

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield on Thursday 7 November 2024.

Present: Cllrs L Clarehugh, J Day and D Green.
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin
Two members of the Public

53 Apologies for Absence – Cllrs Davidson, Hantman and Marshall. County Councillor Sanderson.

Cllr Green Chaired the Meeting in Cllr Marshall's absence.

54 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

55 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) –

The September minutes make reference to the Airfield Terms and Reference for the Liaison Group. The Airfield operators state "*The liaison group was so that we had a link to residents via the people elected to represent them*". The member of public stated that the document is flawed due to the wording of elected as the last election Thirston PC was uncontested therefore the Councillors were not elected members. They then went on to quote that 178 elections were uncontested and 44 contested in Northumberland. The Councillors disagreed with this statement and following the meeting the Clerk checked the NCC guidance on elections which states "*Candidates declared elected unopposed: At the close of nominations and withdrawals, any validly nominated candidates are declared elected*". This confirms the Councillors are elected members.

The member of public then stated that individuals should be represented at the meeting as some have aviation knowledge that the PC does not have. The PC stated that in the August minutes the PC had requested that members of public be allowed to join the liaison group, however the Airfield only wanted representatives from the PCs and as it is their document the PC agreed to it to ensure the Liaison Group would progress. The document also complies with the planning application 19/03659/VARCO condition 3v) "*Liaison group to be set up which meets on a regular basis to review the effectiveness of the above-mentioned measures and agree any changes to the management plan. Those invited to be a part of the liaison group shall comprise at least representatives from the following parties - applicant, County Council officers, County Councillors for Longhorsley and Shilbottle Wards, Thirston Parish Council and Felton Parish Council*"

The member of the public then stated that the airfield had stopped responding to issues raised direct with them. The Clerk confirmed that the PC had received very few complaints since the new operators had taken over so the airfield are obviously dealing with most (if any) complaints in a satisfactory manner.

It was then asked if it was only Felton and Thirston PCs that were part of the liaison group and this was confirmed by the Clerk.

The Chairman then intervened and ceased public questions as the questions being asked by the individual had taken approximately 20 minutes of the meeting time and were all in relation to a document that out of the PCs control.

56 The minutes of the meeting 19 September 2024 were agreed as a true record.

57 Matters Arising therefrom:

1) Matters arising there from (excluding outstanding actions in relation to NCC)

- a) Field run off at Eshott Village – NCC has not undertaken any further works – Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- b) BOAT at Blackbrook Farm – Clerk has chased this up again as will become more of an issue with winter coming. Clerk
- c) Felton Cemetery Joint Committee – Policies and Procedures update – the new Clerk is aware that this required updating and is raising this at the finance meeting. Clerk
- d) The Helm bus stop – awaiting feedback from NCC. Clerk
- e) Land North East of Felmoor Caravan Park application – Going to Committee on 11 November and Cllr Green to speak on behalf of Thirston PC.
- f) Bin collection issue at Bockenfield – NCC are refusing to locate the bin further up the lane. The clerk has suggested that the residents paint on the side of the bin that this is a residential bin.
- g) Verge cutting into West Thirston – NCC state they are not cutting more than twice a year. Clerk to speak to CC Sanderson to ascertain the situation. Clerk

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

- h) Traffic through Felton/West Thirston from A1 diversions – the meeting with National Highways has been rearranged for 28 November. Clerk
- i)
- 2) Long-term Outstanding issues being addressed by NCC for information**
- a) Repointing of stone wall on the Peth (14/12/23) – No further action to date Clerk
- b) Water running down the Narrow Bank (14/12/23) - Pending Clerk
- 58 Report by County Councillor Sanderson - None**
- 59 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC**
- Meeting at Pumpkin Pie – a meeting with held with NCC, PC and Pumpkin Pie represented and a resident in attendance. On the day parking was not too much of an issue but subsequent reporting by Tim Speed Consultancy shows this is not the normal traffic at this time of day. It was agreed that NCC would look to install road markings, signage and pencil bollards.
 - Annual Joint Town & Parish Council Conference – This was attended by Cllrs Marshall and Hantman. Cllr Marshall reported to the Clerk via email that this was informative. Further feedback can be provided at the next meeting.
- 60 Potential Projects**
- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – No issues
- b) Landscaping – No Issues
- c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects –
- Village gateways – Cllr Marshall to speak to farmer re potential location.
 - Bus shelters – The Clerk has received positive feedback from the works undertaken on the bus stop by the recycling area. Yellow rattle had taken well, the verge cutting was quite deep but the daisies have survived this and primulas are ready to plant next year. Meeting to be arranged between WI, Pumpkin Pie and PC to progress proposals for shelter at the top of The Peth.
- 61 Planning:**
- To report on any planning decisions:**
- 24/02501/VARYCO** - Land North West Of Burgham Park Golf Club - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 24/00949/VARYCO for substitution of house type and garage to plot 18 - APPROVED
- Planning applications pending:**
- 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 – objections based on Neighbourhood Plan – re- consultation in progress. Going to Committee. Clerk
- 24/01531/VARYCO** - Eshott Heugh Paintballing Site – variation to a number of conditions following detailed drainage report
- 24/01770/FUL** - Blackbrook Farm - Erection of new agricultural shed
- 24/02540/FUL** - High Park Farm – Resubmission of plans for Change of use of agricultural building to a facility to dry paper pulp to produce animal bedding to include feeder, drum, burner, stack installation and control room. **(23/04081/FUL)**
- 24/03737/PRUTPO** - Angus Lodge Stable Drive Eshott – TPO T1 - T2 Lime crown reduction and thinning of main tree
- 24/03613/FUL** - The Club House Bockenfield Country Park - Retention of The Clubhouse to provide amenities for those at the site, including provision of refreshments such as food and drink, sale of ice cream, toiletries, basic foodstuffs and cleaning materials
- Planning Issues:**
- Bockenfield Caravan Park – blue lights illuminating entrance
- Felmoor Park – Entrance lighting and signage
- Felmoor Park – Not complying with planning approval for timber cabins
- 62 Requested Agenda Items:**
- Draft Budget for 2025/26 – awaiting cemetery contribution costs – defer to next meeting.
- Remembrance Day Service – Cllr Day is available to lay the wreath.

