

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 4 February 2021.

Present: Cllrs S Allan, E Davidson, D Green, H Lindley, and J Marshall. County Councillor G Sanderson
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

200 Apologies for absence – Cllr T Jackson

201 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

202 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) – None

203 The minutes of the meeting 17 December 2020 were agreed as a true record and will be signed at a later date due to Covid-19.

204 Matters Arising therefrom:

- a) Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint – outstanding awaiting NCC action Clerk
- b) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked – After the meeting the Clerk spoke to Cllr Jackson and he has photos of how bad the situation is and will forward to the Clerk for her to send to NCC with a request for urgent works to be undertaken. Clerk
- c) Leak at riverside – the Clerk tried to review the pipe/leak but the water levels were too high so will investigate when water levels drop. Clerk
- d) Parking/traffic issues at Pumpkin Pie – an email was sent to owner of nursery requesting updating parents following new road safety measures. No further complaints have been received however people are still parking on the yellow lines but not necessarily from the nursery, a number of delivery drivers are ignoring the yellow lines. Continue to monitor.
- e) Rails on the steps down to The Peth – Rail is still not repaired. Clerk to contact NCC. Clerk
- f) Footpaths through the village – the Clerk has requested that NCC look at the footpaths in the village and also requested works on the one past the garage again. A resident fell on this footpath recently. CC Sanderson is looking into these issues.
- g) Bus Shelter opposite Northumberland Arms – quotes are being sought. Clerk
- h) Thorns and debris on roads following hedge cutting – NCC has stated if informed they can get a road sweeper out. Following this email conversation more hedges were cut on the Friday and NCC swept the road on the Monday.
- i) Street light request for East Thirston – NCC is looking at the situation with regards to increasing the lighting, they need to ascertain if there is any provision in the proposed new road safety measures.
- j) Email to Anne-Marie Trevelyan re A1 – email was sent stating the situation with regards to the A1 not coping with the level of traffic in the summer – no acknowledgement was received.

205 Report by County Councillor Sanderson

NCC has set the budget for the coming year – there will be minimal cuts to staff and services and CC Sanderson is pleased with it considering the year NCC has had. There will be an increase in parking charges in tourist areas. A proper consultation was undertaken with the public – a phone in Q&A session and have your say event which has 500+ attendees. Finding efficiencies in Adult Social Care – there will be a £3m saving but still over £450m being allocated.

Roadworks – A JCB pot hole filler is being introduced to the NCC fleet.

Northumberland line using an old railway is to be reopened to passenger trains from Ashington and Blyth into Newcastle running every half hour.

Climate Change Action Plan being launched next week.

Trialing pavement charges in 5 or 6 towns.

Vaccine roll out is working well in the County but we are still not out of the woods yet.

Pavement from garage going out the village will have a sweeper try to clear the debris back.

Looking at potential extension of pavement from the seat up towards to A1 – won't be tarmac as too costly but will be better than walking on the grass/road.

Lighting on the build out traffic measures will need to be linked to the mains as the solar panel has not worked. The equipment for the solar panel will be reused so won't go to waste.

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The Bridge – Felton and Thirston are used as detours for traffic if there is a situation on the A1. There is an understanding that this should not happen on a regular basis but there are concerns about what the situation will be when A1 being dualled. There is an agreement that in the event of the A1 being unexpectedly closed lorries should be stacked on the A1 but this does not happen. Also there was chaos in Felton when the A1 was closed for planned works – traffic should be diverted along the A697. Clerk to write to A1 Highways and NCC as are Felton PC.

Clerk

There are wooden supports on the crash barrier on the bend at the bridge which will be changed to metal supports soon.

206 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC Recreation Field Committee Meeting – Cllr Marshall reported:

Field drains not working properly, some work is being done to try to get water to drain off but needs investigation by a specialist.

Play area – work needed on some equipment then more bark to be put down.

Grass cutting and hedging contracts going out to tender.

Sub group being formed to look at upgrading the MUGA surface and other works and the sub group looking for a Thirston Councillor to join this group – contact the Clerk if willing to join this group.

Terms of Reference state Rec Field meeting can only go ahead if there is at least 1 Felton and 1 Thirston Councillor present – Cllr Davidson covers if Cllr Marshall unavailable.

Dog fouling an ongoing issue and this has increased recently, advice has been sought from the Dog Warden on what action can be done to try to alleviate this problem.

207 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Nothing to report

b) Landscaping – Nothing to report

c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – There are two documents that need to be provided by NCC and once these are ready the NP will go to independent examiner. The independent examiner referral office has logged the NP.

208 To report on any planning decisions:

20/01373/LBC - The Old Manse, West Thirston - Listed Building Consent to replace lean-to with single storey extension, plywood door and window with french doors – GRANTED

20/03133/FUL – Thirston Mill - Construction of a menage; division of the existing field into paddocks with post and rail fencing; hard standing area for vehicle parking; construction of wooden stable block and storage shed – GRANTED

20/03462/FUL - Badgers Holt Kennel Wood Eshott - Propose a loft conversion using the fully extent of the loft space for an additional bedroom and bathroom; proposed gable window be installed to the proposed bedroom outer wall with double inward opening doors; clear glass balustrade is proposed to create a juliette balcony – GRANTED

20/03770/FELTPO - Chapelside House Eshott Village - Tree Preservation Order Application for removal of sycamore tree No2 and ash tree No 3 - PERMITTED

20/04121/VARYCO - Silverwood 10A Burgham Park - Variation of conditions : 2 (plans) pursuant to planning approval 17/01468/FUL – GRANTED

Planning applications pending:

19/03659/VARYCO – Eshott Airfield – make temporary hours of 7am to 11pm permanent – objections submitted.

