



The Monthly Parish Council Meeting of Longhoughton Parish Council was held this evening at Howick Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair), Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Green (CG) and Knox (IK).

In attendance: Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET).

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; NCNL – N’land Coast National Landscape.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		Action
Members of the Public – Questions: No members of the public in attendance.		
1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Calam (MC), Horsley (HH), McEwen (PM), Nicholls (MN), Rowberry (LR) (Parish Councillor and RAF Representative) and County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP).	
2.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2026. The minutes were approved as a correct record.	
3.	Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT.	
4.	County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report. Library Review: Currently underway until 16/4/26 and all are encouraged to take part. Advanced Dementia Facility: NCC are to build a new 36-bed care facility in Bedlington for people with advanced dementia and other complex mental health support needs. Garden Waste Collection Service: NCC offer this service with 20 collections each year from March to November at a cost of £59 for the year. Not all houses are eligible to receive the service. Enter your postcode on the NCC website to find out if you’re eligible or telephone 0345 600 6400 and ask for garden waste. Recycling Rights & Wrongs: Residents are being reminded of the importance of placing the right materials in their recycling bins – after it emerged that almost a quarter of material collected in the county is contaminated. Over 23% of all material collected from recycling bins at kerbside in Northumberland, is in fact contamination, including black bags, nappies, dog waste, food waste, textiles and clothing and electrical items. Just one contaminated bin can result in an entire load of recycling (from multiple streets and hundreds of properties) being spoiled and rejected, meaning that it must be sent for incineration instead of being recycled. NCC currently only want residents to put their paper, card, cardboard, plastic bottles, tin cans, drinks cans and empty aerosol cans in their recycling bins.	
5.	Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: CG reported all ok.	
6.	Matters Arising a) Chair’s Matters Arising Paper (AH had previously circulated a report). Boulmer Beach Car Park: AH confirmed NCC made some repairs to the pot holes at the entrance to the car park on 27/2/26. Documentation for the release of the car park from the PC lease is on the agenda at item 8a). NCC have advised ticket machines for the car park are on order but it could be 4 to 6 weeks before they arrive. AH is awaiting a quotation for the replacement of all stobbs on either side of the entrance track to the car park. AH advised it had always been agreed that, subsequent to the introduction of parking charges, NCC Highways would carry out a survey of parking on the village street to assess whether more people were parking on the street to avoid the charges and the impact this was having on residents. It had been suggested to NCC that a survey should be done before parking charges are introduced, to have a benchmark for comparison. NCC Highways agreed it	

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<p>would be a good idea to have a video camera to obtain the pre-parking charges survey to create the benchmark. This is yet to be organised.</p> <p>Proposed Car Park next to Boulmer Memorial Hall: AH advised at the meeting with NCC on 6/2/26 it had been suggested one small alternative to the car park would be to create one or two disabled car parking bays on the village street close to the Memorial Hall. A meeting to discuss this took place on 9/3/26 with Richard McKenzie and Robin McCartney from NCC Highways, Helen Ashworth (new Chair of Boulmer Memorial Hall Trustees), and AH. The Trustees' view was that they did not think that the creation of two disabled bays would work in this location and that the bays would be better located in the main car park, and for the driver to drop off anyone who was disabled at the Village Hall before proceeding to park. The Trustees' view was that the road was too narrow for disabled people to egress from vehicles on the village street, and it would displace parking for local people who lived there or visitors to the holiday lets. It was agreed that NCC Highways would consider including two disabled parking places in the main car park. CG suggested one alternative was to create disabled parking bays in front of the public toilets.</p> <p>Flu/COVID Vaccinations: AH advised the discussion with K-Chem is outstanding. NCC Call For Sites: AH advised this information is still outstanding.</p> <p>Salt bin for Eastmoor: It was noted that this would likely be rejected following the NCC criteria. IK confirmed this request to be withdrawn.</p> <p>Bridge over the Stamford Burn: AH, MC and IK met with Richard Gledson (new Estate Director for Howick Trustees) on 16/3/26. It was a positive meeting and Richard Gledson agreed to review the issue and what remedial action taken.</p> <p>NHS Health Checks: The next health check will take place on 14/4/26 4pm-7pm.</p> <p>Wellbeing Walks: Wednesday's 11am, LCSCCT car park. Approx. 6 people attend.</p> <p>Thursday Together: The current weekly programme will conclude at the end of March. It is hoped to restart again in November for a 5 month period. This year it has been very successful with average attendance in the upper 20s or 30s. Huge thanks to the 5 teams that cater for the weekly events.</p> <p>11 to 16 Kick-About: After several weeks' break due to bad weather, the Kick-About recommenced on 27/2/26 with attendance between 10-15 people.</p> <p>Newsletter April/May: 50th edition. As agreed by the PC, the issue will include a 4-page celebratory section now as a separate supplement rather than part of the Newsletter. The PC had agreed to £100 of prizes for the competitions being run.</p> <p>Longhoughton Feast: AH reported the marquee has arrived, and ways of storing it are being considered. It is 12m by 6m the same as the one purchased last year and cost £712.50, fully funded by the PC. The Organising Committee are very appreciative of this purchase. It will be used for the 'Village Show' and can accommodate up to 23 tables. AH reported that regrettably, the application for a grant of £2,000 has been turned down by the North East Community Foundation.</p> <p>Longhoughton Scouts: It was noted that Longhoughton Scouts had responded to the offer of a grant of £400 with thanks for the support and assistance. It was agreed that the PC would revisit and seek further info from the Scouts after 6 months and 12 months to see how they are progressing. AH also confirmed an article would be included in the next Newsletter appealing for volunteers to assist the Scouts.</p> <p>Town & Parish Councils Conference: MC and AH attended the conference on 5/3/26. The networking and stalls section that preceded the conference was useful to catch up with officers on NCC's various offers. Of the conference itself, two sessions stood out as useful. Rob Murfin talked about the review of the Northumberland Local Plan and particularly the housing targets that are being issued to Local Authorities by Central Government, and there was a presentation on Healthy Communities referring to an outreach service.</p>	
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	<p>Safeguarding Policy: AH confirmed this was still outstanding.</p> <p>Street Lighting Boulmer Road: At the last PC meeting with the RAF Boulmer Camp Commander, a question was raised as to why there is a gap in the street lighting between the camp and the Boulmer Road/North End junction. There is a gap in the street lighting of approximately 300 metres from just west of the Coast and Castles Camp Site to Springfield. RAF Boulmer are concerned that this gap in street lighting represents a safety hazard to users of the pavement during the hours of darkness. This pavement is well used by RAF personnel walking and running into and out of Longhoughton. NCC Street Lighting Section advise that the original street lighting was from a point just west of the Coast and Castles Camp Site to the RAF Boulmer Site, and there was no street lighting at all from this point to the junction with North End. However, when the Springfield Estate was built, street lighting was installed from the North End junction to Springfield, thus leaving the 300 metres gap. It was agreed that both the PC and RAF Boulmer should request that street lighting be installed for the gap of approximately 300 metres so that there is continuous street lighting from the Boulmer Road junction with North End to the de-restriction signs just beyond the RAF Boulmer camp entrance. All of this section of road has a speed restriction of 30mph, and closer in to Longhoughton, 20mph. AH to draft for ET to send to NCC Street Lighting.</p> <p>AMG Prescription Pick up from Longhoughton: AMG have given notice they are to reduce the times for the pick-up of repeat prescriptions from LCSCT. The current time of 1 hour is to be reduced to 30 minutes on both Tuesday and Friday each week. So, from 5/5/26 the pickup times will be 1.30pm- 2pm.</p> <p>Meeting with David Smith, MP: AH confirmed the meeting took place on 13/3/26 with AH, PB, IK, CG and MC in attendance along with Stewart Barrett of LCSCT. The meeting was considered productive. David Smith did advise that he has no power but could be an advocate for particular PC causes and would write a letter if the PC requested if that would help a particular issue. It was also noted that David Smith was of the opinion that having an NDP was the best defence against increased housing targets.</p> <p>b) Longhoughton School Green: MC had investigated ownership on behalf of the PC and produced a report which had been previously circulated. MC confirmed neither of the access roads are adopted by NCC. 7-8 properties around the 2 access roads might have ownership, but that needs ratified by Land Registry. From investigation with Land Registry, MC thought Longhoughton Hall owns both access roads but positive obligations to maintain an access road may expire when property is sold. MC suggested a couple of options going forwards: liaise with Jim Souter re the deeds to Longhoughton Hall to confirm if the property does include both access roads, not just one. The PC could then consider making a contribution to upkeep to reflect wear and tear caused by public parking. It was noted there may be an argument for all properties which use the access road to contribute. Alternatively, if the deeds do not clarify, the PC could appoint a solicitor to investigate and identify next steps. It was agreed this was a sensible course of action. AH to ask MC to proceed accordingly and to thank MC for her research and report.</p>	<p>AH/ET</p> <p>AH/MC</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion (all reports had been previously circulated by AH/PB)</p> <p>a) Longhoughton Update:</p> <p>Meeting with Parochial Church Council (PCC): PB reported on a positive, informal meeting held between PCC and PC on 3/3/26. A number of joint projects were agreed including the fence at the back of the church yard, a noticeboard at the entrance to the Church for community groups and an open day. A longer-term project to improve the use of the space within the Church was also discussed. PB/IK to continue to represent the PC at these meetings – next one 24/3/26. IK noted with</p>	<p>PB/IK</p>

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	<p>pleasure that the community and Church were working together in a close friendship and that PB/IK to keep the PC informed as to progress with the projects. Lacey Street: CG confirmed parking continued to be an issue on Lacey Street. Boulmer Update: no further updates. Howick Update: IK reported some pot holes enroute to Howick had been repaired. b) Neighbourhood Plan Update: AH reported NCC had now adopted the NDP. c) Neighbourhood Plan Action List: (AH had previously circulated a report) There are 39 actions, which the PC is actively progressing. d) Priorities Paper/PC Ways of Working: This includes some of the actions listed on Neighbourhood Plan Action List and all other actions that the PC is pursuing. It was agreed to keep this and item 7b) above as a standing item on the agenda to review each month. It was agreed the PC should actively start working on the projects listed including specifically, an agreement to agree and start work on achievable projects such as the Longhoughton Playing Field Car Park and the Greenways projects. AH advised MC had sent a proposal on a Climate Change Group, which AH would circulate to the PC for review and consideration.</p>	AH/ALL
8.	<p>Correspondence a) Warcup Law Firm – Deed of Surrender of Part – Land at Boulmer (Boulmer Car Park) – noted. This was the final stage in the handing over of the Boulmer Car Park to NCC for future day-to-day management and maintenance. b) NCC - Joint North N’land & Morpeth Community Partnership Meeting, 26/2/26 - noted c) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter Feb #2 and March#1 - noted d) Macmillan Mighty Hike – 5 & 6 September 2026 - noted e) Grant Thank Yous – GNAA, SS Peter & Paul Church, Longhoughton Heritage Group, Citizen Advice Northumberland and Longhoughton Scouts – noted f) Kate Appleby – Detritus on Village Woodland Footpath – ET to contact the complainant to get clarity on whether the issue is the permissive footpath or the PROW before the PC could take appropriate action to try to resolve. g) Jeremy Carr – Damage to Tree bearing Rooks Nests – AH referred complainant to NCC as the issue wasn’t within the PC’s jurisdiction.</p>	ET
9.	<p>Parish Financial Matters: a) House of Tents (Marquee for Longhoughton Feast) - £855 – PAID - noted b) Clerk (Feb Wages) - £479.22 - agreed c) HMRC (Feb £112.40 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.44 - agreed d) Clerk (Stationery and Stamps) - £13.95 - agreed e) LCSCT (Room Hire – AMG Prescriptions Jan £64 & Feb £64 / Affordable Housing 16 Feb - £11) - £139 - agreed f) N’land Estates (Half Yearly Rent Longhoughton Playing Field) - £65 – agreed g) Mary Callum (Land Registry Fees re Longhoughton School Green) - £28 – agreed h) Chris Thomas (Newsletter 50th Edition Prizes) - £100 – agreed</p>	
10.	<p>Plans: None received.</p>	
11.	<p>Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theia Bathchelor and Sarah Winlow from N’land Coast National Landscape to present on the Dark Skies Project. 	
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm - Monday 20 April 2026 – Boulmer Memorial Hall</p>	ALL

The meeting ended at 9.07pm.

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