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

63 Correspondence:

- NCC - Environment & Transport Who's Who and Elections documents – circulated
- NCC – Free Trees scheme – Individual saplings or sapling packs available for collection in December for residents, community groups, schools or businesses. Order via <https://tree-scheme.northumberland.gov.uk/SelfService/>
- NCC – Precept Request – deadline date is 25 January for submitted precept request.
- National Highways – A1 scheme cancelled – email confirmation that the scheme has been cancelled following the budget.
- NALC – Information on Pay Agreement from 1 April 2024 – Clerk has backdated pay following this notification.
- Email re Parking West Thirston – layby parking – residents have emailed in relation parking in the layby and requesting that this become residents only parking as nursery is using this layby and it has always been used by the houses that do not have parking on the opposite side of the road. The Clerk has contacted NCC who confirm that this is NCC land and that residents only parking cannot be implemented here under the rules of the NCC Parking Permit Operational Procedure Document which states that “residents permit parking schemes will not be considered where the parking problems are associated with school drop off and pick up”. The Clerk has relayed this to the residents.
- Email re Pumpkin Pie traffic and parking issues – a resident has written to CC Sanderson and the PC to state they are not happy with the proposals for installing more road markings and pencil bollards especially as West Thirston is a conservation area and request that NCC consider investigating whether the facilities in Thirston are sufficient to support the staff and visitors of a business as large as Pumpkin Pie. NCC has provided two "parking buddies" to the nursery, the nursery can then position these where it is unsafe for staff / parents / carers to park.
- Email enclosing a copy of Pumpkin Pie Vehicle Issues Report which presents surveys undertaken and reports on matters in relation to vehicles associated with Pumpkin Pie Nursery and further email pointing out that the data on the day of the site visit is very different to the norm and therefore the nursery can improve the parking/vehicle situation when motivated. NCC has stated they will be reviewing the information provided and intend to undertake some further survey work of their own to get a further understanding of the issues and behaviours.
- Emails – website accessibility compliance – a number of emails have been received from companies in relation to gaining a .gov website and email addresses. The Clerk has checked with NALC and this is not compulsory and the hard sell by these companies is due to funding being available.
- Email re replacement bunting – this was delivered to the wrong PC – it went to Thurston PC in Somerset ! It is being rerouted back to Thirston PC in due course.
- Email re hedge overgrowing speed camera – Cllr Marshall was going to try to get a message to the owners of the hedge however it looks like the camera is faulty so Clerk to contact the maintenance company. Clerk
- Email re Felton Joint Cemetery budget meeting – did not take place on 4 November and has been rearranged for 11 November.
- FOI request for copies of Airfield Newsletters – The airfield has stated that if the resident wishes to receive a copy they can be added to the airfield distribution list. The PC receives a copy from a resident and not direct from the airfield however on checking with the airfield they have no objection to this being forwarded. Clerk to forward. Clerk
- Email re Wag and Company Donation Request – Clerk to ascertain if this organization does visits in this area. Clerk
- Email re Cares Rights Day - Thursday 21st November at Morpeth Town Hall
- Groundworks UK newsletter - Circulated
- Northumbria Connect email alerts – circulated and posted on facebook when relevant to Thirston PC area.
- NALC News - Circulated
- CAN News - Circulated

64 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £15,434.99 TPC funds and £3,106.33 FCJC Funds totaling £18,541.32.

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Payments this meeting:		
IB201	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 35 hours at £19.66 (£688.10) Home working allowance of 7 weeks (£7.00) Backdated pay increase (£1.16/hr x 125 hours) (£145.00) Annual Subscription to McAfee (89.00)	£930.09
IB202	LA Brown Topping Services for Field of Hope cutting	£60.00

(c) Income - None

65 Urgent Items - None

66 Items for next agenda –

Budget Approval

Feedback from Annual Joint Town & Parish Council Conference

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm

Date of Next meeting: 19 December 2024