

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting – 10.2.10. – Church Room – 7.00pm

Present Cllrs Elliott (Chairman), Walker, Savage, Pringle, Lowrie, Hughes, Sanderson, the Clerk and three parishioners.

1. Apologies for Absence Cllr Truscott

2. Minutes of the meeting from the 20.1.10. had been circulated and were approved and signed.

3. Declaration of Interest –The clerk declared an interest in item 9.4

4. Date of Next Meeting(s) –Wed. 10th March, Wed 14th April. Annual Parish meeting to be held in May, date TBC.

5. County Matters – The NCC budget has not been approved as agreement on the required cost savings cannot be reached. Government intervention may be required if there is no agreement. Winter services – the extreme weather conditions have left many major roads with severe pot holes and NCC are making repairs. NCC are reviewing the management of grit bins to ensure that they are positioned in the correct place and importantly are filled as appropriate. Post office representatives and parish councils attended a special meeting at NCC to discuss the feedback of outreach services. A number of concerns and issues were raised and the post office agreed to return in 6 months time to attend another review meeting.

6. Accounts

6.1 Monthly Accounts– The monthly accounts summary provided was discussed and approved in addition to all subsequent entries. Specific entries were as follows:

Expenditure:

28.1.10	Northumbrian Water 19/8/09-20/11/09	£7.73
28.1.10	E Walker re Web Host (Strato AG)	£49.91
28.1.10	Community Action Northumberland - Donation	£15.00
3.2.10	PCC Feb Mtg	£10.00
3.2.10	L.Douds Mileage Claim (3 mtgs 18.1, 20.1, 26.1)	£74.52
3.2.10	L. Douds Jan Telephone/Internet Claim	£15.00
3.2.10	L.Douds Salary 7.1.10 - 3.2.10 26 hrs	£258.47

Income:

No new entries recorded since 19.1.10 (see previous minutes)

Petty Cash Balance £18.06

6.2 Budget Position To Date - Circulated and reviewed. No Issues. Forecasted year end position discussed – any surplus to be considered for expenditure on pot holes– see section 8.6 .

7. Routine Items for Review

7.1 Review of Planning Applications Considered. – Horsley Tower (CM/2010035) no objections. Moor Edge Cottage (CM/20080846) – Cllr Pringle has acquired a map of the moor although this does not cover ownership of the land. Investigations are to continue with the Land Registry and further maps are to be obtained from the archives.

7.2 Northumberland Area Partnerships – no update

7.3 Moor Management Scheme Update – Neil Tulloch has confirmed that SSSI moor funds can be used to fund a drainage ditch and clarification is being sought as to whether consent from Natural England would be required. A letter from the Rural Payments Agency has still

been sent to the wrong correspondence address despite reassurances that their systems are correct – to be raised again.

7.4 Wind Farm Proposals – Further to the concerns over parking in the village, Cllr Elliott has had confirmation from the central planning dept that once any approval has been given, a detailed traffic management plan would be required prior to any work being carried out.

7.5 Post Office Service Provision– The Chairman and the clerk attended the PO review meeting (26th Jan) held at NCC and raised again the issue of functionality with the PO representatives present. Direct contact details have been obtained for Jane Briginshaw, network development manger. Responses have now been received from the last two letters which confirms that Jane Briginshaw is currently investigating the ongoing problems. In addition the clerk has invited Jane to attend a PC meeting to discuss solutions and ways forward, although a full technical investigation has been requested prior to any meeting. It was suggested and agreed that the PO should be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting.

7.6 Donation Requests – It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 s28, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: - £100 for Great North Air Ambulance and £50 for Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering. These payments were approved.

8. Items Carried Forward

8.1 Church View – responsibility for drainage– A response from Bellway confirms that the area was adopted by NCC for the purposes of maintenance on 3.11.04 and therefore responsibility for drainage lies with NCC and not Bellway. The NCC solicitor and Cllr Sanderson continue to assist with finding a resolution to this matter and Cllr Sanderson has offered to arrange a face to face meeting if required. Investigations continue.

