

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield on Thursday 2 November 2023.

Present: Cllrs S Allan, J Day and D Green
County Councillor Glen Sanderson
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

60 Apologies for Absence – Cllrs Clarehugh, Davidson and Marshall

61 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

62 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) - None

63 The minutes of the meeting 21 September 2023 were agreed as a true record.

64 Matters Arising therefrom:

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

- a) Lighting on The Peth – NCC has confirmed that trees to be cut back this week and then an assessment to take place as to whether more lighting to be installed. Thanks goes to CC Sanderson for helping to resolve this outstanding issue. Clerk
- b) Missing Weldon Bridge signage – Clerk to check if this is to be reinstated when road works taking place. Clerk
- c) Land beside powergrid building – Clerk still trying to ascertain who is responsible.
- d) Footpath resurfacing request – Clerk has requested works be undertaken.
- e) Ivy and Weeds on The Peth steps – to be cleared when the trees are to be cut back.
- f) Light on The Peth steps – NCC has confirmed this has been repaired.
- g) Hedge encroaching on Bockenfield Layby – This is the responsibility of the landowner not NCC however Mr Clarehugh has kindly cleared it and since then this area of the layby has been completely resurfaced by National Highways when resurfacing the A1.

2) Long-term Outstanding issues being addressed by NCC for information

- a) Manhole cover at Wintrick (12/2021) – NCC did not have a cover to install and this was not relayed to the right department – NCC have now taken measurements of the manhole and are having a cover made. Clerk
- b) Road from A1 to Longhorsley has raised iron works and the edges of asphalt badly broken away both of which can cause damage to cars (01/2022) – Still outstanding Clerk
- c) Pathway improvements at riverside (03/2022) – Still outstanding. CC Sanderson stated to contact Neil Dawson who is now in charge of this area of works. Clerk
- d) Road at Bywell Shooting Ground in need of repair (11/2022) – still outstanding. CC Sanderson stated this is on the programme of works for March/April 2024.

65 Report by County Councillor Sanderson

NCC are currently working on the budget and need to find savings of £30m over the next 2 years but front line services will not be cut.

Environmental Policy – over the last 2 years there have been a number of meetings for climate change however only 25 people have attended these and despite them being committed there is a need to get more people involved. Need to get the message across and also need money for this to see what NCC can do make more improvements. More money is going to be spent on litter picking on major roads and money spent on parks and open spaces educating on understanding about nature. NCC has now got electric vehicles and various other initiatives and know they need to lead on this but need to get the public involved to play a part in the action plan.

Tendering is taking place for the leisure services. Active Northumberland currently provide this and do a great job but it does cost a lot so NCC have retendered to ensure they are getting value for money.

The new leisure centre in Morpeth is doing very well.

CC Sanderson will email Stephen Wardle to request a meeting with the Clerk to address some of the issues around the parish.

66 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Cllr Allan and the Clerk met with Mr Murfin from Planning to discussion airfield issues.

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67 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – need to trim where picnic table has been installed. Cllr Davison offered to do this.
- b) Landscaping –
- c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects – Village gateways, bus shelters – ongoing. Clerk has tried to speak to NCC about this and being pointed in the direction of who deals with this there has been no response to date.

Clerk

68 Planning

To report on any planning decisions:

23/03166/VARYCO - The Old Manse West Thirston - Variation of condition 3 on approved application 20/01373/LBC to allow revised dimensions for new external walls surrounding encaustic tiled floor in lean to – APPROVED

23/00547/REM - Land East Of Greycroft West Thirston - Reserved Matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 9mo. residential dwellings on refused application 19/05017/OUT (appeal reference APP/P2935/W/20/3254874) – APPROVED after amendments by applicant.

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

22/04112/FUL - Northumberland Arms Construction of first floor rear extension to provide 1no. additional en-suite bedroom and store room, and ground floor rear extension to provide covered goods reception area

22/04113/LBC - Northumberland Arms Construction of first floor rear extension to provide 1no. additional en-suite bedroom and store room, and ground floor rear extension to provide covered goods reception area

23/00601/S106A - Land East Of Greycroft West Thirston - Modification of S106 agreement dated 07-10-2020 on approved application 19/05017/OUT in order to change tenure of the 2 Affordable Homes from Rented Units to Discount Market Value Houses

23/01921/FUL - Bockenfield Aerodrome Ltd Eshott Airfield - To allow amended operating hours to 07:00-23:00, training and fuelling of military and emergency services aircraft, provision of temporary structures and retrospective café – email confirmation received for deadline for comments to be moved to 11 August

23/02758/FUL – Thirston Cottage - Construct single storey extension to detached outbuilding for storage

23/03579/VARYCO - Land North West Of Burgham Park Golf Club - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application 20/02094/FUL - to allow variation of approved layout to substitute Violet House Type H502 with Rose Type H504 on plots 15 and 17 and to change single garage provision to double garage provision for those houses

23/03887/FUL- Burgham Park Golf Club - Erection of stone wall to form entrance feature to new housing development

Planning Issues:

Bockenfield Caravan Park – blue lights illuminating entrance – this has been reported again to NCC. NCC has not responded on this specifically but has stated that there is no site license that covers this site therefore Schedule 2 Part 5, Class B of the Town and County Planning General Permitted Development Order is not applicable for any work carried out. The site owners must apply for planning permission for the use of the site and associated infrastructure retrospectively or they must remove units, utilities and roads and the site restored to its condition prior to work commencing.

Felmoor Park – Entrance lighting and signage – no response from NCC on this as yet.

Felmoor Park – Not complying with planning approval for timber cabins – No response from NCC on this as yet.

69 Requested Agenda Items:

- Draft Budget – The budget was reviewed with no issues but it was felt it should not be approved until the December meeting where more Councillors would be present.

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- Meeting Dates 2024 – dates for 2024 meetings are 25 January, 14 March, 2 May, 20 June, 8 August, 19 September, 7 November, 19 December
- Remembrance Day Service- Cllr Clarehugh has offered to lay the wreath, Clerk to collect on the Saturday and hand over to Cllr Clarehugh.

70 Correspondence:

- NCC – Letter from Leader with Whose Who details – for information
- NCC – Launch of Environment and Climate Fund – Clerk passed to Felton CAN
- Age Concern – Veterans Group Project - trying to track down veterans groups in the Thirston area to engage with and offer services to – the Councillors were not aware of any but it was agreed the Clerk would contact Mr Skelton who may know if there are any. Clerk
- Local Government Boundary Commission Survey – Clerk has completed
- Local Government Boundary Commission Final Recommendations for Northumberland - FYI
- Leeds University Student – Parish Council research – Clerk has responded
- Reconnect Morpeth – lonely people in the parish – wanting to reach out to people in the parish who maybe lonely and need support – requested a poster but nothing has been received to date.
- Groundwork Strategy Launch 2023 – 2028 – information promoting their launch for 5-year strategy to create a fairer, greener future for all. Clerk to forward to Cllr Day and Felton CAN. Clerk
- Email from Zero Hour request to support the Climate and Ecology Bill – request to send a letter to support the bill. It was agreed the Clerk would do this and also check to see which local MPs are supported this. Clerk
- Email re portacabin into Airfield – concern that planning permission has not been sought for this.
- Email re new grass runway at Airfield – concern that planning permission has not been sought for this and it impacts on adjoining landowners.
- Emails re various breaches by Airfield – eg out of hours flying, early start ups, visible pollution encroaching on adjoining landowners
- NCC – Rough Sleeper survey to be undertaken 14/15 November – added to the list of correspondence due to timescale of survey.
- Email request from resident that the PC make residents aware of the Heat Pump Grants available as a number of residents on oil and prices are increasing for this. It was agreed to put information in The Bridge newsletter. Clerk

71 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £14,694.66 TPC funds and £4,929.97 FCJC Funds totaling £19,624.63. The balance was reconciled with the bank statement and agreed by the Councillors.
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

It was agreed between meetings the Clerk could replace the printer (bought in 2017) which has started to fail.

Payments this meeting:		
IB178	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 30 hours at £17.58 (£527.40) Home working allowance of 6 weeks (£6.00) McAfee subscription (89.99) Printer replacement (£199.00)	£742.39

- (c) **Income** – None

72 Urgent Items – None

73 Items for next agenda – Budget approval

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Date of Next meeting: 14 December 2023