



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

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

In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) (Annual Parish Meeting only), Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) & 16 member of public.

Abbreviations Used in Minutes:

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

Annual Parish Meeting		
1.	<p>Cllr Adrian Hinchcliffe – Chairman’s Annual Report</p> <p>A copy of the report was circulated to all present at the meeting and AH advised a copy would be available on the PC website and with the next Newsletter. The report gave a brief summary of the range of projects/activities the PC has been involved in over the past year. Thanks were given to all who help and contribute to the working of the PC.</p>	
2.	<p>Members of the Public/Community Organisations Questions/Representations</p> <p>Glass & Food Recycling: Paula McEwan enquired when NCC would introduce the kerbside food and glass recycling. WP advised NCC was a hung council since the election and until a council is formed, then no decisions/budgets can be allocated to services and that NCC being a rural sparse county, funding would be required from Central Government. This was contrary to the information Dr Wendy Fail had given at an LCSCCT Thursday Together Talk on recycling, where she had advised it would be introduced by April 2025.</p> <p>NDP and Greenways: Natalie Davis expressed concern at the suggestion of a greenway being created behind her house on Springfield and advised she had therefore objected to the NDP. AH advised the NDP policy is simply to get support for the principle of greenways. At the consultation in October 2023 - in response to the question ‘Do you agree with LBH14 which gives support to developments that would improve or extend the walking and cycling network?’ there was 88% support for this. No routes have been set out as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process. If and when the PC do start work on the routes for greenways, there will be an extensive consultation.</p> <p>Overgrown Hedges: Craig Thompson and Anne Brixey complained about overgrown hedges at 1 Burnside and Longhoughton/Boulmer Road Junction, both of which are over grown and impact on visibility. This can be reported by residents on NCC’s Fix My Street https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/ AH confirmed the PC would also report to NCC. It was noted, this was the responsibility of the home owner but if the overgrown hedge was created an obstruction to the footpath or causing a Highways hazard, then NCC could intervene.</p> <p>Parking at Boulmer: Craig Thompson complained that vehicles were being parked on Boulmer main street and was concerned this would get worse when NCC took over the car park and introduced parking charges. AH confirmed the PC had asked NCC to introduce parking restrictions at the same time as the parking charges, but NCC were keen to take a wait and see approach.</p> <p>Worm digging at Boulmer Beach: Craig Thompson attended the NIFCA Board meeting who confirmed digging for personal use was permitted but digging for</p>	AH/ET

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



<p>commercial resale was not. NIFCA to explore the issue of permits with the Police to help enforcement.</p> <p>SS Peter & Paul: Simon Rippon advised cake, coffee and a presentation of thanks was being hosted on 25 May at 10.30am for the retirement of Dr Andrew as Church Warden – all welcome.</p> <p>New Mobile Library: Simon Rippon advised NCC had invested in a new mobile library with full disabled access, which will next be in our area on 22 May as follows: Boulmer at 1.30pm, Longhoughton at 2.15pm and Littlehoughton at 2.50pm.</p> <p>Road Maintenance: Rob Wildsmith complained about co-ordination on works between NCC teams: the white lines in Eastmoor and Eastfield had been re-painted and then the pot holes filled, which meant the lines needed painting again. WP advised these works were carried out by different teams.</p> <p>Quarry Road Condition: Rob Wildsmith complained that over 20 issues had been reported on NCC Fix My Street and that residents shouldn't have to fight so hard with NCC to get problems/issues resolved. AH advised the PC had already flagged with NCC about the need for road markings at the entrance to the quarry and the urgency on getting the drainage issues resolved.</p> <p>Pondfield: Carole Green enquired about why a fence had been put up and also when the stonewall which had been removed would be replaced. AH to pick up with Northumberland Estates. Jeremy Pickard flagged that there will always be a lack of a pond on Pondfield due to the surface water not draining into the suds pond.</p> <p>Campsite: Paula McEwan enquired if the PC could help resolve the SatNav problems with visitors being directed to Springfield instead of the campsite on Boulmer Road. WP advised to get in touch with Google Maps direct.</p> <p>Quarry Planning Application: Leanne Pickard enquired when the quarry planning application would be submitted. AH advised nothing had been received through from NCC Planning yet but that he had requested Longhoughton Quarry deliver presentation to the PC (which the public would be invited to attend).</p> <p>Thank You: Jeremy Pickard wished to extend his thanks to the PC for undertaking a number of valuable community projects, notably: the Howick Burn Bridge and facilitating the prescription collection service for AMG.</p> <p>Velux Windows: Peter McEwan flagged an issue with Velux windows installed between 1990-2003 which are imploding and will be replaced free of charge by Velux.</p> <p>Thank You: A thank you was extended to the PC and all volunteers for their commitment and efforts to improving village life and working hard to make Longhoughton, Boulmer and Howick a great place to live, work and stay.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
---	---------------------

9.35pm the Annual Parish meeting ended.