20/01580/FUL - Thirston Court - Retrospective : 2 no. new dwellings (re 18/01327/AGTRES), alterations to site layout to incorporate changes to parking, access, bin, external storage, realignment of boundaries including change of use of Agricultural Land to Garden, Orchards ancillary to residential use and discharge of conditions relating to landscaping and contamination remediation. Amendment submitted – No Objections

20/01327/FUL – Building NW of Blackbrook Farm - Conversion of redundant agricultural building to provide a single dwelling unit – No objections. NCC recommending refusal. Applicants have been advised to appoint a Planning Consultant to look at the issues NCC has raised.

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20/02026/COU – Cottages at Burgham Park Golf Club – Change of use from holiday cottages to residential dwellings – No Objections

20/02093/FUL – Burgham Park Golf Club - Replace greenkeepers shed, create six-hole golf course, re-locate driving range, create landscape bund, erect driving range shelter, extension and alteration of clubhouse and new car park layout – concerns on location of greenkeepers shed.

20/02094/FUL – Land NW of Burgham Park Golf Club - Remove green keepers compound and erection of 56 dwellings plus upgrade of access road, electric sub station, SUDs, domestic package treatment works and domestic gas storage

20/03833/FUL - Carinya Cottage West Thirston - Demolition of existing cottage and construction of new dwelling with garage – this property now up for sale so expecting this application will be withdrawn but no formal notification from NCC as yet.

20/04177/FUL - Land North East of Felmoor Caravan Park - Extension to existing holiday comprising 139 no. pitches for holiday lodges plus ancillary features including water feature, play area and vintage vehicle museum

20/04000/COU - Land to West of Longdyke - Conversion of redundant detached stable into 1 no 3-bedroomed holiday letting unit.

20/04256/FUL – Northumberland Zoo - Proposed construction of a large indoor, walk-through tropical house

APP/P2935/W/20/3254874 – Appeal by Northumberland Estates in relation to housing application at Land East of Greycroft (19/05017/OUT) – no date as to when this application will be decided. There are a number of objections on the NCC website.

Planning Issues:

Northumberland Arms – No retrospective application forthcoming for beer gardens.

Bridge End – Two Felton Councillors raised the issue that there used to be an alley way for residents to access the rear of the Bridge End properties and this seems to have disappeared when building works undertaken. The PI appeal allowed for the development and made reference proposed house 1 being to the south west of Bridgend which has an arched opening giving access to courtyard which would reduce daylight to adjoining courtyard but there would be no unacceptance consequences. There are no plans to access on line only the PI's decision.

209 Requested Agenda Items:

Litter Pick – Clerk to check with NCC what can/cannot be done in terms of a litter pick. It is assumed no equipment will be available from NCC but in terms of when and where to leave litter collected to be checked.

Clerk

210 Correspondence:

- NCC – Monitoring Officer Contact Details – generic email address given.
- NCC - Private Sector Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2021-2023 Consultation – deadline 14 Feb – no comments to make
- NCC – notification of works to C133 Highmoor to West Howdens – for information
- A1 consultation documents - circulated
- Highways England – Consultation on amends to the Development Consent Order – deadline 25 Feb – the amends were reviewed and no comments to make.
- Email from resident re proposed works to C133 – a resident was concerned that a small section seemed to be missing from the works and NCC informed of this.
- Email offering Sakura Cherry Trees – Mr Richard Barnes arranged the Thirston PC to receive 9 trees for planting in the parish. The planting was undertaken by Mr & Mrs Morton, Mr & Mrs Skelton, Ms McGuinness & Mr Prutton and Mr & Mrs Lindley. The Clerk to send thanks to Mr Barnes for applying for these trees and Clerk to thank the residents in the next Bridge newsletter.
- Email invitation to Northumberland Communities Together: Feeling Connected Webinar invitation – no one attended.

Clerk
Clerk

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- Email from Felton PC with parking proposals for the villages – These proposals to include marked out parking on the bridge.
- Email confirmation that 30mph speed for East Thirston
- Phone call from John Hood Landscaping re VAT registration
- Emailed NALC updates

211 Finance

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £17,876.21.

(b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB109	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 28 hours at 14.90 (£417.20) 3 hours for Neighbourhood Plan at 14.90 (£44.70) 1 x Zoom Conferencing (£14.39) 1 x Home working allowance (£11.09) Cheque for Age Concern (£20.00)	£507.38
IB110	Ludman Planning (Neighbourhood Plan)	£3,750.00
IB111	Felton Parish Council - Cemetery Contribution (£828.92) - Recreation Field Recharges (£1,049.50) - War Memorial Insurance (£42.67)	£1,921.09

(c) **Receipts** – None. Clerk to check with NCC when Cemetery reimbursement payment to be made as this is often overlooked. Clerk

212 Urgent Items – The speed camera to the entrance of the village from the South is not working. This has been reported.

213 Items for next agenda – Potential meeting to be held before the next PC meeting to go through election papers. Clerk

214 Resolution to exclude public and press

The Parish Council passed a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude public and press due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, which includes discussion of personal data.

- a. Update on ongoing communication with local resident. Waiting for a response following a holding email received from resident.
- b. NCC Meeting for clarification of ongoing situation – Councillors felt a meeting would be good if able to discuss the plan to be reassured about what is to be included and see that the PCs views have been taken into account. Clerk to contact CC Sanderson. Clerk

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm
 Date of Next meeting: 25 March 2021