



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), Ellis (BE), Green (CG), McEwen (PM), and Thomas (CT).

**In attendance:** County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), Laura Rowberry (LR) (RAF Representative) and 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 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 .

**Prior to the Parish Council meeting, a public meeting was held from 7pm-8pm to discuss the Alnwick Medical Group proposal for Longhoughton. Some 55 residents were in attendance and the feedback from the meeting was used to help the Parish Council determine their decision and response to Alnwick Medical Group under agenda item 8a) of the Parish Council meeting.**

<u>Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p><b>5. County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update</b>            It was agreed to bring WP’s item to the top of the agenda as WP needed to depart ASAP. WP had circulated a report prior to the meeting.  <b>VMS Sign:</b> WP advised the PC needed to take a decision on whether the PC would like WP to use NCC Member’s Funding to purchase a VMS Sign (or alternative road safety alterations) for Longhoughton ASAP otherwise WP would allocated the funding elsewhere. To be considered and determined under item 8c) on the agenda.  <b>National Digital Switchover:</b> NCC want to ensure residents are prepared for the national digital switchover. Led by the UK telecommunications industry, the transition will see a shift from the old analogue landline system to upgraded digital services. For those with telecare services, the digital switchover has significant implications and anyone using these services are being urged to assess how the switchover will impact them and take necessary steps to ensure a smooth transition, minimising any potential disruptions to their care. In the event of a power outage digital landlines will not function and while mobile phones can still be used, individuals without an alternative means of contacting emergency services should contact their telecoms provider and request a solution to enable emergency calls. For further information and assistance, NCC encourages residents to contact their telecoms provider.  <b>Home Adaptations:</b> If you have a disability or illness which makes daily life more difficult, you may benefit from having your home adapted to help you carry on with your life independently. The cost of some small adaptations if recommended by a professional can be fully covered up to a cost limit of £1,000. Contact Disability North on: 0191 284 0480 or <a href="mailto:reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk">reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk</a> or visit <a href="http://www.disabilitynorth.com">www.disabilitynorth.com</a>  <b>Adult Occupational Therapy Service:</b> This NCC led service <del>Our</del> supports adult residents of Northumberland who are experiencing a reduced ability to engage in everyday tasks due to a change in functional ability. This includes people who have physical disability, mental health difficulties, learning disability and/or social and emotional difficulties, either from birth or because of accident, illness or ageing. The service is available 8:30am-5pm Mon-Thur and 8:30am-4:30pm on Fri. Anyone can make a referral by contacting OneCall on 01670 536400.</p>	<p><b>CG</b></p>

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	<p><b>Anti-Social Behaviour:</b> You should never have to endure behaviour which causes alarm, harassment or distress. Your community safety officer is Judith Davis <a href="mailto:judith.davis@northumberland.gov.uk">judith.davis@northumberland.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Rural Crime:</b> Northumberland has a significant rural landscape and NCC recognises that communities and those, living, visiting and working in these areas should feel be safe from crime and the fear of crime. If you have any concerns, contact: 0345 600 6400 or <a href="mailto:safem.partnership@northumberland.gov.uk">safem.partnership@northumberland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>WP left the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Members of the Public - Questions:</b></p> <p><b>Chancel Place Tree Screening:</b> Ian Davison advised Storey Homes had now planted the trees but it was a poor job as they had no stakes and no rabbit guards, so would not last. It was agreed the PC to contact NCC Enforcement Officer and Storey Homes. PB also noted it was important to get the fence installed for the churchyard and it was noted that Andrew Wilmott from St Peter &amp; Paul Church was progressing this.</p>		AH/ET
1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllrs Horsley (HH) and Tilley (JT)</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15 January 2024.</b> The minutes were approved as a correct record.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Actions from Last Minutes (unless an agenda item)</b></p> <p><b>Burnside No Entry:</b> It was noted that works were now complete.</p> <p><b>General Maintenance:</b> AH has contacted Mr &amp; Mrs Bickerton and is awaiting more specific detail on the location of the lack of maintenance they raised concern about.</p> <p><b>Boundary Commission:</b> ET advised Martin Swinbank County Councillor for Lesbury PC and Alnmouth PC had suggested this was raised with Cllr Isabel Hunter who Chairs the Town &amp; Parish Council Liaison Group to see if a voluntary code could be set up as it may have wider appeal beyond our immediate local parishes too.</p> <p><b>Boulmer Village Green Stobs:</b> AH yet to progress.</p> <p><b>Grit Bin:</b> The damaged grit bin by the Allotments is owned by the RAF. LR to action.</p>	AH  AH  AH LR
4.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> 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>	
6.	<p><b>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath:</b> JT confirmed all ok. JT reported that the bus stop outside the Running Fox has lots of litter. The bus stop is the PC's responsibility. PB volunteered to do a litter-pick.</p>	PB
7.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>a) Chair's Matters Arising Paper</b> (a report had been previously circulated by AH)</p> <p><b>Lacey Street:</b> AH advised a meeting is yet to be arranged. The Running Fox has stats on customers which may help understanding the problem and trying to find a solution.</p> <p><b>Speedwatch:</b> More volunteers are needed. PB's application is being progressed. JB to send PM details of another volunteer. PM advises there are insufficient 20mph repeater signs in the 20mph zone and other signs to reinforce awareness of the speed limit. PB to consider as part of traffic management for Longhoughton.</p> <p><b>Car Parks at Boulmer:</b> Natural England has again objected to a car park next to the Memorial Hall due to endangered species of birds. Cllr John Riddle has asked for a site visit with a rep from Natural England, PC and WP. NCC has been asked for an update on the progress for taking over the existing Boulmer Beach car park.</p> <p><b>Thursday's Together:</b> AH reported that numbers attending were higher when a presentation was given alongside the lunch opportunity.</p>	AH  JB/PM/PB  PB

