

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting of the Council held at Pumpkin Pie Nursery, URC Hall, West Thirston on Thursday 23 May 2019

Present: Cllrs T Jackson, H Lindley and J Marshall.
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

- 1 **Election of Chairman** - Cllr Marshall proposed and Cllr Jackson seconded Cllr Lindley as Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.
- 2 **Election of Vice Chairman** - Cllr Lindley proposed and Cllr Jackson seconded Cllr Marshall as Vice-Chairman. This was agreed unanimously.
- 3 **Election and nominations of Members to Committees and Groups**
 - a) Cemetery Committee Meeting – Currently Cllr Davidson with Cllr Jackson as Reserve
 - b) Recreation Field Group Meeting – Currently Cllr Marshall with Cllr Davidson as Reserve
 - c) Finance Group – Currently Cllrs Lindley, Green and Marshall
 - d) Complaints Committee – to be confirmed when required depending on the nature of the complaint
- 4 **Apologies for absence** – Clls S Allan, E Davidson and D Green and County Councillor Sanderson
- 5 **Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Jackson – Burgham Park Planning Application
- 6 **Public Questions (max 5 mins per person)** - None
- 7 **The minutes of the meeting 11 April 2019** were signed as a true record.
- 8 **Matters Arising therefrom:**
 - a) **Speed strip request for West Thirston** – still waiting on a response from NCC as to when these are going to be in place. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
 - b) **Bus stop sign replacement of** – NCC tried to install the new signage at the same time as installing Felton's but a resident "had a go at" the NCC employees so the ceased work. This was relayed to the Councillors via email and it was confirmed to NCC that this work should be undertaken. NCC has confirmed they will replace the signage and inform any concerned residents that this is at the request of the PC. Clerk
 - c) **Street light in Eshott Village** – Cllr Green reported the Eshott Lamp was reduced soon after our last PC Meeting and has helped. Thank you. It remains on through the night and does require a baffle to prevent glare (still a nuisance). It was suggested it be off between 10:00pm and 6:00am. I do hope we can get this done before the bats start night flights. We have lost our owls for good; and this did include a barn owl. Not heard for a long time now. Clerk
 - d) **Street lights around rockery** – NCC were looking at the wrong lighting, this has been relayed to them and awaiting a response on what is to be done with the new lights. Clerk
 - e) **Bottle bank area** – the Clerk requested the brambles be removed from the bottle back area. NCC has responded stating this will have to be looked at because cutting back of vegetation to make it easier to pick litter is a tricky one to do in line with biodiversity. The Clerk forwarded photos of the small area and stated considering these are in the middle of the countryside there will be little impact on the biodiversity however rubbish caught up in the brambles could have a detrimental impact on wildlife should they eat or get caught up on the rubbish. Waiting for a response. Clerk
 - f) **Wintrick Road sign replacement**- still no response from NCC on this repair. This has now been outstanding for 5 months. Clerk to request a timescale on this work pointing out how long the request has been in with NCC and the number of reminders of this work. Clerk
 - g) **A1 highways and footpath request update** - Clerk to hear back from Felton Clerk in relation to setting up a meeting with A1 highways to progress this. Clerk
 - h) **Cleaning of bus shelters in parish** – NCC has confirmed they will power wash all the bus stops in the parish.
 - i) **Road from Longhorsley to Burgham complaint** – an email of complaint has been sent to Martin King of NCC requesting that the road be looked at and made good either by contractors or NCC (whoever undertook the original works) no response as yet. Clerk

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9 Report by County Councillor

With the current international emphasis back onto Climate Change we have been quietly working on our new 10 year Plan and I will be taking this to Council in June.

We have done a lot internally and we want to highlight areas where we might be able to play a role in reducing carbon emissions in the County.

So far we have introduced, for example, walk to school schemes and more electric car charging points in our car parks. But we will be laying out our plans for the next ten years soon.

And we are working on our new Waste Strategy which will be based on our target of increasing our current recycling rate from 38% to 50% in 5 years.

I have written to all Parish and Town Councils inviting anyone who is interested to come and see our recycling plant in West Sleekburn and so far we have had a very good response.

In addition we will be running our Love Northumberland Awards this year and our anti-littering campaign to try to raise awareness of how stupid it is to throw rubbish out of cars and vans.

In a very rural County like ours it is difficult to manage without a car and we are creating a number of new car parking spaces – anyone trying to get parked on a Saturday in any of our market towns knows how hard it can be to find a place. We have completed new areas in Seahouses, Berwick and Craster and will make a start at Morpeth Station on our new 27 place car park once the work on the building is almost complete.

Weed spraying is up and running using our in house staff again we will use the dye again.

Grass verge cutting will start soon.

