



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

Present: Cllrs Hinchcliffe (AH) (Chair), Calam (MC), Green (CG), Knox (IK) Nichols (MN) and Rowberry (LR) (Parish Councillor and RAF Representative).

In attendance: 2 residents, County Councillor Mark Mather (Executive Member Highways), Tony Bell, NCC Highways Officer, County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) & 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; NCNL – N'land Coast National Landscape.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes	Action
Members of the Public - Questions: 2 members of the public were in attendance. Boulmer Road Junction: Craig Thompson acknowledged that the hedge had been somewhat trimmed back and visibility had improved at the junction but maintained that visibility could be further improved if the shrubbery further up the garden could also be trimmed. The PC felt that the resident had done a good job and had improved the sightlines as was practically possible on a difficult junction. As Mark Mather and Tony Bell from NCC Highways were in attendance, they were asked to carry out an inspection of the junction and make any recommendations. ET flagged the safety of the junction had been flagged as one of the PC's top LTP priorities. Bait Digging at Boulmer: Craig Thompson and Ken Middlemist advised that bait digging at Boulmer continued. AH advised that as had previously been flagged, the Police were happy to be called out and attend if any illegal bait digging was taking place. It was also reaffirmed that if any byelaw could be re-established, then this would be the responsibility of NCC, who had taken over responsibility for legal services for the area from Alnwick District Council (ADC). ADC had previously established the byelaw and prosecuted under it in 1993 (Anderson Vs ADC). It was agreed that Craig Thompson, with his local knowledge and detail of the issue, was best placed to contact NCC Legal Team to progress and to contact the Police whenever any illegal bait digging was taking place so they could attend onsite.	
1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Bromley (Vice Chair) (PB), Horsley (HH) & McEwen (PM).	
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20 July 2026. The minutes were approved as a correct record.	
3. Declarations of Interest: AH is Secretary and Trustee of LCSCCT.	
4. County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report. Howick Road Repairs: It was noted the long-awaited road repairs for Howick Road would be delayed until Feb 2027. Mark Mather and Tony Bell were in attendance to explain the delay. The LTP scheme was now operates on a 3 year programme and 2 NCC officers are dedicated to co-ordinating highways repairs; this enables consistency of works and ensures value for money as officers empowered to flex the programme schedule to keep costs low and prioritise workload. This way of working was proving to be successful. £165k had been allocated to the Howick works but the delay enables the team to increase the budget to £200k from underspend in other areas, meaning a better job will be carried out. The PC accepted the rationale and thanked Mark and Tony for attending to explain. It was also noted that the works at Little Mill were still on track for the end of March. Quiet Lane Status: Taking advantage of Mark and Tony being in attendance, AH flagged the PC's frustration with NCC over their stance on Quiet Lanes for Northumberland and flagged that several other counties had adopting the scheme. Mark advised that to change county-wide policy was a big undertaking and the impact could be huge. It was agreed ET to send Mark Mather a copy of the Sunday Telegraph article of 30/5/26. AH also raised the point that adopting the concept of the Quiet Lane also encouraged residents and other people to be more active in terms of walking, jogging and cycling and this has the impact	

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	of improving health. This is supported by many of the Council's Departments who recognise the benefit of improvements in health. Highways seem to be out of step with these Departments. Mark agreed to review all these points and comment back to the PC. Library Consultation: WP confirmed at a cost of £100k each, NCC could only provide 1 mobile library van. The van will visit Longhoughton every 4 weeks but residents can take out up to 19 books. In addition, from January 2027, NCC Customer Services will also operate out of Alnwick Library based in Alnwick Playhouse Scheme of Delegation: New national rules will change how councils decide planning applications. Councillors will no longer call in applications under local rules and objection numbers will not automatically send an application to committee. NCC will update its constitution. The aim is clearer, more consistent decisions. Schedule 1 applications must be decided by planning officers. Schedule 2 applications are usually decided by officers. They can go to committee only if the nominated officer and member agree and the set criteria are met. Planning committees will focus on major local proposals, while officers decide minor and technical applications. WP also said that Northumberland must build 34,000 new homes over the next 5 years and will revise the NCC Local Plan. Anti-social behaviour and nuisance: For issues such as loud music being played from vehicles; excessive revving of engines; gatherings of individuals in vehicles behaving in an anti-social manner etc., contact the Safer Communities Team: email: public.protection@northumberland.gov.uk tel: 0345 600 6400 Abandoned vehicles: If you believe that a vehicle has been abandoned, you may report this to NCC's Environmental Enforcement Team: tel 0345 600 6400	
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). Beach Road – Quiet Lane Status: As requested at the July PC meeting, ET wrote to Richard McKenzie of NCC Highways. NCC advised that Beach Road does not meet the criteria for a 20mph or 30mph limit. Average speeds on Beach Road are 26.3mph, so no further action is considered necessary. Councillor Martin Swinbank was also copied into the correspondence and has requested that the 'Quiet Lane' idea is discussed at the NCC Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Board which he Chairs. This will at least enable an informed discussion amongst the diversity of active travel focussed members who attend. That may focus the conversation within NCC Highways and move the matter closer to a policy change, which I think could be useful. Martin also suggested the PC make a case for Quiet Lane Status to the Joint Local Access Forum, via the Chair, Alex MacLennan for a discussion in that forum too. AH wrote to Alex on 1/9/26. NCC Recycling Talk: Scheduled for 12/11/26, part of Thursday Together programme. Renewal of Boulmer Timber Stobs: No reply from Straughans. AH reported many of the stobs on the side of the access road are no longer present, leaving the wildflower meadow more vulnerable to vehicles driving onto it. During the summer, another 2 of the stobs broke off at ground level alongside Beach Road. These were put down in 2017. Several have broken off and AH repaired them. ET to give AH the details for Steve McKee, local fencing contractor. LR advised RAF contractors may be able to assist with installation. Influenza and COVID Vaccinations: KChem have agreed to hold a vaccination clinic at Longhoughton on 12/10/26, which AH has promoted. NHS Health Checks: NCC have agreed to continue with the checks in Longhoughton. The next session will be on 21/10/26 from 3.30pm-6.30pm. To book call 01670 623840, email healthtrainers@northumberland.gov.uk or just show up on the day. Wellbeing Walks: Walks are still taking place each Wednesday starting at 11.00 am. In recent weeks, the number participating has increased to an average of 7 or 8, with 10 one week. Please encourage people to attend. 11-16 yrs Friday Kickabout: Starts 18/9/26 and funded by Ballinger Trust for 2 years.	ET/AH

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	Thursday Together: Starts again on 5/11/26 and runs through to 25/3/27. The Ballinger Trust is also funding this programme for the next 2 years. A talk is planned each week. Longhoughton Feast: The event held on 11/7/26 was very successful and included many new activities, including a Classic Car Show and a motorcycle charity. The Village Show again increased in popularity. Overall, a surplus of over £1,000 was achieved, which will be put back into next year's show, booked for Saturday 10 July 2027. The Organising Committee thank all the sponsors - PC, James Knott Trust and MGL Group. To assist with planning work for 2027, the PC unanimously agreed in principle to commit to giving a further grant of £1,500. AH reported the Organising Committee met to consider any changes needed to be made to the event. Several have been identified, including a change in title from Longhoughton Feast to Longhoughton Show. Safeguarding Policy: Still outstanding. AH's enquiry with NALC did not identify any suggestions. LR volunteered to help draft a policy to enable the PC to make progress. School Green Ownership: Clarification on ownership of the access roads has been obtained. The concern is the PC does not have an agreement for vehicles to access the parking places over these access roads and an agreement is required. 8 households are affected by this issue and have all been invited to a meeting (hopefully in early October) to talk about the situation and see if an agreement can be reached. It is essential that PC has an agreement that allows legal access to the parking places. Gifts at Christmas: CG and AH co-ordinating. The PC unanimously agreed to give a £100 grant for 2026. Last year the project cost £800 and 61 Christmas gifts were given. There is a criteria to be added to the recipient list. Any names for recipients to AH/CG. Boulmer Wildflower Meadow: 4 issues to consider as follows: <u>Grass Cutting and Baling</u> For the last 2 years this has been done by Howick Estates in September at no cost to the PC but they have indicated they would like to be relieved of this task. Knowing it will be extremely difficult to find an alternative organisation, AH has encouraged Howick Estates to do the work on a commercial basis and charge the PC. <u>Maintenance of the Meadow</u> During the year the following maintenance needs to be done: strimming around stobs (5-6 hours each year); clearing up the cut grass (2-3 hours); Broadcasting new seed in September/October (2 hours); Hogweed removal in June (1 day); Ragwort removal (1 day). AH usually undertakes all these tasks. It was agreed AH needs help and to approach NCNL Conservation Team for assistance. <u>Publicity:</u> AH is working with NCNL re signage to promote the meadow. <u>Seed Purchase:</u> the PC unanimously agreed for AH to purchase new packs of Yellow rattle seed and one pack of mixed seed at a cost of circa £150. Newcastle University: Coast and Rural Solutions Session: held at Seahouses on 14/9/26. This was attended by AH and CG. It was an opportunity to set out the possible solutions for all the issues facing the coastal areas in Northumberland (eg a possible tourism tax to pay for many of the services and facilities needed by visitors). NCC Town & Parish Council Conference and NALC AGM: 8/10/26. AH to attend. Broken Bins – Tedder Place and School Green: ET reported a new bin had been purchased for Tedder Place and is scheduled to be installed by NCC. In addition, NCC to provide a free replacement bin for School Green as the bin NCC held in storage (from top of Beach Road) and which had been intended for School Green had not stored well and was unfit for re-use. ET liaising with Martin Duddy at NCC to organise installation asap. Request for a Fish and Chip Van at School Green Parking Area: It was agreed that due to the access issues as identified above and due to the small size of the School Green Car Park, this was not suitable. It was noted that other food vendors used the car park at LCSCT and provided all appropriate paperwork/licences were in place, a request should be made by the applicant direct to the LCSCT Trustees for consideration to use their location. ET to write to the applicant to advise accordingly.	LR ALL ET ET
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	Vandalism in Boulmer Car Park: AH reported that on 10/9/26 the 'No Overnight Parking or Camping in this area' signs were vandalised. Two campervans stopped overnight that night. AH reported the vandalism to WP and NCC FixMyStreet. b) Annual Fixed Asset Check: ET to circulate the current Fixed Asset Register and allocate Fixed Assets to be checked amongst the PC.	ET/ALL
7.	Reports for Discussion a) Longhoughton Update (PB had previously circulated a report): Parking/Traffic Notices: The Community Speedwatch is currently in abeyance as there's only one active member of the team. In a recent conversation with the Northumbria Police, the issue of anti-social parking was raised - usually cars and vans parked on pavements, many of which are narrow and so impassable with even small obstructions. Northumbria Police have "flyers" that can be put under the windscreen wipers of vehicles parked inconsiderately. Northumbria Police have agreed the PC can place these flyers on cars parked inconsiderately on pavements. The stipulation is that a photograph is taken of the vehicle in case the driver gets in touch with the police. There's no fine associated with the flyer and it is simply a request to park considerately. Flyers can be placed "as and when" and there is no stipulation about frequency or sites. The PC unanimously agreed members of the Speedwatch Team to issue the flyers. Road signs: South End has 2 locations where people keep horses and from where they ride along the road. One rider said that there used to be a warning horses sign along South End, but it's been removed and not replaced. The PC has been asked if they will request a replacement sign. It was agreed the PC would ask NCC Highways. Church Friends Group and Green Routes: A survey of the church grounds has been undertaken and an initial management plan has been prepared. The group will meet to discuss and agree the priorities and the way forward. Included in this will be links to the green routes concept embedded in the Neighbourhood Plan. Howick Update: No updates. Boulmer Update: No updates b) Development Projects Update: i. Discussion with N'land Estates on Housing Site Development: AH advised a response from N'land Estates was due in the Autumn re the 3 projects (Former Recreation Ground in Longhoughton, Boulmer South and Johnnie Johnson Site). ii. Climate Change Project: MC had previously circulated a report which updated the PC on work completed against the PC's 3 climate priorities: habitat and wildlife, signposting support and information and community energy generation. It was agreed that sustainable transport and community energy projects would require significant organisation, specialist knowledge, long-term commitment and volunteer support and is potentially too ambitious for the PC to undertake. However, the PC could raise the profile of sustainability and what people can do as individuals. This can be achieved by sign-posting residents to initiatives and resources and strengthening climate-related content across the PC's website and social media. It was also agreed to sponsor the screening of the <i>People's Emergency Briefing</i> at LCSCT possibly in November with the PC covering any room hire costs. Showing of the film could also be considered for Boulmer and Howick Village Halls. iii. Youth Strategy: LR confirmed things were progressing with the review of youth provision and that a report and action plan was yet to follow. iv. Longhoughton West Side Greenway: No further updates. v. Social Media Update: MC and LR had previously circulated a report. The PC currently engages residents through its website, Facebook page and an email mailing list, alongside several community-run Facebook groups. However, the mailing list reaches only around 1/3 of residents, and relying mainly on Facebook may limit engagement with younger people who use a wider range of social media platforms. MC/LR propose	ET MC LR

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	refreshing the PC's Facebook page with regular content, creating linked Instagram and Nextdoor accounts, and expanding the mailing list through online and paper sign-up forms via MailChimp while ensuring GDPR compliance. MC/LR are willing to lead the work, report on progress and seek PC's approval before committing any funding. vi. Bus Shelter & Bus Stops in Longhoughton: A resident has requested a shelter at the southbound Seaview bus stop in Longhoughton (a well-used which offers no protection in poor weather). Initial discussions have been held with NCC Highways and NCNL who both have no objection to relocating the stop around 90 metres south to the North End/Carey Place junction, where it would better serve nearby housing. NCC Highways has indicated that moving the stop should be straightforward and require no planning permission, and NCNL has recommended considering a timber shelter, but the cost of this is circa £7k out with the PC's budget. The request has also prompted a wider review of bus stop provision, particularly on the southbound route towards Alnwick. The proposal would increase the number of southbound stops from 3 to 5, with new bus stops at North End/Carey Place and North End/Eastfield, while retaining the existing Running Fox, School Green Car Park and Station Road bus stops. No additional northbound stops or shelters are proposed. Funding would need to be explored, as there is no current PC budget provision, and residents should be consulted via the newsletter before the proposals are progressed. vii. Police Liaison Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 3/9/26 had been previously circulated to the PC. One of the items coming out of the meeting was a request for NCC speed monitoring strips on Boulmer Road. AH to put together a map and detail for ET to request from NCC highways. viii. Quarry Liaison Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 24/7/26 had been previously circulated to the PC. One of the items coming out of the meeting was that NCC would not be moving away from the national approved standard for blasting.	MC/LR AH ET/AH
8.	Correspondence a) NCC – Northumberland Local Plan Update - noted b) Richrd McKenzie, Highways, NCC – Request for 20mph on Beach Road, Longhoughton – reported on under 6a) above. c) Cllr Martin Swinbank – Quiet Lanes – reported on under 6a) above. d) NCC FixMyStreet Ref 9959640 – Overgrown Tree Blocking Sunlight at Burnside, Westfield Park – Investigated and not on land belonging to PC or LCSCCT so returned to NCC to investigate/resolve. e) Newcastle University - Coast & Rural Solution Session – Seahouses - 14/9/26 - reported on under 6a) above. f) NCC – Joint Town & Parish Council Conference – 8/10/26 – AH attending g) NALC AGM – 8/10/26 – AH attending h) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin – 27/8/26 – noted. This included information on the NJC national 3.3%v pay rise for Parish and Town Council staff. i) NALC Update - September - noted j) NCC – Consultation on Proposed Countywide Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – noted but no consultation feedback to be submitted. k) NCC – Consultation on Draft Statement of Principles – Gambling Licensing Policy - noted but no consultation feedback to be submitted. l) Longhoughton School Green: replies from Mr & Mrs Robinson, Mr S Marker, Mr M Lock, Mr & Mrs Souter and Mr & Mrs Reed - reported on under 6a) above. m) Complaint - Broken Bin at Tedder Place and at Village Green Longhoughton n) Request – Susan Lynn – Bus Shelter at North End - reported on under 6a) above. o) Complaint – Russ Taylor – Low Steads Beach parking camera equipment – AH had responded to advise this was for Howick Estates and re-directed the complaint.	

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	p) Geoff Robson – Request for Fish & Chip Van – Longhoughton Village Square - reported on under 6a) above. q) Fg Off Adam Evans, RAF Boulmer – Volunteering Offer – noted with thanks. r) NCC – Northumberland Libraries August Newsletter – noted. s) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter July #2 and August #1 & #2 and Sept #1 - noted t) Seaside Travel – Community Event and Partnership Opportunities – ET to respond to request more detail. u) Alnwick Medical Group – PPG Newsletter - noted v) Celia Southerst – Boulmer Enquiry – AH had responded about Boulmer wreck. w) Longhoughton Community Gardeners – addition of assets to Fixed Asset List – the following additions were noted: 2 x timber planters at Co-op/N End Corner; 1 rustic bench at Westfield Park and various gardening tools. x) Lost in TV – BBC's The Big School Assembly Sing-along at The Glasshouse, Gateshead – noted y) NCC Preparing Communities for Digital Switchover – noted z) NE Mayor Bus Franchising Consultation – noted	
9.	Parish Financial Matters: a) Mazars – Notice of Conclusion of Audit YE 31 March 2026/Annual Governance Statement 2026. ET confirmed the audit has been concluded and the statement of accounts are published on the PC website (the documents are a scan and therefore not fully compliant with the Accessibility Regulations which require a physical “wet ink” signature). The full return is also available by contacting the Parish Clerk. b) NCC (Precept) - £15,328.50 - CREDIT - noted c) LCSCT (Room Hire AMG £45 / Quarry Liaison £28 / AMG £40) - £113 - agreed d) N'land Estates (Rent: Boulmer Village Green £10 / Playing Field £65) - £70 - agreed e) Clerk (Sept Wages) - £569.97 - agreed f) HMRC (£135 PAYE and £38.70 Employers NI) - £173.70 - agreed g) Greenfingers Services Ltd (Grasscutting Boulmer Common) - £108.00 - agreed h) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £289.00 - agreed i) Defence Infrastructure Organisation (Allotment Car Park Rent) - £24.00 - agreed j) SLCC (Annual Membership) £158.00 - agreed k) Glasdon (Replacement Bin for Tedder Place) - £258.50 – agreed l) ICO (GDPR Annual Fee) - £52 – agreed m) LCSCT (Village Hall Insurance Contribution) - £1,216.76 – agreed n) LCSCT (Kids Christmas Party Grant) - £150 – unanimously agreed	
10.	Plans: a) 26/02691/FUL – Erection of 3No detached dwelling houses with associated access, parking, landscaping, drainage, infrastructure and ancillary works - Land North and West of Longbank Farm, Longbank Drive, Longhoughton, NE66 3AP – objection – the application seeks to develop additional new, large scale housing outside the village and in open countryside. b) 25/04034/CCMEIA – Amended/additional docs - Longhoughton Quarry, NE66 3AE – no objections with the amended additional docs but the PCs original concerns remain. c) 26/03244/FUL – 1st floor balcony extension – 8 Longbank Farm Steading, Longhoughton, NE66 3AP – the application just received and being reviewed by the PC.	
11.	Matters for Information/Next Agenda: • MN raised a possible last-minute funding request for Longhoughton Scouts based on a proposed imminent sleepover/camp at LCSCT. The PC asked for clarity on the amount being sought, which MN agreed to provide more information/detail.	MN
12.	Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm Monday 19 October 2026 - LCSCT.	ALL

The meeting ended at 9.49pm.

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