

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield on Thursday 20 June 2024.

**Present:** Cllrs L Clarehugh, J Day, E Davidson, D Green and J Marshall  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin  
One member of the public

**10 Apologies for Absence – County Councillor Sanderson**

**11 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda –**

The Councillors were reminded that they had all signed an application for dispensation on 4 May 2023 in relation to planning applications for Eshott Airfield as all Councillors have a disclosable pecuniary interest as any proposed activities can potentially affect property and quality of life. This dispensation is granted for the period up to the elections in May 2025.

Councillor Day declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 – CRAG and Councillor Marshall also declared an interest in this item as he gave initial help with writing the constitution but was not involved in the final version.

**12 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) –**

A resident raised concerns in relation to the traffic and parking issues associated with Pumpkin Pie nursery and is concerned that will be an accident resulting in someone being injured. There are a number of times where the residents cannot get off their drives due to a few inconsiderate parents blocking access, and access to the lane for the few houses beside the nursery is often blocked or parking so close to the entrance it is impossible to see when exiting the lane and hard to get into the lane from the main road. There are over 20 cars belonging to staff and only parking in the car park for 14 cars so staff park along the road all day so residents and visitors to residents cannot get close to properties. The resident is not against the nursery and has a good relationship with the owner, however there are a few parents who have no regard for the residents and the impact they are having on residents. The situation has improved since the gates are locked however this has just moved the issue further down the main road.

Cllr Marshall stated this is not the first time issues have been raised and they have been raised informally and formally with the nursery resulting in short term improvements. The community police have been contacted to request they do spot checks at busy times but no feedback has been received about this as yet.

It was agreed the Clerk would contact NCC and the police to look into the situation and see what can be done to improve the situation for all concerned. The Clerk will inform the nursery the PC are contacting them. The PC wishes to support local businesses however they need to be mindful of residents and the impact their business has on them.

Clerk

**13 The minutes of the meeting 2 May 2024 were agreed as a true record.**

**14 Matters Arising therefrom:**

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

- a) Lighting on The Peth at roadside – no further forward with NCC. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- b) Missing Weldon Bridge signage – no response from National Highways – Clerk to pursue Clerk
- c) Bus stop repairs – Cllr Green reported that there are birds nesting at present in the bus stop so no works can be undertaken,
- d) Field run off at Eshott Village – still concerns over this issue as NCC has not completed the works. Clerk to contact NCC. Clerk
- e) BOAT at Blackbrook Farm – Clerk has been informed that the person dealing with this is on long term sick. A new contact person has been appointed and Clerk has passed details over to him – awaiting a response. Clerk
- f) Access road/bridge between Bockenfield Caravan Park and Felmoor Park – no further feedback from HSE on this issue as yet. The Clerk submitted a further report to HSE today with photographic evidence of the construction of the bridge. Clerk

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

- a) Manhole cover at Wintrick (12/2021) – Clerk has chased this again and as yet no response. Clerk

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- 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) – repairs to be undertaken in summer.
- c) Pathway improvements at riverside (03/2022) – NCC state no works to be undertaken, will be monitored and new warning signage to be installed. Clerk
- d) Footpath resurfacing request (02/11/23) – no further information from NCC as to whether they are intending to do any works but is has been logged. Clerk
- e) Repointing of stone wall on the Peth (14/12/23) – no update from NCC. Clerk
- f) Blackbrook Farm road pot holes (14/12/23) – filling of the worst holes have been done.
- g) Water running down the Narrow Bank (14/12/23) – NCC looking at works schedule this week and hope to fit the work in within the next 2-3 weeks. It was noted that the steps down to the Peth may need clearing if the other pathway is to be closed and Clerk to inform NCC of this if the steps are requiring work. Clerk

If outstanding actions are not addressed before the next meeting then the Clerk to request CC Sandersons assistance with these issues. Clerk

**15 Report by County Councillor Sanderson – Nothing to report.**

**16 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC - None**  
Felton Cemetery Joint Committee due to meet 27 June  
Proposed site visit to Eshott Airfield on 10 July