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	<p><b>NCC Health &amp; Wellbeing Talks:</b> Discussions are taking place with NCC Health and Wellbeing Section and N'land Communities Together for the continuation of this series.</p> <p><b>Bank Account:</b> HH application to become a signatory yet to be progressed.</p> <p><b>Boulmer Road:</b> No further update on the pavement.</p> <p><b>MOD Trees:</b> LR confirmed a private tree surgeon cut the overhanging branches but no height reduction has yet been made. LR to progress with Amey, the MOD contractor.</p> <p><b>Greenways Developments:</b> The bid by N'land Coast National Landscape for funding failed. They are considering further applications.</p> <p><b>Tree Planting at LC&amp;SCT:</b> AH to circulate a date – all encouraged to attend.</p> <p><b>Quarry Mud on Road:</b> This issue was discussed at the Quarries Liaison meeting. It transpires that the purchase of the new improved wheel wash facility is still outstanding. NCC is contracted to brush clean the road outside the quarry entrance and this takes place several days each week. The move to the eastern quarry had resulted in lorries having to travel to the existing west quarry location of the wheel wash and weighbridge, thus causing the mud problem. MGL to put together a written statement on this issue setting out the constraints, the possible solutions to the problem and what measures they are proposing to take to resolve the issue.</p> <p><b>Derogatory/defamatory remarks on Social Media concerning the PC:</b> This issue was raised at the Police Liaison meeting. The PC to continue to ask the administrators of the Facebook page to take down comments. If individual names are mentioned then further action can be taken for libel on the basis of defamation of character and reputation. It is more difficult when against the PC as an organisation.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH/HH</p> <p>LR</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Reports for Discussion</b> A report had been previously circulated by AH.</p> <p><b>a) Alnwick Medical Group (AMG) – medical facilities in Longhoughton</b> Some 50 residents were in attendance at the public meeting held immediately before the PC meeting and feedback was used to help the PC determine decisions made. There was a unanimous desire to keep trying to maintain a higher level of provision of medical facilities in the village and that negotiation and consultation had been promised and AMG needed to fulfil this promise to enable them to know what was reasonable when making their decisions. It was agreed that the communications with AMG needed to be taken to another level above that of the Practice Manager and that the PC needed to formally involve MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan and also the ICB. AMG has offered the following medical services at the LCSCT: - Pick-up point for prescriptions 4-5pm Tuesday and 1pm-2pm Friday for patients currently benefiting from the existing delivery service only (currently 30 prescriptions per week). Free use of LCSCT to fulfil this offer was requested. - Vaccination clinics - Health initiatives in association with the Primary Care Network where feasible. It was agreed that AH/PB to draft a response to send to AMG and also a call for assistance to Anne-Marie Trevelyan and ICB.</p> <p><b>b) NP Update</b> AH confirmed that the draft plan was now being amended as per the decisions taken at January's PC meeting and the final plan will be issued to the PC again for final approval before it is submitted to NCC for examination.</p> <p><b>c) Longhoughton Update:</b> <b>Howick Burn Bridge:</b> The bridge, gates and fencing have been installed. Ramps at either end of the bridge yet to be installed and the scheme is complete. PB explained there may be grants available to cover the cost of the remedial work which may mean the remaining £500 budget and the £2k allocated to remedial works may not be required. An official opening was also discussed, details to be confirmed.</p>	<p>AH/PB/ET</p> <p>PB</p>