8.2 Hedge & Tree Cutting in the Village– Awaiting confirmation from NCC that no TPOs are in place for the cherry trees at the front of West Farm cottages prior to any work being commenced. In addition BT will be contacted as there are telephone poles nearby. The issue of who is responsible for cutting the beech hedge at village hall car park is still to be resolved

8.3 Adamson Park – Cllr Savage is organising replacement of the wooden rails on the balance bar. It was reported that the gates are stiff and need to be re-hung – contractor to be contacted. In addition the latch is not working well and needs some attention. Comments have been made to councillors that older children have been seen “hanging around the area” in an evening.

Petty crime in the village was discussed generally and it was agreed that a request should be made to the police, to drive through the area periodically, particularly at weekends, to help prevent any petty, opportunistic crime, particularly following the church break in.

8.4 Garden for Playgroup. The grant application for the community foundation leaf fund has been submitted and the playgroup are awaiting the outcome. The school are still keen to be involved and the PTA have pledged a £500 donation. The priority will be to erect a fence and then make the raised beds.

8.5 Village Litter Bins – Quotes were reviewed and it was agreed to purchase three new bins (2 large and 1 medium) from NCCs preferred supplier, Glasdon. A large bin will be positioned near the village shop, one near the Shoulder of Mutton (subject to approval) and the other near the Church View Play area with the bin already there to be re-sited down the path on church view.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.00pm to allow parishioners to speak. The meeting was resumed at 8.10 pm. Points raised included:

- a) Pot Holes on A697 – a parishioner thanked Cllr Sanderson for the repairs to the highway outside the old post office.
- b) Post-office Opening Hours– a parishioner reported that whilst the postmistress opens at 9.30 the facility is not operational until approx 9.45 as the computer system takes time to boot-up. To be fed-back to the Post Office accordingly.

8.6 Pot Holes – the NCC solicitor has confirmed that in very strict legal terms the PC would potentially have a greater liability if they did not fill pot holes and took no action, than if they filled them, unless the filling of holes was done in such a manner that made the danger worse. The question of whether to exercise the PC power and repair some pot holes, was discussed at length, remembering there is no duty to take action. It was agreed to get an answer from the NCC solicitor about the following, “if the PC repaired pot holes does that mean the PC are accepting the long term maintenance of those specific areas for the future”. In addition quotes for repairs are to be obtained following discussion with contractors for parts of the lane from the old post office to Drummonds Lane.

8.7 Northumberland Landscape Assessment – Cllr Hughes provided an update on this long document. It was agreed to include mention of the moor as an excellent example of Atlantic Lowland Heath and hence its SSSI status. It was felt that this policy would not be central to any planning/policy making decision, but the question about how this is accommodated into decision making, is to be asked of the planning department as they are hopefully going to attend the PC meeting.

8.8 Crash Barriers in the Village – awaiting feedback from NCC highways in relation to the concerns outside the village shop and the required repair to the bollards outside the Shoulder of Mutton. Cllr Savage confirmed he was happy to attend a site visit to discuss the village shop concerns with a NCC rep.

8.9 Village Hall Car Park – parishioners’ concerns about the car park during the extreme weather conditions, have been feedback to the village hall committee chair, who will raise the point at the next meeting.

8.10 Lighting of the Beacon – it has been confirmed that the PC can incur any expenditure on activities which provide entertainment and attract visitors to the area under section 144 and 145 of the LGA 1972. Thus for the future, the PC can consider rewarding volunteers, whether financially or with gifts-in-kind.

9. Other Agenda Items

9.1 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (consultation) -Noted

9.2 Draft Economic Strategy for Northumberland– Cllr Walker to consider.

9.3 Royal Garden Party – Noted – no nomination submitted.

9.4 Clerks Annual Salary Review – The clerk is to remain on SCP 21 and the position reviewed next year once progress with the CILCA qualification can be assessed.

10. Other Items for Information

11. Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on agenda)

11.1 Adoption of the Alnwick Planning for Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document

– this was adopted by the NCC on the 4.11.09 and the final document is to be considered by the clerk for Longhorsley relevance.

11.2 Newsletter – the need for a Longhorsley newsletter, to support quality parish status, was agreed by all.

11.3 Direction Sign for Village Hall – following a suggestion from the village hall committee, a direction sign is to be positioned on the right hand turn in Drummonds Close. Cllr Savage will discuss positioning with local residents. NCC are aware of the request.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Items for the next agenda to the Clerk by 5pm on Friday 26th February.