

## Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 14.12.11. – Church Room – 7.00pm

**Present** Cllrs Elliott (Chairman), Hughes, Lowrie, Truscott, Pagan, Savage and Pringle. PC Teasdale, the Clerk, Rolf Chicken (PC Allotments Officer), and four parishioners.

**1. Apologies for Absence** Cllr Sanderson

**2. Minutes** of the meeting from the 16.11.11. had been circulated and were approved and signed.

**3. Declaration of Interest** - none

**4. Date of Next Meeting(s)** Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Jan (the clerk will be absent due to holidays), Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

**5. County Matters (report provided by Cllr Elliott in Cllr Sanderson absence) – Speeding through Village** – Costs had been obtained from NCC highways dept for the installation of a flashing sign which ranged from £3800 to £5000. In addition annual service costs would be approx £300 + any repair costs as necessary. After considering the cost -v- benefit and the overall long-term effectiveness of such a sign, it was agreed by all that this initiative should not be pursued. Rather, highways are to be contacted to discuss whether new road markings and/or changes to the surface texture could be considered when the road is due to be resurfaced in early 2012. To be raised with Cllr Sanderson. **Post-Office Service Provision** – there have been a number of non operational days in the last month and thanks was given to Cllr Sanderson who has been pursuing this matter with post office management. Unfortunately it would appear that there is no clear line of responsibility for outreach services within the post office but Cllr Sanderson has confirmed he is pursuing this matter. The meeting called for every parishioner to continue to use the service.

**6. Update by PC Andrea Teasdale**

**Speeding initiative** – this will recommence in Jan 2012. **Thefts**– PC Teasdale advised that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of burglaries, thefts from cars and also shopping lifting. She encouraged everyone to be vigilant. **Theft** of parrott from a village residence–unfortunately as yet the parrot has not been recovered.

**7. Accounts**

**7.1 Monthly Accounts**– The monthly accounts summary, circulated with the agenda, was discussed and approved in addition to all subsequent entries.

**Expenditure**

5.12.11	npower re Xmas tree 15/8-24/11 est	£41.25
5.12.11	L.Douds refund of payment to NEDL re meter movement	£1,069.20
5.12.11	PCC re Dec Mtg	£10.00
5.12.11	L. Douds Telephone/Internet claim Nov	£15.00
5.12.11	L.Douds re Mileage Claim 10.11.11-5.12.11	£18.85
9.12.11	J.P Garden Services re Archies Pond Oct	£210.00
9.12.11	J.P Garden Services install electric bx base	£40.00
13.12.11	D Pringle refund re new goal post wing	£45.00
13.12.11	J. A Smith Mole Clearance 2011	£110.00
13.12.11	Northumbrian Water Allotments 17/8-30/11 Est	£15.20
13.12.11	Bothalough Gardens re Haining maintenance claim no 2	£505.17
13.12.11	L.Douds Salary 15.11.11-13.12.11 30 hrs	£298.23
14.12.11	P. Savage refund re Shield Engraving	£7.50

**Income**

Nothing received since last reporting period.

Petty Cash Balance as at 14.12.11.

£17.75

**7.2 Budget Position To Date** - Budget position as at 14.12.11. was circulated and reviewed. No issues to date

**7.3 Barclays 12 Month Bond** – £30000 will be reinvested into a 9 month fixed bond at 2% commencing 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2012.

**8. Routine Items for Review**

**8.1 Review of Planning Applications Considered** – No planning applications received this month  
**Moor Edge Cottage** – a draft letter was read to the meeting. Changes were made and the letter will be sent to the owners requesting that the moor be re-instated

**Northumberland Local Development Framework: Northumberland Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation** – a CD containing the scoping report is to be circulated amongst all councillors. As feedback is due back to NCC by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, this will be added to the January agenda.

**8.2 Moor Management Scheme** – An update was provided by Cllr Pringle. There has been no communication to Cllr Pringle in relation to the clearing out of the ditch at the south end. The surface of the entrance road has been improved.

**8.3 Wind Farms – Fenrother Wind Farm** – Energiekontor have advised that a community fund will be available and questioned whether the PC would like to have a share in the fund. The PC has responded that if the application was to be approved, then the PC would like to become involved in the community fund but that does not mean that the PC is supporting the application.

**BT Wingates Moor** – a communication has been circulated around the village from the developers providing an update on the application submitted in March. Whilst the developers have volunteered to attend a PC meeting this offer has been declined at present.

**BT Wingates** – This is the only wind farm that is currently at construction stage. Cllr Lowrie agreed to attend the next Community Liaison Group meeting in January.

**8.4 Donation Requests** - No applications received this month.

**8.5 Allotments** – Rolf Chicken, PC Allotments Officer, advised that Paul Leighton and Keith Robertson are no longer residents and therefore have been removed from the waiting list. The clerk advised that all existing plot holders have received the first of two letters in relation to plot condition – the second will be issued in Feb. A letter has also gone to all those on the waiting list providing an update on how the allotments are being managed. The water rates invoice has been received and this was passed to Rolf for action as appropriate.

**8.6 All Weather Pitch Activities – report by PC Recreation Officer.** No confirmation has been received as yet from Helen Stephenson as to whether she wishes to take on this role. It was agreed to keep this slot on the agenda.

**8.7 Consultations** – a) **Mobile Library** – Cllr Hughes updated the meeting on the current consultation and questionnaires which covered the suggested new routes. The consultation ends at New Year. It was felt by all that the suggestions made were positive and Longhorsley would like as much coverage as possible. This will be fed back to NCC by the clerk. b) **NCCs Public Transport Strategy** - the consultation will run until 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. Cllrs Truscott and Hughes will consider the paper and feedback to the next meeting ahead of submission to NCC.

**9. Items Carried Forward**

**9.1 Plants and Flowers in the Village** – Kevin Woods has confirmed that he would be interested in the position of PC Plants and Flowers Officer. He is to be invited to the Jan meeting to discuss this matter further.

**9.2 Village Play Areas including Playground Inspections** – Cllr Savage advised that the majority of issues that were raised in the annual inspections have either been addressed or are in the process of being actioned.

The basketball nets were reported as missing but these have already been replaced a number of times and it was agreed that missing nets do not present a danger. The football posts have now been repaired. The caps on some of the bolts on the equipment at the Church View play area keep falling off. Cllr Pagan agreed to have a look at this. A new spring for the gate at the Church View play area is still outstanding. The 2<sup>nd</sup> claim for the All Weather Pitch has been received from Bothalhaugh Gardens landscape contractors and Cllr Savage confirmed the accuracy of the invoice to work completed. It was agreed that a letter requesting a schedule of regular visits should be sent and also advising that Cllr Lowrie will be the onsite contact going forward.

**9.3 Tree Surgery around the village- Adoption of a Local Policy** – A standard letter provided by NCC was discussed. This deals with any requests made to the council to prune overhanging branches and to improve light levels into property from council land. Under section 8, paragraph GT 16 & section 8 paragraph GT 12 in the NCC tree strategy 2010 NCC will not carry out such work. Given budget constraints it was agreed by all to adopt this approach as a local policy for Longhorsley PC for any future requests.

**9.4 Cutting Back/Shrub Clearance around the Village** – Adoption of a Maintenance Plan/Policy – it was agreed that Cllrs Elliott, Savage and Pringle would refresh the plan that was drawn up a few months ago for potential work around the village, although any expenditure would depend on the year end financial position. Cllr Pagan suggested that the PC consider utilising the resources of a number of groups that encourage community projects e.g. the probation service. Cllr Pagan will pass on the details to the clerk.

**9.5 Draft PC/NCC Charter** – feedback is required by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. Cllr Pringle questioned whether the grass in the old churchyard would continue to be cut by NCC – this is to be checked. No further comments or questions were raised.

**9.6 Moor Edge Cottage** – see 8.1 above

**9.7 Street Light on Drummonds Close** Despite the fact this has been reported on several occasions the street light still has not been repaired. It was agreed to ask for the support of Cllr Sanderson to progress this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.00pm to allow parishioners to speak. Points rose included:

- A parishioner thanked the PC for clarifying the position in relation to the 30mph sign which he felt was reasonable. Cllr Elliott asked any parishioners that saw hauliers speeding through the village, to pass on the details to the clerk who would write to the company concerned.
- A parishioner expressed his strong disappointment that the Christmas tree lights were not working. Cllr Elliott explained the problems that the PC had incurred with NEDL and Npower and advised that the lights would be operation on 16 Dec. Cllr Savage felt that the PC had taken too long to agree on the best course of action in relation to the moving of the electricity box which had contributed to the problem and for this he apologised. It was mentioned that the electricity cable was very close to the surface and this needed to be fed back to NEDL.

**9.8 Housing Needs Survey in Longhorsley** Cllrs Elliott and Pagan had met with the author of the survey, who was an independent consultant working for a property developer. He was very receptive to suggestions and changes would be made. It would be very clear that the document was nothing to do with the PC and a covering letter would accompany the hand delivered survey, which is to be circulated any time soon. The proposed development site is not known. The report will be shared with the PC.

**9.9 Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons** Cllr Truscott advised that as part of the celebrations we could register and formally light our existing beacon. It was proposed and agreed that the PC register and light the beacon to mark the celebrations. In addition the PC will also support any village group interested in marking the occasion. This offer of support is to be communicated throughout the village.

**9.10 Tree Protectors from trees near football pitch** – Cllr Savage clarified that the trees had been donated by the Prescotts to the village and the tree protectors were funded by the PC. It was felt that the tree protectors had served their purpose and, as they may now be stopping the growth of the trees, should be removed. It was agreed that the advice of the NCC trees officer should be sought before any action is taken.

**9.11 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England** – the clerk confirmed there was nothing relevant to Longhorsley.

## **10. Other Agenda Items**

**10.1 Quotation for Archies Pond Maintenance** - The quotation from J Pattison for the ongoing maintenance of the area for £1050, being the same price as 2011, was approved by all.

**10.2 Mole clearance** – The quotation from J.A Smith for the clearance of moles for £110, being the same price as 2011, was approved by all.

**10.3 Lighting of the Beacon – music** – Mrs E Walker has confirmed that she will not be able to provide the music for the new years eves event. It was agreed that music would therefore not be formally provided but rather would be on an ad hoc basis. Cllr Elliott confirmed that he would personally donate the refreshments. A poster advertising the occasion is to be displayed around the village.

**10.4 SLCC Annual Subscription** – the annual subscription was approved by all.

## **11. Other Items for Information**

### **12. Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)**

**12.1 The Village Newsletter “Gloria”** – it was agreed by all that it would be beneficial for the PC to submit an article into this monthly village newsletter. The clerk confirmed that any submission into a community newsletter would satisfy Quality Parish requirements as long as the names and contact details of all councillors and the clerk were published.

**12.2 New Parish Notice board**. The new notice board is now in-situ at the village hall. Half will be for use by the PC and half by the Village Hall Committee. Current PC key holders are Cllrs Elliott, Pagan and Lowrie.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

## **Items for the next agenda to the Clerk by 5pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec**