

Longhirst Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Longhirst Colliery Hall, on Thursday, 5th March 2026

Present	Cllr Andrew Robson (Vice Chair)	Cllr Bill Climson	Cllr David Jordon
	Cllr Julie Murray	Cllr Richard Tordoff	Barry Flux (Clerk)
In Attendance	Eight members of the public		

Public questions / speaking

Members of the public raised several matters including:

- Concerns regarding road closures and traffic management in the parish.
- Requests for improvements to village planting and environmental maintenance.
- Concerns about a proposed children's supported accommodation development within the parish area.
- Clarity on the costings of any road closure for Remembrance Sunday

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE – Cllr Ed Dungait

Cllr Dungait was not present, however had been in regular contact concerning the forthcoming proposal for traffic management in Longhirst.

Agenda Item

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Glen Fahy and Cllr Janet Quinn

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes from the meeting of 8th January 2026 were approved as a true record.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

Payments – Full Financial Report

The Clerk presented an update on parish finances and spending since the previous meeting.

As of the meeting date, balances stood at:

Community Account: £8,069.24

Business Interest Account: £14,958.46

Appointment of internal auditor

It was agreed to appoint Gordon Fletcher as the Internal Auditor.

Website

Signed

Date:

The clerk provided an update on the migration of the parish council website to a .gov.uk domain, in line with best practice for local councils. This would happen shortly and the old website would be turned off.

Training

The clerk requested funding from Longhirst Parish Council in order to begin his CiLCA Qualification. It was agreed that Longhirst would contribute 25% of this cost.

5. PLANNING

26/00498/COU Fairwinds, Ulgham Lane, Longhirst, Northumberland, NE61 3NE Change of use from a private residence (Class C3) to a supported home (Class C2)

Longhirst Parish Council affirmed to object to Northumberland County Council concerning this planning application.

Specifically the Parish Council have objected, stating:

'Although Longhirst Parish Council understand the need for these types of property, this specific property and its location is not suitable.

It is not only vastly overpriced at 1.35 million but is more than half a million over similar properties sold in the last few years including two farms with land and a purpose-built school in Longhirst which sold for around 600,000, just last year.

There are numerous semi-rural houses with large gardens dramatically under this price in Northumberland and that this is an absolute waste of taxpayers' money. If the council wish to purchase a more realistically priced house in the local area with good transport links, Longhirst Parish Council would have no objections.

Longhirst Parish Council feels that this property could not be in a worse location as these young children are not under 24-hour supervision and are allowed to play without supervision in the local vicinity which has the main East Coast railway line approximately 15 m from the house entrance.

The children would also need to walk all the way up to Longhirst bus stop to Travel. This walk from the property is on a 60 mile an hour road, that is approximately 1.5 miles from the bus stop, with no path or lighting for the first half mile to Longhirst Crossing and a partial path with no street lighting from the crossing up to Longhirst Village.

Although this application claims to have good transport links this location has been continuously used by Northumberland County Council as a negative on previous residence applications, "that this area does not have good public transport links, and is unsuitable.

All employees and guests related to this application would be forced to use private vehicles which is against local and central government guidelines.'

6. GENERAL ITEMS

Christmas lights / tree

It was agreed that the cost of any lighting to lampposts was prohibitive. The Parish Council did however support moves to promote Christmas displays within private residences and via the Village Hall.

Signed

Date:

Road safety / speeding update

The Parish Council still awaited a technical design for any project from Northumberland County Council and whilst this was still unclear it couldn't commit to any funding or support until the scheme design was available.

Community Speedwatch

Cllr Tordoff had a contact within Community Speedwatch and it was agreed that the Parish Council could look to inviting them to a future meeting.

Article for Longhirst leader

It was agreed to provide minutes to Cllr Quinn and that there needed to be an emphasis on the parish council objection to the Fairwinds planning application.

Potland Park

It was noted that Potland Park had seen activity recently, with the construction of ponds , planting hedges, planting trees and it was hoped footpaths as well.

7. AOB

Cllr Climson asked the clerk to approach Cllr Dungait about the road closure proposed for March.

8. ITEMS FOR THE MAY MEETING

- Updates on the planning application at Fairwinds
- Community Speedwatch progress
- Remembrance Sunday road closure information
- Phone box update

9. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 7th May 2026 at Longhirst Village Hall.

Signed

Date: