



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

Present: Cllrs Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair), Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Calam (MC), Green (CG), McEwen (PM), Nichols (MN), Rowberry (LR) (Parish Councillor and RAF Representative).

In attendance: and 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
 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.	<p>Theia Batchelor & Sarah Winlow from N’land Coast National Landscape Theia Batchelor: Dark Sky Project - funded through the National Heritage Lottery Fund with aims to protect and conserve dark skies along the coast, and engage residents, business and planning and policy makers in dark sky friendly lighting and issues surrounding light pollution. NCNL is working with the NCC streetlighting team to carry out works in 5 villages, where streetlights will be replaced with 2700k lights, which are less disruptive to critical behaviours of birds, bats, moths, plants and human health. Howick is one of the villages, all 4 streetlights will be replaced. NCNL will also be opening a community grant fund, where residents and businesses can apply for funding to retrofit or adapt their outdoor lighting to be dark sky friendly (e.g. redirect luminaire to face down/ only where the light is needed to reduce light spill, change colour kelvin to 2700k, install hoods, set lights on timers or dimmers). NCNL are keen to raise awareness that dark sky friendly lighting does not mean a compromise of security and safety, we are working with a lighting consultant throughout the project to ensure professional advice is given in relation to lighting design. LR to speak with NCNL about RAF Boulmer and the Dark Skies Project.</p> <p>Sarah Winlow: NCNL Management Plan - NCNL has a new statutory management plan. The Management Plan 2025-2030 was adopted by NCC in December 2025. It provides direction and a framework to enable everyone with interests in the National Landscape to work together to achieve the statutory purpose of conserving and enhancing the protected landscape. For the first time, the plan includes targets for National Landscapes set nationally by Government. The plan is for the place - the Northumberland Coast National Landscape. It is not solely for the staff team or Partnership of the National Landscape or NCC; it is relevant to all authorities, organisations and individuals making decisions that impact on the National Landscape, including parish councils. The plan will be desk-top published in the summer, and the annual landscape-wide parish council liaison meeting held later in the year will focus on how to use the plan. A copy can be found out the National Landscape’s website.</p>	LR
2.	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Horsley (HH) and Knox (IK).	
3.	Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16 March 2026. The minutes were approved as a correct record.	
4.	Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCT.	
5.	<p>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report.</p> <p>Howick: NCC Highways to resurface as much of Howick Village as possible via WP’s NCC Members Allowance Scheme.</p> <p>Footpath/Bridleway Near Old Bank, Longhoughton: It was noted that a resident had fallen and badly injured themselves on the remains of the bollards that had been allegedly knocked down and partially removed by the NCC litter bin collection wagon.</p>	

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	<p>This had previously been reported by NCC to the PC who had confirmed the bollards had been erected as part of the planning application for Chancel Place and were not the responsibility or ownership of the PC and that as they were on a footpath/bridleway were the responsibility of NCC. It had therefore been left with NCC to resolve and repair the damage. Regrettably, this had not been done and had caused the subsequent trip accident. It was noted the bollards had been erected to stop vehicles going up the bridleway/footpath. WP to follow-up with both NCC Highways and Footpaths Officer to try to get an agreement to put right so no further accidents are incurred.</p> <p>Zebra Crossing for Longhoughton: WP advised a request had been made following concerns about the access/egress to school for local school children. WP to follow-up with NCC. A report that the orange flashing sign had also stopped working some time ago. WP to also investigate and report as requiring repair.</p> <p>Warmer Homes Northumberland: NCC's Warmer Homes team can help you heat and power your home more efficiently and save money on your utility bills. For more information, contact warmehomes@northumberland.gov.uk or telephone NCC on 0345 600 6400 and ask for a Community Retrofit Advisor in the Warmer Homes Team.</p> <p>Buying/Selling an Affordable Home: Discounted Market Value (DMV) homes are a type of affordable housing and help local people buy homes at below market prices. They are sold at a fixed percentage below market value, usually 20% to 30%. For example, a home worth £200,000 with a 25% discount will sell for £150,000. For more information, contact NCC Customer Services on 0345 600 6400.</p> <p>Abandoned Vehicles: If you find a motor vehicle abandoned on the highway or in a public place, please contact NCC Customer Services on 0345 600 6400.</p> <p>2026 LOVE Northumberland Awards: Applications are now open. The awards allow NCC to recognise the fantastic work of a great many groups and individuals who are doing their bit to make the county greener, cleaner, and more sustainable. Entries are invited for the categories of: best children's project, best young people's project, best urban project, best coast or countryside project, outstanding individual, and best community response to the climate change emergency. The closing date for applications is Midnight on 17/5/26. The application form and any supporting documents should be sent to highwaysandneighbourhoodservice@northumberland.gov.uk</p>	<p>WP</p> <p>WP</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: CG reported all ok.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>a) Chair's Matters Arising Paper (AH had previously circulated a report).</p> <p>Boulmer Beach Car Park: Notification has finally been received from NCC that the pay & display machines and associated signage would be installed on 28/4/26. NCC had also agreed to a CCTV survey to monitor the impact of the new charges.</p> <p>Renewal of Stobs: AH advised the renewal of the stobs on either side of the entrance track to the car park has faltered. A quotation has been promised but has not yet materialised. AH to try to progress.</p> <p>Proposed Car Park next to Boulmer Memorial Hall: AH advised complaints have been made by local residents to NCC about the outcome of the Car Park proposal.</p> <p>Flu/COVID Vaccinations: AH advised the discussion with K-Chem is outstanding.</p> <p>Bridge over the Stamford Burn: Awaiting the outcome of the visit by Richard Gledson (new Estate Director for Howick Trustees) who had agreed to review the issue and what remedial action could be undertaken. MC to follow-up.</p> <p>NHS Health Checks: 3 residents attended the last session. AH reported that the future viability of the sessions was unknown. due to low attendance numbers.</p> <p>Wellbeing Walks: Wednesday's 11am, LCSCT car park. Approx. 6 people attend.</p> <p>Thursday Together: The current weekly programme concluded at the end of March but will be re-started again in November for a 5 month period. This year it has been</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>MC</p>

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	<p>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: AH reported entries for the competitions are being received.</p> <p>Longhoughton Feast: AH reported that although the application for a grant of £2,000 had been turned down by the North East Community Foundation, MGL (the group that runs Longhoughton Quarry) has offered a donation of £2,000. The Organising Committee next meet on 21/4/26.</p> <p>Longhoughton Scouts: AH advised no volunteers had come forward following an appeal in the Newsletter but the Scouts had been successful in raising a further £200 from an Easter Egg Event.</p> <p>Safeguarding Policy: AH confirmed this was still outstanding.</p> <p>Longhoughton School Green Ownership: AH and PB met Mr & Mrs Souter on 8/4/26 to discuss the findings of the report produced by MC. It was agreed that a better understanding is needed about the legal clauses, if any, that are included in the deeds of the properties that use the access roads to get to their own properties. Mr & Mrs Souter are to commission this work with their own solicitor. It was agreed the PC would make a contribution to the cost of this work, which will hopefully clarify the responsibility and ownership of the access routes.</p> <p>Street Lighting Boulmer Road: AH reported no response had been received by NCC following the request by the PC to fill in the streetlighting gap between the camp and the Boulmer Road/North End junction. LR to speak with NCNL about how the Dark Skies Project might be able to help support the request for streetlighting.</p> <p>AMG Prescription Pick up from Longhoughton: AMG now offer a reduced 30 minute time slot for the pick-up of repeat prescriptions from LCSCT now Tuesday and Thursday each week 1.30pm- 2pm. The new times will start from 5/5/26.</p> <p>Parochial Church Council (PCC): PB reported on a number of joint projects which were being progressed, including the fence at the back of the church yard, a noticeboard at the entrance to the Church for community groups, an open day and a longer-term project to improve the use of the space within the Church.</p> <p>Detritus on Village Woodland Footpath: It was noted that the PC needed to try and take some action to help resolve the issue of detritus on the permissive footpath since it had encouraged the local landowner to open up the path for use by the community. A request had also been received to install a bridge over the stream. AH/PB to investigate what action the PC can take.</p> <p>Complaint about Speeding on B1339: AH advised that no other complaints about speeding had been received but that N'bria Police will be asked to carry out a speed check (the Speedwatch Team are unable to operate at the moment as training is awaited by N'bria Police), NCC Highways will be asked to carry out a speed strip check, some Community Speed Watch signs (just received) will be put up.</p> <p>Complaint about Dog Fouling: A complaint has been received about dog fouling on the bridleway from South End to Ratcheugh. Notices are to be installed.</p> <p>Financial Outcome for 2025/26 and the Budget for 2026/27: A statement was circulated that sets out the financial outcome for the year ending 31/3/26 and the reserves at that date. ET flagged that AH had set the reserves allocated to elections at £2k when it should be set at £5k as per advice from NALC.</p> <p>May Annual Parish Meeting: AH will shortly be producing a draft of the Annual Report and will circulate it for comments.</p>	<p>LR</p> <p>AH/PB</p> <p>PM</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports for Discussion (all reports had been previously circulated by AH/PB)</p> <p>a) Longhoughton Update: no further updates.</p> <p>Boulmer Update: no further updates.</p>	

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	<p>Howick Update: no further updates.</p> <p>b) Neighbourhood Plan Action List: Includes 39 actions the PC is progressing.</p> <p>c) 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 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. It was agreed the PC should seek to take some basic professional advice on which of the projects to progress and the steps required to implementation. AH/PB to review and progress. MC to circulate a paper on Climate Change proposals and LR to circulate a paper on Youth Strategy for the May PC meeting.</p>	<p>AH/PB</p> <p>MC/LR</p>
9.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) Longhoughton Community Orchard Opening - 19/4/26 - noted</p> <p>b) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter March #2 and April#1 – noted</p> <p>c) Complaint about dog fouling at South End – noted and discussed in 7a) above.</p> <p>d) NCC – Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan – noted</p> <p>e) Juliemma McLoughlin – Complaint about Speeding on B1339 – noted and discussed in 7a) above. AH to draft response for ET to send.</p>	<p>AH/ET</p>
10.	<p>Parish Financial Matters:</p> <p>a) LCSCT (Defibrillator pads and battery) - £383.97 – PAID</p> <p>b) NCC (Precept) - £15,328.50 – CREDIT</p> <p>c) HMRC (VAT Refund) - £1,430.34 - CREDIT</p> <p>d) LCSCT (Room hire AMG £72 and Quarry Meeting £21) - £93 - agreed</p> <p>e) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £60 - agreed</p> <p>f) Clerk (Wages) - £479.42 - agreed</p> <p>g) HMRC (£112.40 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.24 – agreed</p> <p>h) Zurich (Annual Insurance) - £853.38 – agreed</p> <p>i) Greenfingers (Grass Cutting Boulmer) - £108 – agreed</p>	
11.	<p>Plans: None received.</p>	
12.	<p>Matters for Information/Next Agenda:</p>	
13.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Annual Parish, Annual Parish Council & Monthly Parish Council Meeting - 7.30pm - Monday 18 May 2026 - LCSCT Westfield Park</p>	<p>ALL</p>

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____