise with AH to include an article in the newsletter.</p> | <p>ET</p> <p>HH/AH</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Reports for Discussion A report had been previously circulated by AH.</p> <p>a) NP Update (a report had been previously circulated by AH) Following review and analysis of the feedback received from the consultation, the NDP Working Group were proposing some amendments to the draft policies. Overall, the response shows that the level of support for the draft policies is very high. None of the proposals received less than 60% support. However, all of the feedback from the local community is important and if we can make some changes to reflect the concerns identified, this could result in even greater support for the policies. For this reason some changes are proposed to policies LBH4, LBH5, LBH6, LBH7 and LBH8. These were set out in AH's report. The PC unanimously agreed to the proposed changes and felt that it now strengthened the NDP to reflect the communities wishes. The draft plan will now be amended and will need to be approved again by the PC before it is submitted to NCC for examination. NCC will then organise a further consultation on the submission plan and appoint an independent examiner, with the agreement of the PC. Once the plan has been examined, NCC will make amendments (as recommended by the examiner) and the amended plan will be then subject to referendum.</p> <p>b) Longhoughton Update: Howick Burn Bridge: The completion date of November to install the steel, handrail and timber was delayed by poor weather but have now been installed. However, the bridge is not yet available for public use. Remedial work will be needed on the approach path from the Concrete Bridge on the coastal route and the PC agreed to offer to help with the costs in view of damage caused by construction vehicles getting to the bridge site. The signs are also ready to be erected and the gates/stiles will be installed in the next few weeks. Quiet Lane, Beach Road and Traffic Management Project: Following the agreement at the last PC meeting, an email has been sent to NCC requesting formally that these schemes are implemented or, if they are not, a rationale for this decision is given from NCC. If the Traffic Management Scheme is not implemented, an alternative is needed. WP has renewed the offer to purchase a speed sign using Member Funding. The PC could also purchase a 2nd speed sign for installation at the same time. It was agreed to wait for a response from NCC.</p> <p>c) Boulmer Update: No new updates. The Boulmer Ward vacancy remains open.</p> <p>d) Howick Update: No new updates</p> | |

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| <p>9.</p> | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) N'land Coast National Landscape (AONB) - Meeting Minutes 15/11/23 - noted b) N'land Coast National Landscape (AONB) – Highways and Public Realm in National Landscape Familiarisation Sessions – 6pm-7pm on 24/1/24 and 29/1/24 - noted c) NALC December ENews - noted d) NCC Thriving Together Newsletter November #2 and December - noted e) Healthwatch – Northumberland Cost of Living Booklet - noted f) Kiera Whillis – request for a Memorial Bench at Seaton Point – it was suggested the applicant contact N'land Estates as landowner at Seaton Point. g) James Wilson – complaint about vehicles parking on pavements in Longhoughton – this email had come in addressed to WP, who had responded direct to advise the complaint would be passed to County Councillor John Riddle. The PC had also responded. The PC noted the complaint and this problem and any possible solution was part of the Traffic Management Scheme for Longhoughton.</p> | |
| <p>10.</p> | <p>Parish Financial Matters:</p> <p>a) Grant Requests – The following grants were agreed: SS Peter & Paul Graveyard £950, GNAA £100, N'land CAB £100, Hospice Care Northumberland £100, Longhoughton Parish Heritage Group £200, Longhoughton Community Gardeners £300 SNF Howick Art Group £200. b) LCSCT (Xmas Gifts Grant) - £100 – PAID c) Jo-Anne Garrick Ltd (NDP) - £1,200 - PAID d) LCSCT (Room Hire – Thursdays Together) - £356 - agreed e) County Durham Assoc of Local Councils (Jules Tilley Training) - £10 - agreed f) Clerk (Wage January) - £417.46 - agreed g) HMRC (PAYE January) - £97.20 - agreed h) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £48.00 - agreed i) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £245 - agreed j) Adrian Hinchcliffe (NDP Printing) - £21.60 – agreed k) Peter McEwen (2 x High Vis Jackets for Speedwatch) - £65.98 - agreed</p> | |
| <p>11.</p> | <p>Plans: None received</p> | |
| <p>12.</p> | <p>Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB to request the re-filling of the grit bin by the allotments using FixMyStreet and What3Words as the grit bin does not have a number. • A request had come in to install a bike rack at Sugar Sands – this had been passed to Howick Estates who had confirmed that one would be installed. The PC to also consider bike racks for other areas of the parish in line with the new Greenways that will hopefully be installed. • Handrail for Pensioner's Cottage: CG confirmed this had now been installed by NCC. • Pondfield Appeal - PB enquired if anything had been heard further about the planning application appeal. No further information had been received. | <p>JB</p> |
| <p>13.</p> | <p>Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm - Monday 19 February 2024 – LCSCT Westfield Park</p> | <p>ALL</p> |

The meeting ended at 10pm.

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