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	<p><b>Traffic Management Project:</b> PB advised it is unlikely that the PC will make progress on a comprehensive scheme and should therefore seek to achieve individual and incremental advances in a more piecemeal fashion. The key question for the PC is whether, and more controversially, some of these elements could/should be out-with the AONB guidance as these appear to be easier to fund. If the decision is to adopt a scheme that does not adhere to the AONB Design Guide the PC could accept WP's renewed offer to purchase a speed sign using Member Funding and the PC could apply to Longhoughton Quarry to could fund the purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> speed sign and LR offered to approach the RAF for community support for a 3<sup>rd</sup> sign, all for installation at the same time. AH/PB to contact NCC/N'land Coast National Landscape (AONB) to ask them to advise of a suitable/viable alternative to the VMS Sign that complies with the N'land Coast National Landscape (AONB) Design Guide and if there were no alternatives that could be funded, then the 3 x VMS Signs would be progressed.</p> <p><b>Parking Charges at Sugar Sands:</b> It was noted that there is poor mobile phone signal on Sugar Sands to pay the parking charges in real time but visitors are given 24 hours to pay, so will need to do so once back in an area with good signal - this has been flagged with Howick Trustees. The PC has written to Howick Trustees about the excessive number of signs on the beach and requested they are reduced. AH also confirmed Howick Trustees have also confirmed a sign will be placed at the top of Beach Road notifying visitors about the parking charges.</p> <p><b>d) Boulmer Update:</b> No new updates. The Boulmer Ward vacancy remains open.</p> <p><b>e) Howick Update:</b> No new updates</p> <p><b>f) Climate Change Update:</b> HH not present, no new updates. BE flagged the extensive damage to the coastline following recent storms. AH had contacted N'land Estates about the damage at Boulmer and they advised this was the PCs responsibility as the PC leased the land and to contact the Environment Agency.</p> <p><b>g) Police Liaison Meeting 7/2/24:</b> The notes of the meeting have been circulated.</p> <p><b>h) Quarry Liaison Meeting 25/1/24:</b> The notes of the meeting have been circulated.</p>	<p><b>AH/PB</b></p>
<p><b>9. Correspondence</b></p>	<p>a) North N'land Local Area Committee Meeting – 25/1/24 – noted</p> <p>b) NCC Town &amp; Parish Council Spring Conference – 14/3/24 – noted.</p> <p>c) Leanne Pickard – Flooding Chancel Place/Station Road – AH had responded direct.</p> <p>d) Alison Hawkins – Boulmer Car Park/Howick Burn Bridge – AH had responded direct.</p> <p>e) The Beacon – Drop-in Consultation re Service Improvement – 15/2/24 – noted. Sessions on a Tue/Thur were to be organised for teenagers. LR to circulate a report.</p> <p>f) N'land Coast National Landscape (AONB) Minutes 15/11/23 and next meeting date 27/2/24. AH advised a request to conduct a clutter audit for the parish had been received. This was agreed. AH advised a governance review was also being undertaken. Also, Dark Sky Matters Workshop on 8/3/24.</p> <p>g) NALC – Kings Garden Party 2024 and Feb ENews - noted</p> <p>h) GNAA – Grant Thank You - noted</p> <p>i) Peter Johnson PCSO Neighbourhood Northern – Northumbria Police – Rural Engagement – AH to invite to the Police Liaison meetings.</p> <p>j) Thriving Together Newsletter – Jan and Feb 2024 - noted</p> <p>k) NCC – Household DIY Waste Charges – noted</p> <p>l) James Forsyth re Beach Road - a request had been made for the PC to block the track with a collapsible post to prevent cars using the beach track where the rocks are in place as cars were continuing to try to use the track and getting stuck despite signage. PB advised he had already replied on behalf of the PC to advise the decision to allow or not allow barriers on the track is not for the PC but NCC.</p>	<p><b>LR</b></p>
<p><b>10. Parish Financial Matters:</b></p>		

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	<p>a) Grant Requests – The following grants were agreed:          Children’s Easter Event - £50 and Longhoughton Indoor Bowling Club - £48          b) Perfect Meadows Ltd (Kissing Gates x 4 re Howick Burn Bridge) - £2,220.00 – PAID          c) Groundwork UK (NDP Grant) - £3,798 - CREDIT          d) Shiel &amp; Morrison (Newsletter) - £245 - agreed          e) LCSCT (AH/WP 25 Jan £15 / Quarry Liaison Group £15/ Police Liaison £15) - £45          f) Clerk (Wage January) - £417.66 - agreed          g) HMRC (PAYE January) - £97.00 - agreed          h) Microsoft Office 365 Basic Package (PC Email and Storage) - £19.99 - agreed          i) Boulmer Memorial Hall (Insurance) - £457.56 – agreed          j) CBS World (Stationery) - £97.95 – agreed          k) Jo-Anne Garrick (NDP) - £1,200 – agreed          l) LCSCT (Defibrillator pads and battery) - £378.95 - agreed</p>	
11.	<p><b>Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/00143/FUL – Conversion of existing roof space into 2 en-suite bedrooms - Flanders Cottage, South End, Longhoughton, NE66 3AW – no objections</li> <li>• 24/00069/FUL – Demolition of Hawk/Mosquito blocks, build new gable end, install fire escape, reclaim 16 rooms – RAF Boulmer, NE66 3JF – no objections</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b>Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed Asset Check</li> </ul>	<b>JB</b>
13.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Next meeting 7.30pm - Monday 18 March – Howick Village Hall</p>	<b>ALL</b>

The meeting ended at 10pm.

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