## **17 Potential Projects**

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Email received re overgrown riverside pathways but these were cleared within 48 hours by contractors clearing St Oswalds Way.
- b) Landscaping – Cllr Day was thanked for weeding around the bridge and works on the tubs on the bridge.
- c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects –
  - Village gateways – Clerk to arrange meeting once mobile again to review locations
  - Bus shelters – the bus shelters have been power washed, the Clerk has requested removal by NCC of discarded freestanding road sign from beside the shelter and Clerk has liaised with Pumpkin Pie and WI to progress the painting of the shelter with the nursery children. Cllr Clarehugh is the contact from the Parish Council for this project.

## **18 To report on any planning decisions:**

**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 - GRANTED

**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 - GRANTED

**24/00920/FUL** - Erection of agricultural steel portal framed shed for storage of straw bales - Land To South East Of The Shaw – GRANTED

**24/00949/VARYCO** - Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 23/03579/VARYCO in order to a change to the mix of house types on the site to reflect a change to the affordable housing provision (two, four bedroom homes replaced with two, three bedroom homes) and to change market house types on the site to respond to market conditions - Land North West Of Burgham Park Golf Club Burgham Park - GRANTED

**24/01178/VARYCO** - Land East Of Greycroft West Thirston - a two-year time allowance be sought as a variation of Condition 6 to give sufficient time for all required off-site highway works to be discussed, agreed and carried out in full - GRANTED

## **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

**24/00517/FUL** - North High Moor Farm - Single storey oak frame extension to the main front elevation of the house, oak frame extension to porch and new garden building – no objections.

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**24/01451/FUL** - Eshott Airfield - RETROSPECTIVE - Use of Building as Cafe and Extension to Café – Councillors to confirm their position on this remains as no objection. This decision is based on the fact that the application is purely for the existing cafe, the plan boundaries have been amended to show the correct land boundaries and the café is in keeping with the neighbourhood plan objectives and would not result in a loss of amenity to local residents. The hours on the application of 8am until 8pm were noted however these hours relate to the café not flying hours. The Councillors considered the possible risk of intensification of airfield activities and it was believed these would be minimal. Councillors confirmed unanimously that they continue to have no objections to this application.

**24/01531/VARYCO** - Eshott Heugh Paintballing Site – variation to a number of conditions following detailed drainage report – No objections.

**24/01770/FUL** - Blackbrook Farm - Erection of new agricultural shed – no objections.

**23/02325/FUL** - Inspectorate Ref: APP/P2935/W/24/3338945 - Erection of a single new self build holiday let including hardstanding and landscaping.

## **Planning Issues:**

Bockenfield Caravan Park – blue lights illuminating entrance – reported to Public Protection but no response.

Felmoor Park – Entrance lighting and signage – reported to Public Protection but no response.

Felmoor Park – Not complying with planning approval for timber cabins – reported to NCC Planning Enforcement but no response.

