



At 6.30pm prior to the Monthly Parish Council Meeting, a meeting was held with Robin McCartney from Northumberland County Council. Please see Appendix A for these meeting minutes.

The Monthly Parish Council Meeting of Longhoughton Parish Council was held this evening at Howick Village Hall at 7.35pm.

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

In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), Robin McCartney (RMcC), Highways Officer, NCC (Item 1), Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) & 1 member of public (Public Questions).

Abbreviations Used in Minutes:

PC – Parish Council; NCC – N’land County Council; NALC – N’land Association of Local Councils
 LCST – 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: Tree Planting at Chancel Place: Ian Davison enquired as to progress and noted that WP had seen Rob Murfin earlier in the day and he had agreed to take this up with Story Homes. RMcC will also raise this request with Rob Murfin.</p>	
<p>1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Thomas (CT) and Laura Rowberry (LR) (RAF Representative).</p>	
<p>2. Elanor Johnson (EJ), N’land Coast National Landscape (NL) - Visitor Access & Interpretation Project Update EJ introduced the Visitor Access and Interpretation Project – 2 year project focused on new interpretation/signage and on planning for projects to support sustainable and active travel in communities along the coast, for residents and visitors alike, funded by UK government and North East Combined Authority. A new Interpretation Plan has been developed for the NL setting out themes, messages, and style/design aspirations. This is a resource for all to use and will be shared with PCs and others in April. In addition, new signage installed in four settlements and new website developed. Please contact EJ for more information or support with any new interpretation. The next part of project is developing Travel and Access Action Plans for 10 settlements along the coast, considering challenges and opportunities relating to travel, access and interpretation, with focus on sustainable and active travel, and setting out detailed plans for projects to address the challenges. This work will build on the National Landscape Visitor Travel Strategy 2023 and work done by communities already including neighbourhood plans. 45 projects will be developed with community input and be of various scales and scope. They will focus on the following areas: public transport; active travel; travel infrastructure and facilities; public realm improvements; footpath, cycle, and greenway routes (creation of new, improvements to existing, linkages); welcome, orientation and interpretation signage (including assessment and removal of street clutter); and access/access for all improvements. Over coming months, EJ will be mapping potential projects, speaking with community representatives and groups, and appraising options. Open drop-in sessions for all to share ideas will be held in community venues in coming months, or individuals should get in touch with EJ via info@northumberlandcoast-nl.org.uk EJ also asked for volunteers from each PC to create a sub-group to look at the ideas put forward. EJ also enquired about who else within the parish NL should speak to. PB advised PRoW would be an easy win. CG asked for more better bus timetables. ALL PC to consider projects and put them forward to NL for consideration. To be discussed again at April PC meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



3.	<p>Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17 February 2025. The minutes were approved as a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p>Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT.</p>	
5.	<p>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report. Changes to the Alwick Outreach Service - (Mobile Post Office Van): Due to low customer usage the mobile services will cease to operate in some villages. This will impact the current opening hours to the Mobile services at Lesbury and Longhoughton. New times: Longhoughton – Tuesday 3.15pm-3.45pm (Co-Op Car Park) and Lesbury - Wednesday 3.30pm-4.15pm (Community Shop Car Park). Northumberland Frontline: A community project which helps the public find details on local health/wellbeing services. T: 01799 618855, E: info@frontlinereferrals.org.uk, W: northumberlandfrontline.org.uk Healthwatch Northumberland: Your local health and social care champion. If you use GP services, hospitals, dentists, pharmacies, care homes, mental health or other support services in your area, we want to hear about your experiences. Write to Healthwatch Northumberland, Adapt (NE) Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland. NE46 3HN. T: 03332 408 468 E: info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk Freedom of N'land: NCC have given footballer Dan Burn the Freedom of N'land. Howick Road Repairs: WP advised a request had been submitted to NCC Highways to repair the road from Longhoughton to Howick and through Howick Village. The road was broken up, had many pot holes and was in need of repair and re-surfacing but any works would need to wait until the new financial year. WP asked the PC to write to NCC to show support for the works to be done.</p>	<p>ET CG</p>
6.	<p>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: CG confirmed all ok.</p>	<p>CG</p>
7.	<p>Matters Arising a) Chair's Matters Arising Paper (AH had been previously circulated a report) Tree Planting at Chancel Place: Discussed in meeting with Robin McCartney of NCC Highways (see below). Mud on the Road outside the Quarry: AH had previously raised this with the Quarry and had added it to the agenda item for the Quarry Liaison Meeting held on 7/3/25. Two further complaints followed from Jules Tilley and Rob Wildsmith. See item 7c) below. One Way Street Burnside: Discussed above in meeting with Robin McCartney of NCC Highways (see below). Worm Digging at Boulmer: AH/WP to attend the NIFCA Board meeting on 28.04.25. AH has written to the CEO of NIFCA. Boulmer Car Parks: Discussed above in meeting with Robin McCartney of NCC Highways (see below). Wellbeing Walks – Still progressing. Poor weather has reduced the numbers attending. One more volunteer has been trained as a walk's leader. Thursday Together: From April the programme is moving to one meeting per month until November. Parish Council Ways of Working: AH/HH to work together on the minutes from the meeting held on 23/9/24 and next steps. Community Event 2025: The application to the Mayor's Opportunity Fund was rejected. The NCC VE80 fund application outcome is pending. Once notified, a plan on next steps can be put together. The event date will be either 6/7/25 or 7/7/25. [NB: post meeting – the application to NCC for £250 has also been turned down.] Dog Fouling – AH had received a complaint from Longhoughton about dog fouling. An article to be put in April Newsletter. ET advised that dog fouling can be reported on NCC's website and the NCC dog warden will come out and patrol to enforce dog</p>	<p>AH/HH</p>