Our £26 million programme of work to roads and bridges is underway and people do remark on the improvement especially on our more minor roads which have been rather neglected in recent years.

However, with 3000 miles of roads to look after it will take time to get them as we would like.

County Hall repair work is getting on very well and Advance Northumberland – the replacement for Arch – is making good progress.

We now have our new mayor for the North of Tyne Combined Authority which has an annual budget of £20 million so we will need to make sure that Northumberland gets its fair share.

And Borderlands – an agreement between Cumbria County Council, Carlisle, Scottish Borders and ourselves – also has a budget and we are putting in funding bids now.

Finally please let me know if I can assist with anything – I am always happy to help.

10 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

A meeting was held at Anne-Marie Trevelyan's Office on 15 April. This meeting was to raise concerns about the NCC planning process and the issues in relation to Eshott Airfield.

Anne-Marie stated that there is an acknowledgement that there is a gap in the market in relation to who is responsible for monitoring unlicensed airfield activities and she is working with a group to try to address this gap at a national level.

Anne-Marie is also aware of the issues in relation to NCC planning enforcement and she is engaging with NCC to address these issues and she is meeting with the new Director of Planning to highlight concerns that have been raised with her by a number of parishes.

The PC will continue to liaise with Anne-Marie and feed back on her progress on both issues once known. Clerk

11 Potential Projects

a) **Footpaths/Rights of Way** – No issues now that the bridge has been repaired. The WI have walked a number of the pathways and have only found problems with one in Felton parish.

b) **Landscaping** – Cllr Lindley is arranging to plant up the tubs on the bridge.

c) **Neighbourhood Plan** – Questionnaires have been sent to all businesses in the Parish but only three have responded despite reminders. The next funding application cannot be submitted at present as there is an issue with the funding body but it is anticipated that this will be resolved by the end of the month. Burgham Park are currently being consulted as to whether they wish to have a settlement boundary within their area. Two areas of

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- “green space” have been identified and the relevant paperwork and consultation is being undertaken to secure these areas as green spaces. Mr McGovern who requested being included in any consultation in relation to the plan has responded stating he has been tasked with monitoring neighbourhood plans so again asked that he is included. It was agreed the Clerk will contact David English from NCC for his thoughts on this. Clerk
- 12 **Planning:**
- a. To report on any planning decisions:** none Clerk
- b. Planning applications pending:**
- 17/02923/VARYCO - Burgham Park Golf Club - Vary Cond 13 - remove holiday restriction – objections submitted – to be decided by the Local Area Council
- 18/03534/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - retro - retention of ground butt
- 18/03562/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - Form mound, widen paths, erect 16 shelters
- 18/03736/FUL - Felmoor Park, East of A1 - 24 lodges, 10 caravans, miniature golf – Site visit undertaken – no objections
- 19/00643/FUL - Woodland Burial Site, Bockenfield - Single Storey building for crematorium with parking – no objections, site visit undertaken. The applicants contacted the PC due to the late response from the Planning Officer stating they had 24 hours to resubmit access plans otherwise she would have to refuse the application or the can request an extension. The applicants were annoyed at the lack of consultation by NCC before this time. The issue was raised with CC Sanderson, the applicants have requested an extension however this does not get over the fact the Planning Officer did not contact them earlier with this issue.
- 19/00300/PREAPP – Burgham Park Golf Club – Erection of 56 dwellings and improvements to course and club house – objections submitted
- 19/00935/FUL - Aircraft Hangar, Eshott Airfield - Increase hard standing by hangars – no objections submitted however concerns were raised in the item in the Design Statement under “objectors”
- 19/01342/VARYCO - 9 Bridge End - Vary Cond 3 re Parking – No objections
- 19/01348/VARYCO – The Old Farm Byre, East Thirston – vary conditions 10,11,15 & 16
- c. Planning Issues**
- New beer garden – Northumberland Arms Clerk
- 13 **Services**
- Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – still outstanding but replacement drain in on order.
- 14 **Requested Agenda Items:**
- Parish Council Website users – John Secker the back up user should there be an issue with the Clerk not being able to undertake duties. This facility was never required but another Councillor should be appointed as a backup. Cllr Lindley agreed to this. Clerk
- 15 **Correspondence**
- NCC - Tour of West Sleekburn Material Recycling Facility (MRF) – circulate to Councillors Clerk
 - NCC – Climate Emergency Petition – forward to Cllr Jackson and put on noticeboard Clerk
 - NCC – Weed Control Programme – NCC are again undertaking this work internally and spraying dye on the weeds – an item has been included in the Bridge.
 - Email from resident in relation parking by recycle bins – the resident has complained to the police about the bus company who made access into the Wintrick Road impossible for a car and horse trailer. Clerk to speak to NCC about installing white lines and also to Cllr Davidson to see how this area is used by bus drivers. Clerk
 - Complaint from business in relation to Airfield activity – a complaint has been received about the negative impact the airfield is having on a neighbouring business. Business has been advised to contact NCC and Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP.
 - Email from Airfield operators re military activity – Airfield informed the PC about the incoming chinooks and the fact they will be coming in during the evening.
 - Emails and phone calls of complaint re military activity – numerous complaints about the

