



The Meeting of the Parish Council 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), Knox (IK) and McEwen (PM),

In attendance: 6 residents and Elizabeth Taylor, Clerk (ET)

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; NCNL – N'land Coast National Landscape.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		Action
Members of the Public - Questions: 6 members of the public were in attendance. Parking in Boulmer: Alison Read, Iwan Read, Bernice McCabe and Mrs McCabe's sister were in attendance as they were unhappy about a parking issue in Boulmer whereby AH & Mrs Wendy Hinchcliffe had complained to Iwan Read about where he was parking his NCC works vehicles over a period of 12 months. Alison Read handed out a letter from Mr & Mrs Hinchcliffe dated July 2025 addressed to Iwan Read, complaining about the parking of his works vehicle. The residents considered that as AH is chair of the Parish Council, there is a code of conduct and values that he should comply with. This issue was discussed and all PC members present acknowledged that they were bound by the code of conduct when representing the PC. However, AH was clear that he had been acting in a private capacity (and had signed the July 2025 letter as such). This was therefore an issue between residents and AH & Mrs Hinchcliffe. IK offered to mediate, but the residents declined this offer. PB noted that shortage of parking and inappropriate or inconsiderate parking was an issue not only in Boulmer and that the PC has no jurisdiction or legal standing to take action. It was up to the community not just the PC to remind people to park appropriately and considerately. Possible mitigations, such as disabled bays, road markings and additional parking are usually a matter for NCC Highways rather than the PC. Nonetheless, AH suggested a solution to the problem (which had been put to Iwan Read previously), which involved extending a grass parking area near the Reads' property to accommodate additional vehicles. There was also space to park a large works vehicle behind the bus shelter where it would be less obtrusive. This suggestion could be explored further between the parties involved. An enquiry was also made about the date for the car parking survey following the take-over by NCC of the Boulmer Car Park. AH advised this was in the hands of NCC who had advised the PC at a previous PC meeting that NCC wanted the new parking charges to bed-in first before undertaking a survey. To note, the PC had requested a survey be undertaken over Easter before the parking charges were introduced so that it could be used as a comparison, but NCC did not take up this suggestion. The PC undertook to remind NCC of their commitment to carry out a parking survey and ask for a timeframe for it. Damaged Stonewall at Sea View: Ian Davison reported that the stonewall had been damaged by an RAF contractor, who had advised Ian it would be repaired but it hasn't been. AH to follow-up with LR and RAF Boulmer at the next RAF Liaison meeting.		ET AH/LR
1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Horsley (HH), Nichols (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 20 July 2026. MC requested the following amendment be made to the minutes: Climate Change Project: MC had previously circulated a report. The PC supported the 3 areas of focus that MC had identified: habitat and wildlife, signposting support and information and community energy generation. The PC accepted that this project could not be a solo effort: LR agreed to help with engagement with stakeholders; AH/PB undertook to identify those who had attended the previous climate change group so we could see if they wished to volunteer again. Building on the excellent Community Road	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	<i>Safety Day, it was suggested that a Climate Awareness Day would build on the community engagement. This could include all key stakeholders again and include a litter pick, talks, NCC recycling officer, etc. The PC agreed that MC should undertake further research on our "baseline", available opportunities for funding and support, potential stakeholders and "what it would take" to make progress on the focus areas agreed. MC will come back to the PC with her findings in the autumn.</i> Otherwise, 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. Howick Junction: It was noted the new road junction signage had now been installed. Howick Road Repairs: It was noted that road markings had been made which signified that the forthcoming long-awaited road repairs would be starting imminently.	
5.	Inspections - Longhoughton Playing Field/Footpath: AH reported all ok.	
6.	Matters Arising a) Chair's Matters Arising Paper (AH had previously circulated a report). Community Road Safety Day: The event on 3/7/26 was a great success and attracted publicity in the N'land Gazette. It was agreed to keep the momentum the PC should promote a Road Safety Alliance between the PC, Primary School, RAF Boulmer, LC&SCT, Church and local businesses. PB to present a paper in September. Overgrown Hedges (Junction of Boulmer Road and North End): It was noted the resident had removed part of the overgrown hedge. AH emailed the resident to express thanks, which has improved the situation enormously. Beach Road – Quiet Lane Status: James Forsyth sent AH a press cutting from the Sunday Telegraph 31/5/26 about the virtues of Quiet Lanes and refers to the Counties that are promoting them (Cambridgeshire, North Yorkshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Oxfordshire). The status of roads and lanes that are classified as 'Quiet Lanes' reduces the speed limit to 20mph and encourages joint use with walkers, cyclists, joggers and horse riders. The PC has previously agreed Beach Road would be ideal to be classified as a Quiet Lane, but NCC do not have a policy to recognise and promote them. The PC has previously made a case to NCC Highways for the County to adopt Quiet Lanes, but it has been turned down. A further request was made to NCC Highways for the speed limit to be reduced to 20mph as an alternative to the more complex Quiet Lane. This also was turned down. The PC has also had a recent complaint about the speed of traffic down Beach Road - agenda item 8f). The PC were of the opinion that there are a few drivers who drive too fast for the conditions of the lane, but the majority drive reasonably. However, the lane is very narrow in places, and if a vehicle is coming in either direction, any walkers or anyone with a buggy, child or animal can be in significant difficulty getting off the carriageway in many places due to hawthorn hedges. It was agreed AH to speak with MP David Smith when visiting the village on 24/7/26 to ask for assistance with Quiet Lane status. ET to also write to NCC to request NCC to reconsider Quiet Lane Status and to also write again to NCC Highways to request again the speed limit is reduced to 20mph to bring it in line with the rest of the village. Recycling Talk: NCC will give a Recycling Talk to Thursday Together on 12/11/26. Renewal of Boulmer Stobbs: Straughans of Bedlington have been asked for quote. Flu/COVID Vaccinations: AH has asked KChem if they will take on this role. Bridge over the Stamford Burn: MC has confirmed the old damaged bridge has been replaced by Howick Estates with a fantastic new bridge – sincere thanks to Estate Director Richard Gledson for undertaking the works and keeping this valuable walk open to all. MC confirmed thanks had been expressed on behalf of the PC. NHS Health Checks: Awaiting advice from NCC. Wellbeing Walks: Going well with average attendance 6 people. More publicity needed.	PB AH AH/ET

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	11 to 16 Kick-About from September 2026: The Ballinger Trust has given funding for the continuation of this service for the next 2 years. Newsletter: Sincere thanks to all who contribute to the Newsletter, particularly Chris Thomas, contributors & delivery team. After Issue 52, feedback to be requested.. Longhoughton Feast: The Longhoughton Feast held on 11/7/26 was a success and included many new activities – a climbing wall, classic cars show, the sale of waffles, demonstrations by RNLI and St John Ambulance, the Veterans Armed Forces Bikers Charity and an expanded ‘Village Show’. There was also music and singing by Ron Creasey and the Alnwick Stage Musical Society, plus the Military Wives Choir. The event was undoubtedly a great success for the Longhoughton community. Around 60 volunteers were involved from Friday morning through to Sunday afternoon. A fantastic demonstration of community spirit. Thanks to all who were involved. Saturday 10 July 2027 has been set as the date for the next Longhoughton Feast. Safeguarding Policy: Outstanding. School Green Ownership: Further legal information has been obtained which has been circulated to AH and PB. A meeting to talk about this is planned. Speed watch Team: PB to report on the request to the Lesbury team. Gap in Street Lighting on Boulmer Road: The response from NCC’s Street Lighting Team advises that NCC do not currently have funding available to carry out lighting improvements or to install additional lighting on the highway. To estimated cost to install lighting at this location the estimated cost for this work is £62,000 + VAT. AH to advise the RAF at the RAF Liaison meeting. School Crossing Officer, Longhoughton: Hopefully to be in post for September. Speedwatch Team: PM to liaise with Lesbury for joined-up Speedwatch sessions. PM confirmed the Alnwick speedgun had been returned and Powburn’s speedgun to be returned direct. PM to pass to PB the 20 lamppost signs and 2 fluorescent coats. Community Governance Review: AH confirmed the agreed response to decline the suggestion to Group/Merge and De-Ward Longhoughton had been submitted. NCC Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: MC reported that the PC had received an enquiry from Rebecca Smith of NCC’s Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team to provide a letter of support for a funding application NCC were submitting to Defra for the Boulmer Coastal Adaptation Plan. If successful, the PC committed to supporting the pilot by participating in engagement activities, sharing local knowledge and helping to communicate with residents throughout the project. Thursday Together: The Ballinger Trust to fund Thursday Together for the next 2 years. A programme of talks and lectures is now complete from Nov 2026-March 2027.	PM/PB
7.	Reports for Discussion a) Longhoughton Update: Speedwatch: As highlighted in section 6a) above, PB to present a paper in September following the success of Road Safety day. PB had also been issued from N’bria Police with postcard sized fliers for inconsiderate parking, which N’bria Police are happy for the PC to issue as part of the Speedwatch Programme. Church: PB liaising with the Church about creating a wildlife space within the churchyard using advice/guidance from similar projects at Shilbottle and Whittingham (caringforgodsacre.org.uk). PB to draft a Churchyard Management Plan for the PCC. IK flagged the Church noticeboard had been freed up for community groups to use. Dog Poo: CG flagged the reported issue with dog fouling continued and it was noted any details to be given to the NCC dog warden, who had the jurisdiction to take action. Boulmer Update: AH was progressing the sign to promote Boulmer Wildflower Meadow and reported that NCNL might take on the project and associated costs. AH to contact Howick Estates re cutting and bailing of the meadow and flagged the cost could be circa £300. Hogweed and ragwort had been removed by volunteers.	AH/ET

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	Howick Update: MC confirmed LTP road repair works for all Little Mill to be carried out this year and Himalayan Balsam in Stamford Burn had been removed by a volunteer. b) Development Projects Update: i. Discussion with N'land Estates on Housing Site Development: AH advised CAN had spoken with and are liaising with N'land Estates about the 3 projects (Former Recreation Ground in Longhoughton, Boulmer South and Johnnie Johnson Site in Longhoughton). AH noted that the car park paper for Longhoughton was outstanding and now that Longhoughton Feast had been successfully delivered, his attentions would move to writing this paper. ii. Climate Change Project: MC advised no further progress had been made yet other than an article had been written for the newsletter. iii. Youth Strategy: AH confirmed LR had held a meeting with LCSCT and things were progressing with the review of youth provision. A report and action plan to follow. iv. Longhoughton West Side Greenway: AH advised a proposal for a green route along west side of Longhoughton from the Co-op to Pondfield was being presented to LCSCT Trustees on 21/7/26. Longhoughton Community Gardeners had ambition for a nature reserve on the east side of the football pitch. Once agreement with LCSCT Trustees was obtained, the proposal to be taken to the PCC (by PB) and also N'land Estates (by AH and PB). Agreement in principle by all stakeholders was needed before the detail could be worked out. Following these consultations, provided all are in favour, then it will then be necessary to talk to residents of Longhoughton.	AH MC LR PB/AH
8.	Correspondence a) NCC Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team – EOI Defra's Coastal Adaptation Pilot Programme – discussed in item 6a) above b) NCC - Community Governance Review – Suggestion to Group/Merge and De-Ward – discussed in item 6a) above. c) NCC Highways Streetlighting Request – Boulmer Road, Longhoughton: it was noted that NCC had responded to this request to advise that NCC did not have the funds but the PC could pay for costs estimated to be circa £62,000. AH to follow-up with LR and RAF Boulmer at the next RAF Liaison meeting. d) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter June # 1 & 2 and July #1 - noted e) NCC - Digital Switchover Briefing 24 June 2026 Minutes/Presentation Slides - noted f) Complaint re aggressive driving on Beach Road – noted and discussed in 6a) above. g) Gladiator Events Ltd Trek26 Northumberland for Alzheimer's Society 18/7/26 – noted h) Northumberland Coast National Landscape – Coastline Conversations – noted i) NCC Elections Team – Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Forms – circulated to all PC who were to complete and return direct to NCC.	AH/LR ALL
9.	Parish Financial Matters: a) A1 Bounce (Longhoughton Feast) - £1,818 – AH flagged a slight overspend - agreed b) LCSCT (Room Hire AMG) - £45 - agreed c) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £102 - agreed d) Clerk (July Wages) - £596.08 (inc extra time for new website) - agreed e) HMRC (£141.80 PAYE and £43.75 Employers NI) - £185.55 - agreed f) Clerk (August Wages) - £479.22 - agreed g) HMRC (£112.60 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.44 – agreed h) Richard Carlson (LCSCT Defibrillator Starter Pack) - £13.99- agreed	
10.	Plans: None received	
11.	Matters for Information/Next Agenda: • Police Liaison Meeting - 3/9/26 and Quarry Liaison Meeting - 24/7/26.	
12.	Date of Next Meeting: No meeting in August. 7.30pm Monday 21 September - LCSCT.	ALL

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____