## **19 Requested Agenda Items:**

- Audited accounts and paperwork – circulated and to be covered under Finance.
- Policy Review - Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Disposal Policy, Publication Scheme, Risk Assessment, Complaint procedure – Clerk circulated these prior to this meeting.
  - Financial Regulations has been vastly changed due to NALC producing a new model code so used their model and adapted for Thirston Parish Council - this was approved and adopted by the Council
  - Standing Orders - Minor amends made to bring it into line with the new Financial Regulations- this was approved and adopted by the Council
  - Disposal Policy - Changes are that the Clerk holds onto financial paperwork with the exception of the year end summary documents. Woodhorn does not now accept it invoices, bank statements etc - this was approved and adopted by the Council
  - Publication Scheme - no changes required - this was approved and adopted by the Council
  - Risk Assessment - no changes required - this was approved and adopted by the Council
  - Complaint procedure - only change is to 5.1 as it previously stated committee would be appointed at Annual Meeting but it was agreed that Councillors would be appointed if and when the need arises - this was approved and adopted by the Council
- CRAG Group – draft constitution and TPC to be a member of CRAG – this was circulated prior to this meeting. The Constitution was set up so organizations can become members and each organization has one vote. There is no financial commitment associated with being a member. The PC details will be included on website and publicity as they are a founder member. Being a member fits in well with the Neighbourhood Plan as it demonstrates the Parish Council are working towards some of the objectives of the plan. Cllr Marshall asked if the Anglers were aware of this and Cllr Day confirmed they are aware but at this moment in time do not wish to be part of CRAG. The Councillors agreed unanimously to adopt this constitution and become a member of CRAG. Cllr Day was nominated as delegate and Cllr Clarehugh as deputy delegate, one of whom will sign the constitution at the first AGM of CRAG on 16 July.
- Felton Cemetery Joint Committee – The Clerk raised the issue of the opening balance for FCJC on the financial report remaining the same throughout the year until year end and the Auditor stated this was acceptable as no updated balance was provided throughout the year. The Clerk also raised the issue of large purchases being made at the FCJC without prior and formal approval being sought from the constituent parish councils it could indicate that FCJC has operated beyond their powers. It was recommended that FCJC update policies and procedures as a matter of urgency between the three constituent parties and this is currently being worked on.

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**20 Correspondence:**

- Planning Inspectorate notice of approval for A1 dualling – For information
- Letter detailing increased charges for supplies for defib machine – For information
- Email re C117 West Chevington to West Thirston. Closed on 21/06/2024 for one day for structural patching works – Clerk has posted information of facebook
- Email re A1 closure for 2 nights to remove tree for Ash dieback – once dates have been received Clerk will post information onto facebook. Clerk
- Email re loose kerbs outside Pumpkin Pie – these were reported and repaired within 48 hours.
- Email re blocked drain outside Pumpkin Pie – this was reported and cleared within 48 hours. Clerk
- Email re old road works sign at bus stop – the Clerk has reported this to NCC for removal.
- Email re the path on the south side of the river from Felton east is overgrown – this was cleared within 48 hours.
- FOI request for copies of all emails and other documents in connection with the determination of supportive consultee response for Eshott Airfield Café – the Clerk will respond to this FOI within the 20 working days requirement. Clerk
- Email re Statements made in Eshott Airfield Newsletter – A resident has emailed a complaint to the airfield operators about some misleading/false statements put out to members in the recent newsletter – no further information has been received about the outcome of this complaint.
- Email re letter informing airfield of area of no flying – A resident has copied the PC into a letter sent to the airfield stating they do not have permission to fly over their land.
- CC'd on various emails in relation to Eshott Airfield – emails relating to overflying and flying out of hours which have been logged and airfield and NCC are aware.
- B4RN: Full fibre for rural Northumberland email information – this does not appear to be being rolled out this our area at present.
- Groundworks newsletters for information
- NALC and CAN News – for information

**21 Finance**

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £13,3392.98 TPC funds and £3,106.33 FCJC Funds totaling £16,499.31. The balance was reconciled with the bank statement and Cllr Clarehugh signed the bank statement to confirm this.

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

Payments this meeting:		
IB193	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 35 hours at £18.58 (£650.30) Home working allowance of 7 weeks (£7.00)	£657.30
IB194	Northumberland Estates Rental for Riverside Path	£5.00
IB195	Councillor Day – Plants & compost for bridge tubs	£13.98

- (c) Income - None
- (d) Report from Internal Auditor – This has been circulated. He raised the issues as stated above re the FCJC
- (e) Approval of Annual Governance Statement – was approved unanimously by the Council.
- (f) Approval of Accounting Statements - was approved unanimously by the Council.

**22 Urgent Items**

A query was raised as to whether the bus stop at The Helm is still a stopping point for the bus service as buses do not always stop here going south bound and rarely drop off going north bound. Clerk to ascertain with bus company. Clerk

**23 Items for next agenda –**  
Pumpkin Pie