



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

Present: Cllrs Cllr Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair), Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Green (CG) and McEwen (PM).

In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) & 2 members of public.

Abbreviations Used in Minutes:

PC – Parish Council; NCC – N’land County Council; NALC – N’land Association of Local Councils
 LCSCT – Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre Trust; CAN – Community Action N’land;
 LAA – Longhoughton Allotment Association; NL – N’land Coast National Landscape.

<u>Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>Members of the Public: One-Way Street Burnside: Craig Thompson advised cars were still driving the wrong way down Burnside. WP advised NCC will take no further action and that the only way forward would be for a complaint to now be put to complaints@northumberland.gov.uk AH confirmed that the PC had negotiated at length with NCC and had achieved as much as NCC were willing to action to resolve the issue. NCC had installed additional signage at the request of the PC but had rejected the PC’s additional request to paint “No Left Turn” on the road as only “Slow” can now be painted on roads. AH commented that the problem lies with drivers who are using Sat/Navs which are wrongly sending them the wrong way. Tree Planting at Chancel Place: Ian Davison reminded the PC that Robert Wilson, Planning Enforcement Officer had advised in his email dated 16/10/24 that the developer had promised to undertake additional planting in Oct/Nov and that a site visit was scheduled to inspect the planting in Summer 2025. Ian Davison advised the tree planting had not happened. Both WP and ET to contact Robert Wilson for an update. Worm Digging at Boulmer: Craig Thompson advised that excessive worm digging at Boulmer beach continued. Digging for personal use was permitted in certain areas of the beach but digging for commercial resale was not. The quantity of worm digging indicated commercial resale and was causing problems and impacting on the safety of the beach and also the shorebirds. Craig Thompson requested a meeting with the PC, Police, NCC, N’land Estates and IFCA (Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority) to discuss a possible solution. AH agreed to speak with Police and N’land Estates and see if a meeting was possible. WP to speak with IFCA and NCC. Weightman Stone: Craig Thompson asked if the engraved stone could be dug out of the sea and put on display in the car park. The PC were of the opinion that it was best left in situ but AH would also mention the suggestion to N’land Estates, who owned the land.</p>	<p>WP/ET</p> <p>AH/WP</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Ellis (BE), Horsley (HH), Thomas (CT) and Laura Rowberry (LR) (RAF Representative).</p>	
<p>2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18 November 2024. The minutes were approved as a correct record.</p>	
<p>3. Actions from Last Minutes (unless an agenda item). All items covered under Chair’s Matters Arising Paper (Item 7c).</p>	
<p>4. Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT.</p>	
<p>5. County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report. 2nd Homes Council Tax Premium: From 1 April 2025 a 100% Council Tax Premium is to be applied and payable in addition to the standard Council Tax liability in respect of "2nd Home" dwellings. NCC will write to second homeowners to notify of the charge. NCC Winter Services Team: NCC are ready and prepared to keep roads clear and people safe, no matter the conditions with a 28-vehicle fleet equipped to handle any weather challenges. Spreaders and ploughs are fitted to 4x4 vehicles, strategically positioned around the county to respond to reports in areas which are difficult to</p>	

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	<p>access for larger vehicles. If you require gritting support or need to report an issue, you can do this via: https://nland.uk/grit</p> <p>A network of community spaces will open across Northumberland during the winter months so people can come together in a warm, safe and welcoming environment. Voluntary groups, community organisations and others from our communities have opened up the warm spaces in venues such as community centres, church halls, libraries and community hubs. For more information go to: nland.cc/Warmospace</p> <p>Latest Met Office forecasts are available at bit.ly/WxWarning Other useful numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCC out-of-hours service: 0345 600 6400 • Northern Powergrid https://northernpowergrid.pulse.ly/xde9rflr4 or call 105. • One Call (concerns about vulnerable residents/safeguarding issues): 01670 36400. <p>Street Lighting for Ryelea, Longhoughton: temporary lighting has been installed whilst a permanent fix is carried out.</p> <p>Boulmer Car Parks: WP advised the PC should write to enquire as to progress on both car parks. The latest WP was aware is that the planning application for the new car park next to the Memorial Hall is in progress and that talks are in place for NCC to take over management of the existing car park from the PC. It was agreed a letter to be sent to both the Chief Executive and Leader of NCC to strongly express disappointment at the length of time this has all taken. WP suggested the PC took the opportunity to complain about the enforcement of planning conditions at Chancel Place at the same time. AH to draft a letter or letters with all the details.</p> <p>Lacey Street: WP advised that after the 4th time of erecting the CCTV camera, NCC Highways have analysed the footage and come back with the same result: that the parking is primarily resident parking apart from those visiting the Running Fox and parking at the very top of the street. WP suggested if the PC and/or Lacey Street residents are still feeling unhappy with this conclusion, then an independent traffic consultant can be employed to look at this situation and report their own findings. The cost of employing someone would be approximately £2k. Otherwise, if the PC/residents feel this information is incorrect, they can make a formal complaint via complaints@northumberland.gov.uk AH expressed frustration at NCC Highways for having to keep request the results of each CCTV footage on each of the 4 occasions.</p>	<p>AH/ET</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: CG volunteered to assume responsibility for monthly checks and reported all was currently ok.</p>	<p>CG</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a) NCC Precept 2025-26: a report had been previously circulated. The PC reviewed the proposed budget for 2025/26 and expected income and expenditure. It was agreed to raise the precept by 10% to £29,478. Proposed PB, 2nd PM, all agreed. It was noted that the parish has approximately 5% of 2nd homes.</p> <p>b) Parish Council Vacancies: it was noted that the PC has currently 3 vacancies (one in each ward) and that the PC can co-opt at any stage any suitable volunteer between now and the elections in May, when all Parish Councillors will need to apply to be re-elected. ET to send out full details on the process when received from NCC.</p> <p>c) Chair's Matters Arising Paper (AH had been previously circulated a report)</p> <p>VMS Signs: the quotation for a new VMS Sign to be located within the incoming 30mph zone at Longbank Farm has come in at £6,505.20 from Westcotec (via NCC Highways). The quote includes: BT date collection; installation and a 80watt solar kit and a 6 year warrantee. The PC can recover £1,084.20 VAT which reduces the price to £5,421.00. A post will also be required to be installed by NCC which will cost circa £550. PM/PB have already met with NCC Highways and confirmed agreed the sign location. Proposed PM, 2nd CG. All agreed. ET to progress. ET has also received details of the VMS sign installed on Station Road to add to the PC insurance cover.</p>	<p>ET</p>

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<p>Community Garden Furniture: The Community Gardening Group (LCG) had made a request that the PC include on its insurance several planters, benches and other items. Gill Bromley, Chair of LCG confirmed the items to be added as follows: 3 x rustic benches £414 (£138 each) south, middle and north village 1 backless bench £114 down beach road 1 shed £336 in the churchyard 10 x timber planters £960 (£96 each) 4 at village green, 4 near old peoples cottages, 2 Boulmer road entrance 2 x terracotta pots £60 (£30 each) outside co op 1 whisky barrel £30 in recess outside churchyard The condition of the above items are very good and are mostly under two years old. LCG would not expect the PC to automatically replace these items and could continue to apply for funding yearly as we do already. It was agreed that these are public village assets, used by Longhoughton residents and should be regarded as such and therefore the PC to assume responsibility for their inspection and ongoing maintenance. Proposed PM, 2nd CG. All agreed. ET to write to LCG to confirm and add to PC insurance</p> <p>Meeting with David Smith MP: AH, PB, BE, CT and PM attended the meeting held on 10/1/25. The objective for this meeting was: the PC has a very high level of understanding of local issues and what needs to be done but the PC is stymied by the lack of joined up thinking and lack of finance to do things ourselves and would like David's help in solving. Prior to the meeting, David had been sent a short introduction to the Parish and PC's activities. The meeting started by an introduction to Councillors covering experience and skills which led to the PC's programme of improvement for the residents. The setting of the Parish was covered and the methods that we use for two-way communications plus the names of some key partners and projects. There was an open discussion on the work of the PC touching on the Neighbourhood Plan, housing and affordable housing, traffic, speed and parking issues, greenways development and public transport including the better use of the East Coast Main Line. The benefits and drawbacks of half the Parish being within a National Landscape was also mentioned. Emphasis was made that with only a precept of £27,000 there is little that the PC can do in implementing large projects and it is essential that we work with key partners. However, that often leads to a clash of priorities for we are one of 140 PCs in Northumberland and this does lead to a feeling of frustration and being stymied. David offered his help should we need it. The PC emphasised that having moved to a unitary authority in 2009 has caused much greater responsibility falling to PC and this should be reviewed especially when it is the Government's intention to move the other Shire counties from three tier to two tier. Finally, the need to review certain aspects of PC legislation was discussed especially the ability to hold meeting with some members attending virtually. David to submit a question on PC procedures at the next Prime Minister's Question time.</p> <p>Liaison Meetings: Quarries Liaison: Next meeting 21/2/25. Police Liaison: Meeting held 11/12/24 - Minutes had been circulated to the PC. RAF Liaison: Last meeting 30/10/24 - Next meeting due to be fixed.</p> <p>Beach Road Longhoughton: The PCs request for 20mph limit on this road has been rejected by NCC Highways.</p> <p>NHS Health Checks: Further session to be arranged in February.</p> <p>Wellbeing Walks: Commenced on 8/1/25. 10 participants attended plus 3 leaders.</p> <p>PC Ways of Working: HH to circulate the report from 23/9/24.</p> <p>Gifts at Christmas: 57 gifts were given out. Thank you for those who helped to compile the list of those to receive gifts.</p>	<p>ET</p> <p>HH</p>
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	<p>Thursday Together: LCSCT has been awarded a grant of £1,020 by the Ballinger Trust to run the weekly Thursday Together s sessions through to the end of March the grant is to cover the accommodation hire fees and a contribution to the cost of food. The PC is no longer required to contribute to room hire costs.</p> <p>Community Event in 2025: A meeting of community organisations in Longhoughton was held on 13/1/25. There was a long discussion on what type of event would appeal to residents. Most were enthusiastic about having an event aimed at bringing the community together. There were a number of ideas discussed and particularly what would enthuse different age groups. The budget was not seen to be a major obstacle but an application would be made the Mayor’s fund. A number of ideas were put forward but no decisions made. All agreed that the big issue is finding volunteers. Agreed that an article would be included in the Newsletter outlining the event and asking for volunteers and only if a sufficient number are found will the event go-ahead.</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding: AH reported this is now moving towards being signed by the three parties – RAF Boulmer, LC&SCT and the PC.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion (all reports had been previously circulated by AH/PB)</p> <p>a) Neighbourhood Plan Update: The minutes of the joint meeting of the PC and NDP Steering Group of 19/12/24 were reviewed and approved as a correct record. Proposed PM, 2nd CG. All agreed. AH signed the minutes. A copy to be held by both the PC and the NDP Steering Group. It was noted that at the meeting the submission plan, which had been amended following the consultation, was approved. It was noted that next steps are for the submission plan to go to NCC for evaluation. Jo-Anne Garrick the Planning Consultant was working on the background papers. Once submitted to NCC, they would carry out a further consultation before it was sent to the Inspector and then taken to a referendum. PB also reported on a meeting held with N’land Estates and NCC Community Housing in which opportunities for community housing were discussed. A scheme for both Boulmer and Longhoughton was considered viable and NCC Community Housing Team to take this forward with N’land Estates.</p> <p>b) Longhoughton Update: A meeting with N’land Estates re the possibility of a community site at Pondfield, Longhoughton is to take place on 18/2/25.</p> <p>Boulmer Update: AH reported that dog fouling has become a problem particularly around the car park. This is an annual problem in winter when it gets dark. An article to be posted in the newsletter and on Facebook. AH to also put notes on cars in the car park reminding all dog owners to clean up after their dog.</p> <p>Howick Update: No further updates.</p> <p>c) Speed Watch Team 1st Year Report: PM had previously circulated a report. Since Speed Watch started in Dec 2023, 24 Community Speed Watch (CSW) have taken place during which 1,443 cars have been recorded and 310 reported for speeding. If anyone would like to join the group, please contact PM. The PC extended their thanks to the team who are definitely having an impact on the speed at which vehicles travel through our village making it a safer place to live. AH asked for a Speed Watch check in the Boulmer 30mph zone on the road to Lesbury.</p> <p>d) Mayor’s Transport Strategy: AH had circulated a suggested response which was unanimously agreed and which flagged the importance to consider the needs of those living in rural areas.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) NCC – 3 Extra Grass Cuts - £845.71 – the value of these additional cuts were reviewed (a resident in Boulmer had queried their value) but they was considered of benefit to the community and agreed. Proposed CG, 2nd PM, All agreed.</p> <p>b) N’land Estates – Rent Agreement re Land at Boulmer Links - £10 p/a – no rent increase - noted</p>	<p>ET</p>

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	<p>c) Catherine Archbold – request for Grit Bin – Littlehoughton – it was noted that this request had been rejected by NCC as it did not meet their grit bin criteria. After discussion, it was agreed the solution the PC should offer is for the residents to order and have delivered a grit bin and salt/grit (these can be purchased relatively inexpensively from a number of different providers: ESE Direct, Gritbins.net, Roadware UK, Manutan, MKM, Jewson's, etc._. The PC to reimburse the residents for this purchase upon production of an invoice/receipt(s) up to a maximum value of £250. This would mean that residents are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the grit bin, spreading of grit, etc. If the residents find that £250 does not cover the costs, they are to be asked to get back in touch with a quote of what the costs will be so the PC can certainly review that figure. ET to reply to enquire if this is an acceptable and agreeable solution. Proposed CG, 2nd PM. All agreed.</p> <p>d) Rhoda Foote - Copy of LAA Insurance/notification new Chair Joanne Coyle – noted.</p> <p>e) Stuart Ramsay – Request for Memorial Bench in Boulmer – AH advised this requested had been declined as there are plenty of benches in Boulmer and no further benches were needed.</p> <p>f) Wg Cdr Charlotte Best, RAF Boulmer re Afhhan Scheme - noted</p> <p>g) NCC - Flooding - Longhoughton to Boulmer Road – ET/AH had been liaising with NCC Highways who were now investigating the issue.</p> <p>h) NCC - Introduction to the Wheeled Action Sports Strategic Document - noted</p> <p>i) NCC – Thriving Together Newsletter November #2 & December / Climate Meeting 22/1/24 / Com-munity Resilience Forums / New NPF & Neighbourhood Plans / Cycling Campaign – all noted.</p> <p>j) NALC – Open Letter to Parish & Town Councils - noted</p>	<p>ET</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Parish Financial Matters:</p> <p>a) Groundwork (NDP Grant) - £3,850 – CREDIT - noted</p> <p>b) LCSCT (Room Hire Quarry Liaison 8/11/24 £15, Nov AMG Prescriptions £64, Affordable Housing £10, Aug AMG Prescriptions £72 and Xmas Gifts for Elderly £100) – £261 PAID - noted</p> <p>c) Community Centre (Grant - Children’s Christmas Party) - £100 – PAID - noted</p> <p>d) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter £245 and Walking Group £80) - £325 – PAID - noted</p> <p>e) Multiutilis (Remove Bench Boulmer) - £41.25 – PAID - noted</p> <p>f) MySoft (NDP Website) - £240 – PAID – noted</p> <p>g) LCSCT (NDP £15 and Dec AMG Prescriptions £56) - £71 - agreed</p> <p>h) Clerk (January Wages) - £465.35 - agreed</p> <p>i) HMRC (January PAYE) - £109.20 - agreed</p> <p>j) Microsoft Office (Annual Subs) - £19.99 - agreed</p> <p>k) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £50.40 - agreed</p> <p>l) Requests for Financial Assistance from Community/Local Organisations. It was agreed to award as follows: Longhoughton Community Gardeners £434; Citizen Advice Bureau £100, GNAA £100, Hospice Care £100, Bailiffgate Museum £50. SS Peter & Paul to receive the usual budgeted £950 grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Proposed CG, 2nd PM. All agreed.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/03840/FUL - Proposed single storey outbuilding for garden office/shed - The Byre Seaton Point Steading, Boulmer, NE66 3BH – no objections 	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date for April meeting to be moved to Mon 14 April 2025 to avoid Easter Monday. 	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm – Monday 17 February – LCSCT Westfield Park</p>	<p>ALL</p>

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

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