<u>Annual Parish Council Meeting and Monthly Parish Council Meeting</u>	
<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>Members of the Public - Questions: All members of the public and WP left after the Annual Parish Meeting and so there were no further questions.</p>	
<p>1. Election of Chairman: AH was proposed as Chair by HH. 2nd by CG. All agreed. Election of Vice-Chair: PB was proposed as Vice-Chair by HH. 2nd by CG. All agreed. Election of Planning Lead: PB was proposed as Planning Lead by HH. 2nd by CG. All agreed. Co-option of Parish Councillor: Laura Rowberry's application to become a Parish Councillor (as well as RAF representative) on Longhoughton Ward had been circulated</p>	<p>ET</p>

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



	and was considered. It was agreed to co-opt Laura as a valuable new member of the PC. Proposed HH, 2 nd CG, all agreed. ET to notify NCC.	
2.	Apologies for Absence: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) and Laura Rowberry (LR) (RAF Representative).	
3.	Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT.	
4.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025. The minutes were approved as a correct record.	
5.	<p>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report.</p> <p>Alnwick Banking Hub: now open at 32 Bondgate (former N'land Gazette offices). The Hub is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm to pay in and to also take out cash and a Bank representative from each bank will be available on different days of the week.</p> <p>Reporting a Tree Problem: NCC is responsible for the safety and management of trees on its land and on road verges. The safety of trees on private land is the responsibility of the landowner, and for trees in hedgerows, the owner of the hedge. Trees with a potential safety problem should be reported to NCC who will inspect the tree and if it is owned by the council, take necessary steps to neutralise the problem. If the tree is on private land, then NCC will notify the landowner.</p> <p>Mental Health Awareness Week: Mental Health Awareness Week (12-18 May) is an annual event run by the Mental Health Foundation. Being part of a safe, positive community is vital for mental health and wellbeing. Communities can provide a sense of belonging, safety, support in hard times, and give us a sense of purpose. Wellbeing walks are available for residents in Northumberland and are designed to help take the first step towards better health, wellbeing and happiness. To find out more, visit https://www.livingwellnorthumberland.co.uk/increase-physical-activity</p>	
6.	Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: CG confirmed all ok. It was agreed to ask Greenfingers to quote for regular maintenance of the footpath to remove weed (not using weedkiller). Once a month for an hour during May-September was thought to be suffice. ET to contact Greenfingers to see if interested.	CG ET
7.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a) Chair's Matters Arising Paper (AH had been previously circulated a report)</p> <p>N'land Coast National Landscape Visitor Access and Interpretation: The drop-in session held on 6/5/25 went very well and was attended by 21 people over the duration of the session. Some very good issues were raised and discussed. The NCNL team will produce a summary of what was raised at Longhoughton and other locations. The need for public toilets at Longhoughton was mentioned quite frequently.</p> <p>Howick Road Repairs: Further patching has been done. Further complaints have been received. The stretch of road through the trees near the Red House Farm turn needs a complete re-surfacing. WP progressing.</p> <p>Standing Water near Longhoughton Quarry: The dry weather has masked the problem. It needs urgent attention by NCC. PC to write to NCC again.</p> <p>Community Event 2025 Grant Application: The Tyne & Wear Community Foundation has awarded £1,700 to LCSCT for the promotion of the event with conditions. A meeting is being called of all interested parties on 28/5/25 to begin the organisation. At this late stage in the year it looks like the event will take place in September.</p> <p>Planning Application for the extension to Longhoughton Quarry: The Quarry management has been informed that the PC would prefer a presentation on the proposals once the planning application has been issued.</p> <p>Safeguarding Policy: Thank you to CG for forwarding the Alexa's Canine Trust policy. To be reviewed and a proposed policy for the PC to be circulated.</p>	AH AH/ET

