



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

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

**In attendance:** County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) and 2 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 .

<u>Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p><b>Members of the Public - Questions:</b></p> <p><b>Quarry Vibrations:</b> Romaine Barclay-Kim (RBK) was in attendance to raise concern about the vibrations being experienced by residents following quarry blasting. RBK is a member of the Quarry Liaison Committee but wanted to attend the PC meeting to flag that since the Eastern Quarry was re-opened, she was concerned that a number of issues aren’t being addressed and she didn’t want to wait until the next Quarry Liaison meeting. RBK flagged there had been no problems when the Western Quarry was being blasted but now the Eastern Quarry is in use there are 3 issues to flag: 1) the vibrations are causing problems since January especially and particularly on 6 February and 12 March. Who will be liable/responsible for damage to residential properties – no one is able to answer that question. 2) On 6 February, 50cm diameter rocks landed in the adjacent field – that is a major health and safety issue. 3) Any improvements to the issue of mud on the road is progressing at a snail pace and is a safety issue. When are the new wheel washers expected? RBK was of the opinion that boxes were just being ticked at the Quarry Liaison meeting and no progress was being made. RBK raised concern that the next meeting being in May was too far away and a meeting before then was needed.</p> <p>AH advised that the PC had set up a separate Quarry Liaison Group to address such concerns rather than in a limited time period at a PC meeting so that rightly so, more time could be given to addressing the issues raised and give justice to the importance of such questions, and so that the right people were around the table (eg NCC and Quarry representatives) to answer the questions raised as the PC is neither an expert in such matters nor has the jurisdiction to resolve/answer such queries. The next meeting isn’t until May as NCC needed time to review, investigate and report on the performance of the Quarry against the planning regulations and on any issues raised. AH confirmed that some issues may arise between meetings but that he liaises with the Quarry Manager each time there is an issue with a blast or any other matter. These are then discussed at the next Quarry Liaison Group meeting and also AH would report any issues that he considers important to the PC at the next meeting or by email as issues arise. AH answered each of RBK’s concerns as follows: 1) NCC is the monitoring authority and will report on the performance of the quarry in meeting planning regulations. Since the Eastern Quarry was re-opened NCC had reported that the vibration from blasting had been within the allowable range set nationally by Government. Blasting is also monitored by an independent company and there are a number of key points where vibrations are recorded form each blast, one of the points being on Elworthy. Since these points were established prior to Chancel Place being created, AH thought it was reasonable to request that the vibrations to monitored on the Estate.</p>	

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	<p>its request for Quiet Lane status. WP indicated that NCC Highways might be amenable to a 30mph VMS Sign at the Denwick Lane end of the village.</p> <p>All attending members of PC were disappointed with the latest feedback from NCC on this matter. PM flagged the issue is the lack of 20mph repeater signs (an NCC responsibility) which is why vehicles are unaware of the speed limit and why so many are caught speeding in the village. The PC reviewed the minutes from the February meeting where it had been discussed to accept WP's renewed offer to purchase a speed sign using Member Funding and also for the PC to contact both Longhoughton Quarry and the RAF for support to purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sign. WP raised concern about conflict of interest if the Quarry were approached to fund a sign. It was agreed that WP should purchase a VMS sign for the parish using Member Funding – proposed, PB, 2<sup>nd</sup> CG, all agreed. It was also agreed by all that the PC should contact both Quarry and RAF for funding to purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sign. It was noted that PB should explore a Safer Roads Charter.</p> <p><b>Alnwick Banks Closure:</b> BE asked WP what NCC's stance is on the recent announcement of the closure of the remaining banks in Alnwick. WP advised there is not much NCC can do. BE advised the presence of banks/banking hub was vitally important in a rural town to both small businesses and retired/elderly residents and proposed NCC should take the matter seriously as their closure poses a serious community issue and requested that WP raise this concern with the Leader.</p>	<p>AH/PB</p> <p>WP</p>
6.	<p><b>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath:</b> JT confirmed all ok.</p>	
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>Chancel Place Tree Screening:</b> AH confirmed a letter had been sent to NCC Enforcement to complain about the poor tree planting job carried out by Storey Homes.</p> <p><b>Lacey Street:</b> The meeting for Lacey Street residents will be held on 28/3/24 at 6pm in the Running Fox. WP, Robin McCartney (NCC Highways Department) will also attend. AH to chair the meeting and has compiled a paper of the issues that are affecting residents and Running Fox customers in Lacey Street, which will be issued to all parties before the meeting. It was noted that to make any progress, this meeting must be an amicable meeting with all parties searching to find ways forward and not raising things from the past. There are possible short-term things that can be done to lessen the congestion and longer-term things to aim for which may have a bigger impact.</p> <p><b>Car Parks at Boulmer:</b> NCC has advised that they are to submit a planning application for the proposed new car park next to Boulmer Memorial Hall. The application will be written/submitted by NCC and will go through the normal planning process. All residents and the Parish Council will have an opportunity to express views. It is expected that Natural England will object to the planning application but the community will have the opportunity to put the case for the car park and the benefits that it will generate for the community and the Memorial Hall. It was agreed that on behalf of the PC, AH to submit a supportive statement to be submitted as part of the application. Meantime, NCC have confirmed there will be a delay in taking over the existing beach car park due to the negotiations for the lease taking longer than expected.</p> <p><b>NCC Health &amp; Wellbeing Talks:</b> The last of the six monthly talks will be held on 21/3/24 and as usual will include a clinic for those who wish to have their weight or blood pressure checked. Discussions have taken place with NCC Health and Wellbeing Section and Northumberland Communities Together for the continuation of talks series. This would be covered by a grant from Northumberland Communities Together.</p> <p><b>Thursday Together.</b> The Thursday Together winter series is coming to an end at the end of March. There are proposals to continue over the Summer on the basis of one</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>AH</p>

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	<p>meeting each month and to recommence the weekly session including a light lunch next December through to March 2025, a 17 week period. The hire fees for the 17 weeks would cost would be £476 for 17 weeks (at current rates). The PC agreed to fund this cost – proposed HH, 2<sup>nd</sup> CG. All agreed. Thanks were extended to all volunteers who make this happen.</p> <p><b>Parish Council Bank Account:</b> Adding HH as a 4<sup>th</sup> signatory was proving problematic due to the inefficiencies of Barclay’s systems/processes. With 3 existing signatories, it was agreed to postpone adding HH as a 4<sup>th</sup> signatory, unless HH is able to successfully progress acquiring the relevant form from Barclays (AH to expedite this).</p> <p><b>Boulmer Road:</b> No further update from NCC Highways on the pavement.</p> <p><b>Free Trees:</b> 15 residents helped to plant 65 trees at LCSCT on 25/2/24.</p> <p><b>Alnwick Medical Group (AMG) – Medical Facilities in Longhoughton:</b> After the discussion and decisions of the last meeting, AH confirmed a letter was sent to (AMG) disputing their offer of medical facilities in Longhoughton and their decision to withdraw the drop off of prescriptions to the homes of patients from 1/4/24. This letter was copied to the CEO of the NHS Integrated Care Board, the head of Healthwatch Northumberland, WP and Anne Marie Trevelyan MP. ICB could provide some facilities in Longhoughton outside AMG’s responsibilities. First, they need to undertake a review of other rural locations and any offer needs to be linked to the health &amp; wellbeing programme. AMG has offered to patients, who reside in the Parish of Longhoughton and are currently in receipt of the delivery service, the facility to pick up prescriptions at the LCSCT on Tuesday at 1pm-2pm and a Friday at 4pm-5pm with effect from 2/2/24. This will be reviewed after one month to ascertain what further scope there is to add additional patients to this service. The PC agreed to cover the annual cost for hiring LCSCT to provide this service (circa (820 per annum) on a number of conditions: the PC reserves the right to withdraw the offer to cover costs, anybody with a prescription should be able to use this service (not just those currently in receipt of the delivery service), usage to be monitored at the end of the first quarter, as this is an expensive provision if only a few households are using the service. All agreed.</p> <p><b>Double Council Tax Charges for 2<sup>nd</sup> Homes:</b> NCC are to charge 2<sup>nd</sup> homes double the Council Tax from 1/4/25. There is a petition which suggests NCC should pass to PCs the extra revenue which it generates in this way. To be reviewed</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Reports for Discussion</b> A report had been previously circulated by AH.</p> <p>a) <b>Neighbourhood Plan Update:</b> The first round of briefings have taken place with AECOM officers. Jo-Anne Garrick is working through all the changes that are necessary from the consultation that can be actioned. The results of the consultation have been put on the NDP website.</p> <p>b) <b>Longhoughton, Update</b></p> <p><b>Howick Burn Bridge:</b> The bridge/ramps have been installed and gates/fencing built. The bridge and route are now complete. The final invoice has been paid and the grant claim is being processed. The PC may need to contribute £200-£300 to the works to improve the approach path, which is within the budget allocated. Ideas for an opening are welcome.</p> <p><b>Howdiemont Beach Parking:</b> AH has written to Howick Estates to comment on the quantity of intrusive signage at the beach that is associated with the parking scheme. Signage has now been installed at the top of Beach Road (an amalgamation of official NCC highway’s signs and information about the parking arrangements).</p> <p><b>Longhoughton Traffic Management:</b> dealt with under item 5 above. PM advised 5 Speedwatch sessions are lined up. It was noted that one recent speeding offender</p>	

