



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

**Present:** Cllrs Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair), Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Knox (IK), McEwen (PM) and Nicholls (MN).

**In attendance:** 3 members of the public, County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) and Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET).

**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; NCNL – N’land Coast National Landscape.

<u>Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p><b>Members of the Public – Questions:</b>            Ella Brown in attendance (ref Quarry Liaison Group). Mary Callam in attendance and has submitted an application to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Howick Ward, which will be considered at the November meeting.</p> <p><b>Boulmer Worm Digging:</b> Craig Thompson enquired about worm digging at Boulmer and if the PC had heard from NIFCA. Craig attended the NIFCA Board meeting on 28/4/25 where it had been confirmed digging for personal use was permitted but digging for commercial resale was not. NIFCA had agreed to explore the issue of permits. WP advised NIFCA had contacted Liam Howley, NCC Enforcement Officer to progress and advised that NCC did not have the resources to catch people digging worms at night. WP advised the Bylaw was still in place but no staff to enforce. WP also confirmed NCC Trading Standards were unable to help with enforcing action against the commercial sale of worms. It was agreed Craig Thompson to attend the next NIFCA meeting on 27/10/25 to see what, if anything, can be done.</p> <p><b>Burnside No Entry:</b> WP advised NCC will take no further action on Burnside.</p>	
<p>1. <b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Councillors Green (CG), Horsley (HH) and Rowberry (LR) (Parish Councillor and RAF Representative).</p>	
<p>2. <b>Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 22 September 2025.</b>            The minutes were approved as a correct record.</p>	
<p>3. <b>Declarations of Interest:</b> AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCCT.</p>	
<p>4. <b>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update</b>            WP had previously circulated a report.</p> <p><b>Children’s Rural Education:</b> NCC will give £10k per year for the next 3 years to Glendale Agricultural Society’s Children’s Countryside Day - a one-day interactive educational event which gives 1,650 school children each year (of all abilities aged 5-11 from across the region) a taste of farming and a wider understanding of the countryside.</p> <p><b>Blue Badge Eligibility and Application:</b> Check your eligibility <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blue-badge-can-i-get-one/can-i-get-a-blue-badge">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blue-badge-can-i-get-one/can-i-get-a-blue-badge</a> The quickest way to apply is online: a Blue Badge costs £10. The application process is free. You can apply for one for yourself or on behalf of someone else. They usually last for 3 years. You should reapply at least 8 weeks before your current badge expires. For further assistance, email: <a href="mailto:blue.badges@northumberland.gov.uk">blue.badges@northumberland.gov.uk</a> or write to Blue Badge Team Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.</p>	
<p>5. <b>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath:</b> All ok.</p>	
<p>6. <b>Matters Arising</b>            a) <b>NCC Highways 2026/27 Local Transport Programme – Top 3 Priorities:</b> AH had previously circulated a report. The programme has changed and now has a 3 year implementation period. AH attended an NCC seminar on 29/9/25 on the LTP.            68% of the Northumberland road network in in rural areas.            70% of the Northumberland population lives in 32% of the road network area.</p>	