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



	<p>PC Elections: There are now 4 vacancies. We need to co-opt suitable people to these vacancies. The PC needs to have 4 Councillors in attendance to be quorate. A letter has been sent to David Baring re the Howick vacancies.</p> <p>Boulmer Car Park Supporting Statement: sent to NCC Highways on 17/5/25. Jo-Anne Garrick was consulted to help the PC put together a professional statement.</p> <p>VMS Sign near Longbank Farm: Now installed.</p> <p>Bird Nuisance in Longhoughton: Outstanding.</p> <p>Tree Planting at Chancel Place: It was noted that the tree planting had suffered in the hot weather and the trees had not been watered. There is concern they may have all died. To be monitored.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion (all reports had been previously circulated by AH/PB)</p> <p>a) Parish Council 4 Year Plan Update: This was circulated with suggested priorities for the PC to concentrate on for the forthcoming year. This will be reviewed at the June meeting. An updated budget had also been circulated and was agreed.</p> <p>b) PC Ways of Working: This item to be picked up again when the new PC is formed at the June meeting.</p> <p>c) Neighbourhood Plan Update: AH advised this was still under consultation until the end of May. Rob Naples, NCC Planning had contacted the PC with 3 options on an NDP Examiner – AH had responded following advice sought from Jo-Anne Garrick. N'land Estates had objected to the NDP re LGS 06. With Jo-Anne Garrick's advice, a suggested amended LGS 06 boundary was to be submitted to NCC with a request that the Examiner considers this change.</p> <p>d) Longhoughton Update: No further updates Boulmer Update: No further updates Howick Update: No further updates</p>	<p>ALL ET</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) NCC – Election Expenses - noted</p> <p>b) NCC – Proposed Off-Street Parking Restrictions, Boulmer – noted.</p> <p>c) David Smith, North Northumberland MP – Updated Office Contact Details - noted</p> <p>d) Val Hodgson – Post Box for North End of Longhoughton Village – AH/ET to respond. It was noted that there already were 2 post boxes in the village one by the Running Fox and one at South End.</p> <p>e) Mark Davison – Affordable Housing and Speedwatch – AH had responded.</p> <p>f) Nicola Tilt – Overflowing Dog Bin at South End – HH/PB both advised the bin was emptied regularly and the occasional time there had been an overflow problem was when it was a BH weekend and the bins were unemptied for a few days longer than usual and heavily used and once recently when the usual operative had been on leave and the route covered and some of the bins had been missed for collection. HH/PB to keep an eye on the situation. AH/ET to respond accordingly.</p> <p>g) NCC Thriving Together April #1 and #2 – noted</p> <p>h) NCC – Love Northumberland Awards 2025 – noted</p> <p>i) Julia Robson, N'land Estates – concern over time delay with handover of Boulmer Car Park – AH to respond.</p> <p>j) Stephen Marker – Concern about blasting at Longhoughton Quarry – AH responded.</p> <p>k) Richard Pearson – Howick Road Repairs – WP had been dealing/liasing on this, the PC had been copied in for info. The road was scheduled for temporary repair to resolve the issue immediately and then permanent repair to be scheduled in by NCC.</p> <p>l) Rob Naples, NCC Planning – Options on NDP Examiner – AH had responded following advice sought from Jo-Anne Garrick.</p>	<p>AH/ET AH/ET AH/ET</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Parish Financial Matters:</p> <p>a) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/25 – Internal audit to be noted and to approve the Annual Governance Statement, draft annual accounts for 2024/2025,</p>	<p>AH/ET</p>

Chairman: _____ Date: _____



	Accounting Statement & Explanation of Variances and to confirm and approve Certification of Exemption - all unanimously approved and signed by AH. b) NCC (Precept) - £14,739 – CREDIT - noted c) Zurich Municipal (Annual Insurance) - £605.17 - agreed d) NALC (Annual Subs) - £431.76 - agreed e) Clerk (Wages) - £465.55 - agreed f) HMRC (£109 PAYE and £19.25 Employers NI) - £128.25 - agreed g) LCSCT (Room Hire AMG) - £72 - agreed h) Jo-Anne Garrick (Professional Fees) - £630 - agreed i) John Wright (Internal Audit) - £120 - agreed	
11.	Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25/01354/FUL – Demolition of existing flat roof rear extension and rebuild to include small corner extension to rear - 10 Bowmere, Boulmer, NE66 3DA – no objection • 25/00810/FUL – 6No dwellings in replacement of barn with extant Class Q for 6No dwellings - Longbank Farm, Longbank Farm Drive, Longhoughton, NE66 3AP – an objection was made. The PC, having listened to the views of residents at the April PC meeting, were still minded that the issues that were raised when NCC refused the previous planning application (20/01918/FUL) and upheld by the Inspector, are still relevant and apply to this application, namely: That the site lies within the open countryside; the proposed dwellings would be physically and visually separate from the village; it would comprise a rural exception site; the development would have a suburban appearance which would be a harmful residential encroachment into the countryside character of the area and would also intrude into the rural and tranquil setting of the National Landscape. It was also agreed that the PC to write to Rob Murfin, Head of Planning at NCC about Class Q applications; it accepts the reasons for not being notified of the application. However, it is important that PCs are aware of these type of applications for they can have significant planning implications in the locality. The PC to suggest that NCC adopts a practice of advising PCs of these applications but on an 'information only basis'. 	
12.	Matters for Information/Next Agenda	
13.	Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm Monday 16 June – Howick Village Hall	ALL

The meeting ended at 10.32pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____