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	<p>was the NCC bin wagon travelling at 46mph in a 20mph zone. PM also reported that Alnwick Police Station will now be open from 9am-5pm 5 days per week, mid-week.</p> <p>c) <b>Boulmer Update:</b> no further updates</p> <p>d) <b>Howick Update:</b> no further updates</p> <p>e) <b>Climate Change Update:</b> There are now 2 volunteers on the Working Group. HH to arrange a meeting very soon.</p> <p>f) <b>Northumberland Coast National Landscape:</b> New legislation will require PCs to have greater responsibility for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the national landscape when taking decisions. The Northumberland Coast National Landscape Team has been informed the PC welcomes a 'clutter audit' of the Parish.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>a) NCC – Boulmer Toilets Winter Opening – the PC will no longer be responsible for funding the £2k annual charge to open the toilets at Boulmer over winter. NCC will now assume responsibility for this cost.</p> <p>b) Bailiffgate Museum – Grant Request – request to be held until Jan/Feb 2025 when the next round of grant award decisions are made.</p> <p>c) NCC – Household DIY Waste Charges - noted</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Parish Financial Matters:</b></p> <p>a) I Weatheritt (Howick Burn Bridge) - £13,385.56 – PAID</p> <p>b) N'land Estates (Longhoughton Playing Field Half Yearly Rent) - £65.00 - agreed</p> <p>c) Clerk (Wage) - £417.46 - agreed</p> <p>d) HMRC (PAYE) - £97.20 - agreed</p> <p>e) Jo-Anne Garrick Ltd (NDP) - £2,550.00 – agreed</p> <p>f) NCC (NDP Printing) - £61.18 - agreed</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/00710/LBC – Listed Building consent for new opening from visitor centre into existing billiard room, creation of ladies WC and accessible WC within billiard room. Addition of 2no urinals within existing gents WC - Howick Hall, Access Road To Howick Hall, Howick, NE66 3LB – no objections</li> <li>• 24/00708/FUL Erection of new agricultural shed (retrospective) - Pasture House Farm, Longhoughton, NE66 3LJ – no objections</li> <li>• 24/00590/FUL – Single storey side, rear and front extension. Replace existing garage with lounge, kitchen, diner and new external store. All with pitched roof - 16 Beach View, Boulmer, NE66 3BN – objection due to overdevelopment of site.</li> </ul>	
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed Asset Check</li> </ul>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Next meeting 7.30pm - Monday 15 April – Boulmer Village Hall</p>	<b>ALL</b>

The meeting ended at 9.55pm.

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