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



<p>control orders and issue fines if serial offenders are reported. Times/dates/breed of dog are useful information to log and pass on. Visit: www.northumberland.gov.uk and click on "Report a Problem" and follow the links or call 0345 600 6400</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Grit Bin for Littlehoughton: AH advised the residents have placed the bin in a slightly different position to what was agreed. This was accepted and noted.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>NCC Open Spaces Consultation: AH had reviewed the consultation and considered that there was nothing to respond on. There are some deficiencies identified for Longhoughton. AH would circulate the main points from the Consultation.</p>	
<p>NCC Wheeled Action Sports Consultation: AH had responded to this for the PC.</p>	
<p>b) Elections – May 2025</p>	
<p>ET had circulated the details about procedure and arrangements for the forthcoming Parish Council Elections in Northumberland on 1 May 2025 and the recording/information pack from the NCC online briefing held on Teams at 6pm on 3 March. All current councillors officially retire on 6 May 2025. Nomination Application forms were handed out. Proposer and seconder must be on the electoral role (ie be registered to vote). ET still hasn't received the March Register of Electors from NCC. Parish Councillors to call the elections telephone number to get the polling district number and electoral role number for their proposer and seconders. Elections Helpline: 01670 624811. This is also the number to call to book an appointment to get your nomination paper checked. Nomination papers must be delivered in to NCC by hand. The dates when this can be done and the address are below. 24 March, 25 March, 26 March, 27 March, 28 March, 31 March, 01 April. Delivery to Alnwick - Lindisfarne Centre Lindisfarne Road, Alnwick, NE66 1AU. It was noted that CT and BE would not be standing for election.</p>	
<p>c) Quarry Liaison Meeting Minutes – 7/3/25</p>	
<p>AH had previously circulated the minutes. Kevin Tipple, Senior Planning Officer, NCC advised Alex Guy had conducted a monitoring visit to the Quarry on 28/2/25. There were no new operational issues that had been identified from the visit. Kevin and Alex had been sent a copy of the emails of complaint from Jules Tilley and Rob Wildsmith, which had been discussed with the Quarry Site Manager. The condition of the site access road and wheel wash facilities were checked during the visit. The Quarry Manager would consider bringing back the old sheep dip wheel wash as a pre-wash for lorries coming out of the quarry. The access gates had also been widened to avoid mud contamination. The NCC road sweeper had broken down recently and had not been available for 8 consecutive days which had exacerbated the problem. The double broken white lines across the entrance to the Quarry site have become obliterated by mud. Requests to be made to NCC to renew these lines for they are an essential part of guiding motorists around the bend when coming for Denwick to Longhoughton. It was noted that 2 planning application are being compiled: an extension to the Eastern Quarry (likely submission date May 2025) for a period of 3 years and follows the scoping report in 2024. This is a significant extension of the quarry and it was noted the PC asked for a public meeting/drop in event for the proposals to be put before the residents. The 2nd planning application is for the restoration of the Western Quarry. (likely submission date end of 2025). It was noted restoration could take 10-15 years. The PC considered pushing for the restoration application to be given a higher priority and that may form part of the PC's feedback to any application to the Eastern Quarry. There was also a query raised about how the Western Quarry could be accessed if the Eastern Quarry was being mined. WP referenced social enterprise and the local community had taken over ownership of the disused quarry for it to become a nature reserve elsewhere. This could be something Longhoughton could consider. AH flagged that the water just below the lower quarry entrance was forming a large pool on the carriageway. This was extremely dangerous</p>	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	<p>because vehicles were swerving to avoid the water and crossing onto the wrong side of the road. WP advised an investigation by NCC revealed that one of the drainage pipes was blocked which is why the water was unable to drain away. This would be major, expensive works to repair. AH flagged it as a road safety issue that required urgent attention by NCC.</p> <p>d) Police Liaison Meeting Minutes – 11/3/25 AH had previously circulated the minutes. It was noted that recent Speedwatch Schemes had seen a noticeable reduction in the number of vehicles speeding. The Speedwatch team has been reduced recently to 2 persons. A 3rd resident has volunteered but will need to go through the Police approvals process. The Police confirmed the process for the issue of letters after a vehicle has been reported for speeding: on 1st and 2nd first report a letter is sent. On 3rd report a call is made to the property provided it is within the area of the Northumbria Force. Letters are sent to addresses in other Forces areas. PM had requested Police Speed Warning posters to put up around the parish. The Police to check and advise if available. Vandalism appears to be no longer proving a problem with no reports made. This was welcomed. A possible contributor to this change is the successful launch of the Youth Club. Information on a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was featured in the October 2024 Newsletter but no residents had responded.</p> <p>e) RAF Liaison Meeting Minutes – 18/2/25 AH had previously circulated the minutes. The Memorandum of Understanding with RAF Families Centre, LC&SCT and PC was now signed by all parties and in place.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion (all reports had been previously circulated by AH/PB)</p> <p>a) Neighbourhood Plan Update: AH advised the submission plan had been sent to NCC on 13/3/25. A total of 20 documents had been sent which were now being assessed by NCC. NCC will then carry out a further consultation before the plan is sent to the Inspector and then taken to a referendum.</p> <p>b) Longhoughton Update: PB advised that N'land Estates had, for the time being, withdrawn the possibility of a community site at Pondfield, Longhoughton. Concern was raised about the appearance of the site and could this at least be tidied up whilst N'land Estates decided what to do next. PMcE reported Speedwatch had been carried out at South End (60 counters - no speeders), North End (153 counters – 1 speeder) and Boulmer Road (53 counters – 13 speeders). AH advised the PC's agreement to fund the room hire for the AMG prescriptions service was coming to an end. The service was being well-used. The PC agreed to pay the room hire for another 6 months. All agreed.</p> <p>Boulmer Update: WP advised the double yellow lines in the village would be refreshed in April as there were no funds available to do the works before then. WP reported that Bowmere road entrance had been resurfaced.</p> <p>Howick Update: No further updates.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) Paul Jones, NCC – Boulmer Car Parks. This was in response to the PC's letter of 29/1/25 requesting an update on progress on the Boulmer Car Parks. Discussed in meeting with Robin McCartney of NCC Highways (see below).</p> <p>b) NCC – Nomination Details for May 2025 Parish Council Elections – noted and circulated to the PC. See item 7b) above.</p> <p>c) N'land Coast National Landscape – "The Nature of the N'land Coast" – 1/4/25 1pm, Fenham Farm - noted</p>	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