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	<p>Only 20% of the schemes submitted get accepted. The annual allocation for LTS is £1.7m per annum. Establishing the priorities - all requests are assessed against the following criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Overcome inequality and grow our economy.</li> <li>ii) Carbon neutral transport</li> <li>iii) Healthier North East</li> <li>iv) Appealing Sustainable Transport Choices</li> <li>v) Safe, secure network</li> </ul> <p>Other criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi) Part of a package of measures.</li> <li>vii) Community priority</li> <li>viii) Attracts external funding or synergy with other projects.</li> </ul> <p>After discussion, it was agreed the following would be the top 3 priorities:</p> <p><b>Boulmer Road/North End Junction visibility:</b> The visibility when turning right out of Boulmer Road into North End (B1339) is especially bad and we receive complaints about it every year. Near accidents occur quite frequently. This meets criteria iii) and v). WP to also submit an NCC Members Request to have the foliage cut back.</p> <p><b>Right turn off the B1339 (going north) when turning to Howick Hall and Howick village.</b> This right turn is an accident black spot and there has been at least one accident in the last couple of years. ET to make an FOI request to Northumbria Police for accident statistics. This junction could be far better designed to avoid accidents. The meets criteria iii) and v).</p> <p><b>Boulmer Road Pavement:</b> The PC has been asking for the pavement to be improved down the first section of Boulmer Road to be re-laid due to its camber and unevenness and narrowness and for further surface improvements down to the RAF Camp entrance. This meets criteria iii) and v).</p> <p><b>b) Fixed Asset Check:</b> ET confirmed CG and IK had completed their checks. PC to undertake checks by November meeting. ET to re-circulate details.</p> <p><b>c) PC Website/Email Address:</b> Following a review by Chris Thomas, ET and HH, the PC had accepted the proposal to go with ParishOnline for a gov.uk domain website, email addresses and also cloud storage at a cost of £440 ex VAT per year. The PC will receive a £100 ex VAT discount off the first year's subscription. ET had notified NALC accordingly. ET progressing with ParishOnline. A decision on whether to move the NDP information away from its standalone website and over to the new PC website to be considered once the NDP had gone through referendum.</p> <p><b>d) Abilitynet Update:</b> As CG was absent, this item to be postponed to November.</p> <p><b>e) Chair's Matters Arising Paper</b> (AH had been previously circulated a report)</p> <p><b>Safeguarding Policy:</b> Outstanding – AH to progress.</p> <p><b>Boulmer Car Park Planning Application:</b> NCC Highways still yet to submit a revised planning application. ET advised NCC had replied to the PCs enquiry to say discussions between Highways and Planning were taking place re a possible Flood Risk Assessment being required. Once resolved the application will be re-submitted.</p> <p><b>Boulmer Beach Car Park:</b> NCC has published the agreement to take over the car park and introduce parking charges. However, on site there is no sign of any changes. ET advised NCC had replied to the PCs enquiry to say NCC Legal Team are liaising with the Landlord's Solicitor and are awaiting a draft lease from them. N'land Estates say that they are not holding things up. AH flagged that potholes are re-appearing and the PC will incur further costs as the transfer of ownership has now dragged on for years. One option is to close the car park. ET to contact NCC again on both issues.</p> <p><b>Longhoughton Pavements:</b> LR has walked the pavements on either side of the B1339. Report pending before the issues can be understood and then issues raised with NCC.</p>	<p>ET/AH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ET</p> <p>CG</p> <p>AH</p> <p>ET/AH</p> <p>LR</p>
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	<p><b>AMG Flu/COVID Vaccinations in Longhoughton:</b> Taking place on 14/10/25. AH advised it was a struggle to get AMG to put these on. This needs PC and resident support or AMG will be reluctant to repeat.</p> <p><b>20mph road markings on Boulmer Road:</b> the request from Julian Leathart was reviewed by PM. AH/PM to review further before putting a proposal to the PC for consideration. It's was noted it will be up to NCC whether action will be taken.</p> <p><b>Emergency Plan for the Parish:</b> AH advised the plan needs more detail adding. NCC are putting on a session on emergency planning on 30/10/25 which AH will attend. To note, the 'Thursday Together' talk on 20/11/25 will be on the telephone digital changeover and the priority services register.</p> <p><b>NCC Call for Sites:</b> AH confirmed the PC submitted to NCC the 3 sites for housing that are allocated within the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><b>NALC AGM:</b> 15/11/25 – MN to attend. AH to give a briefing.</p> <p><b>Longhoughton Community Fete:</b> The new format of a traditional village show is agreed with the objective of bringing the community together. The date for 2026 is Saturday 11 July 2026. Suggestions for improvement of future events have been recorded. The PC was thanked for the funding of £1,000 along with the £300 towards the cost of the marquee. An application is to be made to the Tyne &amp; Wear Community Foundation for a grant similar to this year and the Committee was hoping that the PC may be able to contribute more than it did this year. The Heritage Group have been researching the history of Longhoughton community celebrations and have found that in the 1850s and up to the 1950s the celebration was called the Longhoughton Feast. It has been suggested to rename the Fete to 'Longhoughton Community Feast'.</p> <p><b>Budget for 2026/27:</b> AH advised at the November meeting, the PC needs to think about and compile a budget for 2026/27. This has to be complete by January 2026 when NCC will ask the PC for confirmation of the Precept.</p> <p><b>Permissive Path from the B1339 to Howick Burnmouth:</b> PB confirmed this path is fine and without any obstructions. No further action required.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>AH/PM</b></p> <p><b>MN/AH</b></p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Reports for Discussion</b> (all reports had been previously circulated by AH/PB)</p> <p><b>a) Neighbourhood Plan Update:</b> NDP Examiner Tony Burton has approved the Plan and has been circulated to the PC. It is now with the NCC to update the small number of changes stipulated by the Examiner. NCC must publish a Regulation 18 Decision Statement within 5 weeks of receipt of the Examiner's Report. This signals NCC's formal intention to take the Plan to Referendum. The Referendum must then be held within 56 working days from the date of the Decision Statement's publication. AH anticipated the referendum to be sometime during the first 2 weeks of January. AH advised the PC needs to issue a brochure to all residents in very early January. The cost will be circa £250 for printing costs, which was unanimously agreed.</p> <p><b>b) Longhoughton Update:</b> PB discussed suggestions on how the Afgan residents can be welcomed into our community. Attending Thursdays Together could be a starting point. AH reminded the PC about the Afgan Information meeting on 11/11/25 10am-4pm and encouraged all to attend. PB flagged there had been some concern about lack of public transport, speeding and lack of a school crossing patrol. WP suggested the PC contact the school and that WP would raise an NCC Members Request. ET reminded the PC NCC had advertised the position but had been unable to fill it.</p> <p><b>Boulmer Update:</b> AH requested permission to hire a mole catcher again - agreed.</p> <p><b>Howick Update:</b> IK flagged a request for a salt bin at Littlehoughton. AH confirmed there was already a bin which is located down the cul-de-sac. The request had not met NCC criteria but with the help of the PC, the residents had installed their own</p>	<p><b>WP/AH</b></p> <p><b>AH</b></p>

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	bin which they will maintain. IK also requested a saltbin at Eastmoor. AH to review this request with IK direct as there were already salt bins located in EastMoor. <b>c) Priorities Paper/PC Ways of Working:</b> The PC agreed to review the list of priority projects and let AH know what items they would like to commit to. <b>d) Post Office Consultation:</b> The Post Office recently carried out a consultation on the future of the Post Office. AH attended an on-line session on this run by the Plunket Foundation. AH to keep the PC abreast of any relevant information for the Parish.	<b>AH/IK</b> <b>ALL</b>
<b>8. Correspondence</b>	a) NCC – LTP Workshop Presentation Slides – noted – see item 6a) b) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter Sept #2 and Oct #1 – noted c) NCC – Free Trees for all residents – noted. AH had also circulated to Longhoughton Community Gardeners. d) NALC October Update – noted e) Longhoughton Community Gardeners AGM – 6/11/25 – 11am at LCSCT – noted f) Rennington Parish Council – NDP Consultation – noted g) Ad Gefrin/Destination NE England – Community Awards - noted	
<b>9. Parish Financial Matters:</b>	a) Grant Request – LCSCT Children’s Christmas Party - £100 – agreed. Proposed IK, 2 <sup>nd</sup> MN, all agreed. b) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £69 - agreed c) LCSCT (Room Hire AMG prescriptions) - £72 - agreed d) Clerk (Oct Wages) – £479.22 - agreed e) HMRC (Oct £112.60 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.44 - agreed a) Adrian Hinchcliffe (Yellow Rattle Seed – Boulmer Meadow) - £78.99 - agreed	
<b>10. Plans:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25/03492/FUL – Oak frame sunroom to east elevation - 6 Longbank Farm Steading, Longhoughton, NE66 3AP – no objections</li> <li>25/03589/FUL – Proposed detached double garage - 5 Longbank Farm Steading, Longhoughton, NE66 3AP – no objections</li> </ul>	
<b>11. Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Pub: It was noted that the pub survey had received 200 responses, 180 in favour with 20 against.</li> <li>PM flagged a near fatal accident by the Co-op.</li> </ul>	
<b>12. Date of Next Meeting:</b>	7.30pm - Monday 17 November – LCSCT Westfield Park	<b>ALL</b>

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_