



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), McEwen (PM) and Laura Rowberry (LR) (Parish Councillor and RAF Representative).

In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) and Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET) and 1 member of the public.

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; NCNL – N’land Coast National Landscape.

<u>Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
Members of the Public - Questions: No questions. Michael Nicholls was in attendance and is interested in the PC Vacancy for Longhoughton Ward.	
1. Apologies for Absence: Councillors Green (CG) and Horsley (HH).	
2. Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCST.	
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025. The minutes were approved as a correct record.	
4. County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report. WP advised she was now Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture and Leisure. It was noted that WP was unfortunately no longer able to be a representative on the Northumberland Coast National Landscape despite holding this Cabinet Office position and the majority of her parishes falling within the landscape. Tourism in Northumberland: Northumberland had 10.5million visitors in 2024 with a total economic impact of £1.443 billion in 2024, a 9% increase on 2023 and a 3.2% rise compared to 2019. Direct expenditure stands at £1.071 billion, marking an 8.8% rise on 2023 and 3.1% up on 2019. In 2024, the number of overnight visitors increased by 0.5% on 2023 to 1.863 million with an extension in average length of stay to 4.2 nights. Simultaneously, the county saw a strong uplift in day visitors, with visitor numbers reaching 8.601 million in 2024, representing a 4.1% increase on 2023. Northumberland Archives: the archive service for Northumberland collect records relating to the history of Northumberland and have offices at Berwick-upon-Tweed and Woodhorn, Ashington. The main function of Northumberland Archives is to ensure the preservation of archive documents, photographs and other media relating to the County of Northumberland and to make these available for consultation by the public. Users of this service must register: https://archivescard.com/ Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, QE2 Country Park, Ashington, NE63 9FL Tel: 01670 624358 – E-mail archives@northumberland.gov.uk Grass Cutting: NCC teams cut grass from beginning of April until end of September, depending on the weather. The grass is cut around once every 14 days. NCC cut grass in the following places (depending on land ownership): housing estates, parks, schools, highway verges, open spaces and out-of-town amenities and country lanes. Longhoughton PC has requested and pays for additional grass cuts from NCC as part of an enhanced partnership agreement. These take place during March and October. NCC do not collect grass cuttings, except on plots within elderly people's residential developments. NCC perform weed killing from April to October each year. NCC only use products approved and licensed for amenity use. These products are considered to be relatively non-toxic to dogs and other domestic animals.	
5. Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: No inspection report this month as CG not in attendance. ET confirmed Greenfingers had been asked to quote	CG

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	<p>for regular maintenance of the footpath to remove weeds (not using weedkiller). Once a month for an hour during May-September was thought to be suffice. Quote was pending. ET to chase.</p>	<p>ET</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a) Chair’s Matters Arising Paper (AH had been previously circulated a report) N’land Coast National Landscape Visitor Access and Interpretation: the drop-in session held on 6/5/25 was attended by 21 people and some very good issues were raised. 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. WP raised caution at this request due to anti-social behaviour and costs</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 to chase for a timeline.</p> <p>Standing water near Longhoughton Quarry: Work commenced on Monday 9/6/25.</p> <p>Community Event 2025: Tyne and Wear Community Foundation has awarded £1,700 to the LCST for the promotion of the event. With the PC’s £1k contribution, the budget comes to just under £3,000. The meeting of interested parties met on 28/5/25 and agreed a whole programme of events including the introduction of traditional village show aspects. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 13 September 2025 from 11.00am to 3.00pm. The organising committee next meet on 3/7/25.</p> <p>Liaison Meetings: the next round of liaison meetings will take place as follows: Quarries Liaison Meeting 20/6/25 at 2.00pm. RAF Liaison Meeting 23/6/25 at 10.00am Police Liaison Meeting 1/7/25 at 10.30 am.</p> <p>Safeguarding Policy: Thank you to CG for forwarding the Alexa’s Canine Trust policy. More work to be done on this.</p> <p>Parish Council Elections: Following the May elections, the PC currently has 4 vacancies. The PC needs to have 4 Parish Councillors in attendance to be quorate and able to make decisions. The areas of concern are Longhoughton (1 vacancy), Howick (2 vacancies) and Boulmer (1 vacancy).</p> <p>Boulmer Car Park Planning Application – Community Benefits Statement: AH held a telecon meeting with Peter Thompson of NCC Highways Department on 9/6/25. NCC asked for some minor changes to the PC’s statement which was agreed. The changes and content are set out below: remove the height barrier for the entrance to the car park; cycle storage for ten bikes (5 stands); the surface of the car park will be crushed stone on egg shell craters with marked parking lines; a disabled ramp directly from the car park to the Memorial Hall; new car park area will be surrounded by stone walls. The planning application is now near to completion and submission. WP offered to pay for a height barrier from NCC Members Funding if this proves to be a problem in the future.</p> <p>Bird Nuisance in Longhoughton: it was agreed this was not an issue for the PC and the complainant to be referred to NCC Environmental Services to see what assistance/help they can offer/suggest.</p> <p>Planning Permission 25/00810/FUL – Longbank Farm: legal guidance received on this from Jo-Anne Garrick. A response sent with an objection from the Parish Council.</p> <p>Affordable Housing: AH attended two meetings concerning the development of affordable housing in the National Landscape.</p> <p>Burnside Overgrown Hedge: The overgrown hedge outside 1 Burnside has been dealt with by the occupant.</p> <p>Pondfield: N’land Estates have advised that the fence has been erected as Pondfield is to be used for grazing. With regard to the stone wall taken down when Chancel Place was built, N’land Estates has stated there is not any outstanding obligation to rebuild. It</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AH/ET</p>

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	<p>was agreed PB to write to Colin Barnes to flag with N'land Estates the PCs preference for Pondfield to be a wildflower meadow and for trees to be planted. Tree Planting at Chancel Place: the majority of trees have survived the drought period. No further action required. Planning Class Q Applications: Following 25/00810/FUL Longbank Farm, a request was sent to Rob Murfin, Director of Planning NCC for Planning Class Q applications to be forwarded to PCs on an advisory basis. Response outstanding. ET to chase. Boulmer Beach Car Park takeover by NCC: AH advised the lease had still not been signed by NCC and N'land Estates. AH to repair the potholes appearing. Meeting with Robin McCartney of NCC Highways held 17/3/25: AH wrote to Robin on 26/5/25 asking for an update on the actions from the above meeting. Nothing has been received. WP to chase.</p>	<p>PB ET WP</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion (all reports had been previously circulated by AH/PB) a) Neighbourhood Plan Update: NCC Consultation ended on 30/5/25. N'land Estates have objected to Local Green Space 06 (LGS06) Boulmer Hall Farm. The NDP Working Group, with Jo-Anne Garrick's assistance, have agreed with N'land Estates a change to LGS06. This has been submitted to NCC who have queried how to handle the change. It was agreed to request NCC to submit the change to the Examiner with the request for it to be approved. It was agreed PC to confirm in writing to NCC whatever decision the Examiner takes on LGS06, PC will accept it. b) Longhoughton Update: PB advised the new speed sign near Longbank Farm is functional and having an impact by reminding vehicles the speed they are travelling. Boulmer Update: No further updates Howick Update: No further updates c) Parish Council 4 Year Plan Update: This was circulated with suggested priorities for the PC to concentrate on for the forthcoming year. LR agreed to pick-up social media and monitor and respond appropriately to comments relating to the PC. d) PC Ways of Working: This item to be picked up again at the July meeting when all PC will be in attendance.</p>	<p>AH/ET LR ALL</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Correspondence a) David East – new Chair – Longhoughton Community Gardeners – the new committee was noted and confirmation that the PC had adopted the fixed assets of the committee re-confirmed. b) Val Hodgson – Paving/Speeding/Speedwatch – North End, Longhoughton – AH to meet to understand the issues and establish if there is anything the PC can do to help. NCC speed strips to assess the speed of the traffic is an option as the sightlines are not conducive to N'bria Police policy on operating Speedwatch in that area. WP offered to purchase a VMS sign with 2026/27 NCC Members Funding but it was noted this may not be possible due to sightline requirements of NCC Highways for the location of these signs. The PC would also need to determine a priority between Boulmer Road and North End. c) NCC – Thriving Together Newsletter May # 2 and June #1 - noted d) NALC – Welcome New Councillors - noted. AH/ET confirmed if LR would like to attend any online training provided by NALC the associated costs would be reimbursed by the PC. Planning training was thought to be important. e) Gill Bromley – request for funding for Open Garden Day on 12/7/25 to cover room hire of LCST and also printing costs. The PC noted costs were likely to be in the region of £150 and were agreed to support this community event. f) NALC – Email/Website Update: ET advised NALC had confirmed it was now a mandatory requirement for a “gov.uk” email for all Parish Clerks from 1 April 2026 and that this may become a requirement for Parish Councillors too in the future. It was also noted that the NALC website provider was ceasing trading which meant the</p>	<p>AH</p>

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	PC would need to either seek its own website provider or agree to run with the new NALC website provider. It was agreed to seek the advice of Chris Thomas who has professional experience in this area. WP also suggested contacting the Clerk at Embleton and Rennington PCs who had already made the move over to gov.uk email and websites.	AH
9.	Parish Financial Matters: a) HMRC (VAT Reclaim) - £1,528 – CREDIT - noted b) Howick Village Hall (Village Hall Insurance) - £824.48 - agreed c) Defence Infrastructure Organisation (Allotment Car Park Rent) - £24.00 - agreed d) LCSCT (Room Hire - May AMG Prescriptions - £72) - £72 - agreed e) Clerk (Wages) - £465.55 - agreed f) HMRC (£109 PAYE and £19.25 Employers NI) - £128.25 – agreed	AH/ET
10.	Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25/01866/FUL – erection of automatic number plate recognition equipment, solar panel and signage for paid parking at Longhoughton Beach - Street Record Longhoughton Alnwick District Footpath 005, Longhoughton. The PC responded with no objection but flagged reservation about the number of noticeboards that are proposed in such a small site which is a significant example of the special qualities of the National Landscape. The PC requested a reduction in the number of noticeboards if that is feasible and legally possible. 	
11.	Matters for Information/Next Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speedwatch: PM reported a session in Boulmer that counted 24 vehicles with no speeding and a session near Springfield counted 42 vehicles and 7 speeders. LR reported that Air Play Youth Club for 5-18 year olds had become so popular with an average of 19 attendees each session that it had outgrown its existing space and would be moving to a new larger location in the village. 	
12.	Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm - Monday 21 July – Boulmer Memorial Hall	ALL

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

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