	<p>d) N'land Coast National Landscape Partnership Meeting Minutes - 4/3/25 – noted. AH advised there would be an election for 2 representatives to cover the 16 PC's in the Partnership. AH to apply to be representative for the 8 Southern PCs again.</p> <p>e) NCC – Thriving Together Newsletter Feb # 2 and March #1 - noted</p> <p>f) Jules Tiley – Station Road Mud - Discussed in meeting with Robin McCartney of NCC Highways (see below).</p> <p>g) Robert Wildsmith – Station Road Mud – As 9f) above. Robert also attended the Quarry Liaison Meeting on 7/3/25.</p> <p>h) Healthwatch Northumberland – Annual Survey 2025 - circulated and each PC to respond individually.</p> <p>i) NCC – Mobile Phone Coverage Survey - noted</p> <p>j) LCSCT – Request for a copy of the PC's Safeguarding Policy. It was noted the PC does not have a policy. ET contacted NALC but they don't have a template that could be adopted and instead sent a link to the Knutsford Town Council policy. AH reviewed and feels there are aspects that are not appropriate to a small PC and it is 10 years old. CG to send a copy of Shak's Safe Guarding Policy which was a simple 1-page policy that could be adopted by the PC.</p> <p>k) NCC – Community Conversation supporting Nature in Green Spaces - circulated and each PC to respond individually.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>CG</p> <p>ALL</p>
10.	<p>Parish Financial Matters:</p> <p>a) Requests for Financial Assistance from Community/Local Organisations (Longhoughton Heritage Group - £180 and Longhoughton Children's Easter Party - £100). Both grant requests approved – all agreed.</p> <p>b) Jo-Anne Garrick (NDP) - £3,960 – PAID - noted</p> <p>c) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £245 – PAID - noted</p> <p>d) Longhoughton Heritage Group (Grant) - £239.85 – PAID (£4.80 overspent) - noted</p> <p>e) Clerk (Wages) - £465.55 - agreed</p> <p>f) HMRC (PAYE) - £109.00 - agreed</p> <p>g) LCSCT (Room Hire - Police Mtg £10 and Feb AMG Prescriptions - £64, Police Mtg £10, Wellbeing Mt £10 and Quarry Liaison Mtg £15) - £109 - agreed</p> <p>h) N'land Estates (Half Yearly Rent Playing Field, Longhoughton) - £65 – agreed</p> <p>i) Groundwork NE (Return of NDP Grant Unspent by 31/3/25) - £550 - agreed</p>	
11.	<p>Plans: None received.</p>	
12.	<p>Matters for Information/Next Agenda: None arising</p>	
13.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm – Monday 14 April – Boulmer Memorial Hall</p>	<p>ALL</p>

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

APPENDIX A

Notes of meeting between Longhoughton Parish Council and Robin McCartney of NCC on Monday 17 March 2025 prior to the Monthly Parish Council Meeting.

Present: Adrian Hinchcliffe (Chair) (AH); Peter Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB); Bryan Ellis (BE), Carole Green (CG), Hannah Horsley (HH), Peter McEwen (PM) and County Councillor Wendy Pattison (WP)
Present from NCC: Robin McCartney (RMcC); Apologies: Chris Thomas; Liz Taylor

1. Introduction.

The meeting started at 18:35.

AH briefly reminded everyone of the background to the meeting. The PC has had a number of long running issues with the NCC that have remained unresolved for several years. The meeting was an attempt to better understand the reasons for this and try to resolve them. Initially the invitation had gone out to the Leader of the Council, who had initially accepted, then to the Chief Executive, then Director Paul Jones. RMcC was therefore representing the wider NCC. AH stressed there are a large number of issues, where the PC and NCC interface, that are handled effectively and efficiently. The cases being discussed were therefore not wholly indicative of the overall situation.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



2. Proposed new carpark at Boulmer.

The PC had been advised in writing by Director Paul Jones that the agreed planning application would be ready by the end of May 2025. This was confirmed by RMcC and is welcomed as the need for the application has been known for many years. However, AH raised the concern that the planning application is now being prepared by NCC without the proper input from the community on the community benefits which were amongst the main considerations. This also applied to possible mitigation measures. RMcC felt these concerns had been fed into the design team and the main concern about the proposed new car park was the environmental impact. AH said that NCC had issued a pre-planning application in 2022 but this was confidential and had not been sent to the Parish Council for comment on the community benefits. It is understood that the County Ecologist and the AONB were against the proposal but no case had been put for the community benefits and possible mitigation measures. BE raised the wider point about how NCC balances conflicting policies within its own organisation, of which this was a case. The PC agreed that this was an underlying issue to many of the items that were being discussed. RMcC agreed that this was often the root cause of many delays.

Action: RMcC to feed the PC concerns to design team and for the Community to be given an opportunity to feed into the application.

3. Existing car park at Boulmer.

It had been reported to the PC in September 2024 by RMcC that work to takeover the car park was “imminent” but six months on we are still waiting. RMcC said the slow progress in negotiating the lease with Northumberland Estates was the problem. Additionally, the infrastructure for the new car park had been ordered and was available, but this could not be installed without the relevant TRO being in place. The final completion would be eight weeks from the last correspondence with the Highways Team. AH pointed out that the lease was relinquished by the PC in September, 2024 so their insurance was no longer in place and that the surface needed to be repaired again. RMcC said that until the new lease was signed by NCC, this was an issue for Northumberland Estates.

4. Beach Road.

AH raised again the question as to why Beach Road is not classed as a ‘Quiet Lane’ or equivalent. Many other shire counties have adopted this standard. In parts of Scotland they are known as ‘Cycling and Walking Friendly Roads’ with a 20mph limit. All that the PC has been told is that NCC are not prepared to accept this standard but we have not been given the reason why. RMcC said that the road is not a road safety concern, which is the underlying reason why there is not felt to be a need for any further intervention on the road. The PC is concerned that the road remains a 60mph limit and if Quiet Lane (or equivalent) status is not available would like it to be part of the village 20mph zone and we have asked for this through our LTP request. This raised the question as to why, if the community is in favour of such a move, why NCC cannot implement this. RMcC said that the root cause is, again, differing policies, but NCC will not put in the infrastructure for Beach Road to be acknowledged as a Quiet Lane.