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chinooks coming into Eshott Airfield after 11pm which contravenes planning conditions. Clerk has advised complaints to be directed to NCC Planning Enforcement. A landowner was also approached by a chinook pilot informing him he was trespassing on airfield land. This was not the case, this raised concerns about the NCC map which shows inaccurate information as to the airfield boundaries. Clerk to contact NCC.

Clerk

- Email from resident in relation to Eshott Airfield Application – for information as resident is raising a number of concerns about the content of the recent application 19/00935/FUL.
- Email from resident with copy of Eshott Airfield’s Safeguarding Zone – for information.
- Email from resident re Youth Club – raising concerns with NCC about the status of the Youth Club building.
- Letter of thanks from The Sick Children’s Trust for the PC donation
- Resident asked why the verges are not now being cut up to Thirston New Houses from West Thirston. Clerk stated NCC does not cut outside the 30mph zone so this is probably a local farmer but will investigate. It was also noted that there had been a request to extend the footpath from the bench to Thirston New Houses which had been unsuccessful.

Clerk

Emails Forwarded:
NALC Newsletters

For Circulation:
Clerks And Councils Direct, CPRE Newsletter
NCC Housing Strategy Consultation – Deadline 31 May

16 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £13,451.48
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB61	L Hamlin	£419.85
IB62	Viking Direct (Stationery)	£109.21
IB63	NALC Affiliation Fee and Website Fee	£217.85

- (c) Receipts – £4,250.00 NCC Precept, £135.31 HMRC Vat refund
- (d) Feedback from Internal Audit – report from Mr Canner, Auditor has been forwarded to Councillors. Mr Canner has completed the internal control objectives but stated that he disagrees that “the authority has assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these” due to the Cemetery Committee and Recreation Field constitutions still not being in a final version – but he is aware they are being worked on. He has raised a couple of minor amendments to be made in terms of typos and numbering error. Also the Clerk omitted to include the Direct Debit to ICO in February for £35 in the minutes. He has suggested that the financial summary is checked against the bank statements at PC meeting and this will be instigated. Finally a formal appointment of engagement letter to be sent to Mr Canner. Clerk to draw this up and send.

Clerk

Clerk

- (e) **Approval of Annual Governance Statement** was approved unanimously by the Council.
- (f) **Approval of Accounting Statements** was approved unanimously by the Council.
- (g) **Insurance Renewal** – The Clerk received two quotes – Came and Company £168.00 and Zurich £257.60 however considering the situation in Felton with regard to the stone bus stop damage it may be prudent to look for insurance for the bus stops however it is hard to put a price on the cost of replacement of stone bus shelters. Clerk to seek new quotes.
- (h) **Lloyds Banking** – There was an issue with one payment not being released in the bulk payment list. Lloyds were unsure of why this had happened and asked the Clerk to resubmit the payment. This was duly done and the recipient then received the payment twice. Lloyds stated they were aware there was a genetic problem with the overnight payments and all recipients for all accounts had been paid twice. The Clerk requested the second payment back from the recipient which was duly repaid otherwise there

Clerk

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would have been a wait of 20+ days if Lloyds had tried to recover the money.

17 Urgent Items –

Cllr Green reported that there had been a large fly-tip of garden and general waste over the bridge to the East and into the Eshott Burn comprising 15 bags. CC Sanderson has been able to remove some of the bags but some are under the bridge and inaccessible. There was also a microwave oven and polystyrene case which have been removed. The Clerk to contact EA to see if they can remove the remaining bags and Cllr Green has been asked to request residents watch out for vans and pickups with the sort of stuff you would expect to see flytipped.

Clerk

A resident has raised concerns about low flying over his property by light aircraft which may impact on drone flying. There has been correspondence between the airfield and the resident where there is a difference of opinion on the rules for flying of drones, the resident can fly his drone up to 400ft, the airfield operators disagree with this. The Clerk to contact the resident and direct him to NCC and Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP.

Clerk

Cllr Jackson asked if The Bridge magazine could be accessed on line and also have an interactive area to post important news between issues. It used to be the case that the magazine was on line and the Clerk to ask the Bridge team if there is any potential to do this again along with an interactive section

Clerk

18 Items for next agenda

Apologies – Cllr Jackson
Policies Review
Defib Machine

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

Date of Next meeting: Thursday 4 July 2019