The PC asked whether the PC could consider paying for the necessary signage and publicity, because at the moment the PC was unable to make any progress because NCC was only saying what could not be done, not what was possible. AH reminded RMcC that there were also health and well-being benefits to designation as it would allow safer and more regular safe walking, jogging, running and cycling along the lane. This was a policy that NCC supported.

Actions: RMcC agreed to check the criteria for Quiet Lanes (or equivalent) and come back to the PC. RMcC to confirm whether it is possible for the PC to pay for the establishment of a Quiet Lane (or equivalent) and a rough estimate of costs.

5. Burnside One-way system.

The one-way system at Burnside is still not completely effective; there are still drivers going through the no-entry access and the PC is receiving complaints from residents about this. These drivers are mostly heading for football tournaments at the Community and Sports Centre. It was RMcC’s belief that people who are doing so are not doing it accidentally. The PC however still believes that the road signs can be made more visible on the approaches to the road. The problem is that the no-entry signs cannot be seen when approaching on the B1339 from the south due to a high hedge. AH gave RMcC a photograph of the approach from the south with a suggestion that a ‘No left turn’ sign could be installed on a pole on

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



the left hand side of the road close to a telegraph pole which is approximately 10 metres before the junction. This would be far more effective than the 'no-left turn entry sign that has been fixed to a street light on the right hand side the road. There is no problem when turning right off the B1339 when coming from the north because the no-entry signs are fully visible.

Action: RMcC to check with roads team to see if a no-left turn sign on a pole can be fixed in the location suggested by AH.

6. Neighbourhood Plan.

The NP has gone to NCC for submission. There are several issues in the plan that will need discussion with various departments, most immediately the proposals for the former recreation field, where a small car-park is proposed.

Action: RMcC agreed to a meeting in the near future to discuss the principles of the car-park.

7. Highways Planning.

PB re-affirmed the PC's wish to tackle the issues of speeding and traffic safety, but within the regional and national guidelines and best practice. That is why they commissioned a traffic plan with NCC. However, after several years, nothing in the plan has taken place, partly because of delays associated with the development of the National Landscape Design Guide. The result is that nothing has been implemented at Longhoughton that was in either the Highways Plan or the NL Design Guide.

RMcC said that this was partly to do with resources, partly to do with priorities and partly to do with different policy guidelines. The PC again reiterated that this was the broader point behind the need for the discussion; the PC is stymied in being told what it cannot do, but not what it can or might do.

Action: RMcC to revisit the Highways Plan and also the National Landscape Design Guide.

8. Planning conditions on Chancel Place.

The planting conditions for the development at Chancel Place have still not been undertaken to the correct standard. This has been on-going for several years and the PC has received a number of complaints. The PC has also received differing responses from NCC, a recent one being that there is no enforcement possible because of the wording of the original conditions. The PC has sent a letter of complaint about this to the NCC Director of Planning Rob Murfin. A response was received to say that enforcement action would be started but there seemed to be no link with the earlier correspondence saying that enforcement action was not possible. This situation had caused further confusion. However, WP said that she had spoken to Rob Murfin earlier that day and he was going to hold a meeting with Story Homes about this situation. The PC also mentioned that this was a particular case, but there are other situations both on Chancel Place and elsewhere that planning conditions have not been adhered to or they have not been followed up. For example, there are other elements of the Chancel Place landscape such as the width of paths and routes that are not as designed. This again is a wider issue and the PC needs to have clear and open communications with the Planning Authority to ensure issues do not arise or, if they do, they are resolved quickly.

Action: RMcC to relate message back to the Director of Planning (Rob Murfin) with a request from LPC for RM to contact Story Homes on this long outstanding issue.

9. Communications.

The PC acknowledged that communications with all PC's in Northumberland will be difficult for NCC; there are around 140. Longhoughton PC has shown itself to be forward looking and willing to work with all the relevant agencies, including NCC. Therefore, there is a need to engage openly and transparently on all the issues that the PC raises, to be kept informed of developments and for matters to move at a reasonable pace towards a resolution. This is acknowledged by NCC.

10. Thanks.

AH thanked RMcC for attending and agreeing to take forward the issues as discussed. He also invited RMcC to stay for a presentation about access and interpretation in the National Landscape as the tension between policies of the NL and other departments in NCC were sometimes at the root of confusion or complexity. RMcC agreed to stay for the presentation.

The meeting ended at 7:35pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____