

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Pumpkin Pie Nursey, URC Hall, West Thirston on Thursday 4 July 2019.

**Present:** Cllrs S Allan, D Green, H Lindley and J Marshall. County Councillor Sanderson  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

**19 Apologies for absence** – Cllrs E Davidson and T Jackson.

**20 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Green – Light in Eshott Village.

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

Concerns were raised that the potential trust for Recreation Field was just for the new building excluding the land. This could cause issues if trying to gain funding from sports funders as it might not be available if land is excluded. Cllr Marshall confirmed that representatives from potential funding organisations are being invited to talk about how much would need to take on to maximize the funding opportunities, ie pitches, play area as well as building. It also needs to look at the VAT implications if all the area is handed over to the trust. So need to see what needs to be included to put together a viable funding application.

**22 The minutes of the meeting 23 May 2019** were signed as a true record.

**23 Matters Arising therefrom:**

- a) Speed strip request for West Thirston – still no been implemented by NCC despite numerous reminders – CC Sanderson stated he has this in hand and he has had a petition about speeding through West Thirston and is looking at speeding measures.
- b) Bus stop sign replacement of – still waiting on this being installed but NCC say it is in hand, the problem being it was allocated a timeslot for being installed but was stopped by the resident. Clerk
- c) Street light in Eshott Village – Still waiting for the lights to be switched off during the night and for the baffle to be installed. Clerk
- d) Street lights around the rockery – after numerous emails NCC has at last identified that they are the rightful owners of the lighting and will install baffles on these. Clerk
- e) Bottle Bank Area – bramble removal and flytipping sign relocation – no response from NCC since the Clerk stated the removal of the brambles will no affect biodiversity and the flytipping signage has still not been relocated. Clerk
- f) Wintrick Road Sign replacement – this has now been replaced.
- g) A1 highways and footpath request update – an email has been sent to A1 Highways requesting a meeting. Resident stated that Felton PC Clerk has an update on this. Thirston Clerk to contact Felton Clerk. Clerk
- h) Cleaning of Bus Shelters in parish – the bus shelters have been power washed by NCC.
- i) Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint – NCC is looking into this and will report back their findings to the PC. Clerk
- j) Wintrick Junction – white lines request – no response has been received by NCC on this issue, Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- k) NCC Historic Landscape Character Map – NCC has responded to state they will not be updating this map. The Clerk did inform them that this was inaccurate at the time of drawing up the map however they have no plans to change it. Clerk to go back to NCC as the map that is on the website is used by Planning Department as a reference and as it is inaccurate could have an impact on planning applications. Clerk
- l) Grass Verges into West Thirston – cutting of – NCC has confirmed to the Clerk that they did originally cut the verges but due to Felton Parish Council raising issues of disparity in grass cutting the depot has been informed they cannot cut the verges bar the twice yearly cut. If the PC wishes the verges to be cut they will have to pay a contractor. Clerk to get costs for cutting from third parties and NCC. Clerk
- m) Letter of engagement to Internal Auditor – this has been sent to Mr Canner.
- n) Flytipping into Eshott Burn – the Clerk requested Environment Agency to remove the remaining materials. However NCC managed to clear the remaining debris before the heavy rains started.
- o) The Bridge Newsletter – online and interactive request – The Clerk has contacted the Bridge Newsletter but no response received to date. Clerk to pursue. Clerk

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## 24 Report by County Councillor Sanderson

- NCC has acknowledged that there is a climate change emergence and this has to be a most important priority for NCC. It is looking to half carbon emissions by 2025 and be carbon neutral within 10 years. Government support is needed for the 10 year plan. A steering group has been set up with NCC and external bodies to move this forward. The group will come up with targets for the next 3 years with actions which will require funding and are feeding this into the budget this year. Areas to cover are doubling charging points, increase recycling which currently stands at 36% and want it up to 50% in next 5 years (excl food waste). NCC is looking into kerb glass recycling – might not be sustainable financially but they have a duty to do this.
- Tours around the recycling facility have proven popular and more dates are anticipated for Autumn. Cllr Lindley is attending the next tour. Need to raise more awareness of recycling and are looking at can and plastic bottle bins.
- County Hall works are continuing. There is a parks improvement programme in place for Bolam (bird hide and paths and café), Druridge (new café) and Plessey (new play area).
- Roads programme is underway with a lot more money being spent this year and getting a lot done from resurfacing to patching and new cattle grids.
- New carpark at Morpeth and works also taking place in Amble and Berwick.
- East Thirston – issues around the recent application resulted in a meeting with planning and residents and it has highlighted some areas that planning are not doing well in.
- Repairs to Felton and Thirston Bridge have started which is long overdue.
- CC Sanderson has received a petition with 70 signatures re the speeding through West Thirston and concerns raised now that Pumpkin Pie is operating there so speeding needs to be addressed. A meeting is being arranged with Neil Snowdon and the Community Speed Watch team will be looking at West Thirston. The Clerk raised the issue that despite numerous requests no speed strips have been installed in West Thirston to gain an insight into the speeding. CC Sanderson said this has now been superceded by the work he is doing with NCC. The road is too narrow for a built out area of pathway to reduce speeding so a possible flashing/countdown sign would be looked at this CC Sanderson could look to funding.
- Grass cutting into the village has ceased and CC Sanderson said for the Clerk to contact Stephen Wardle at NCC to see what can be done.

## 25 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

**Recreation Field Meeting** – Cllr Marshall stated need the right legal structure in place to move forward with the new building project, need a lease for the land the building will be sitting on and possible some of the recreation field. A corporate structure required, whether it is a charity or not – there are various options but need to find out what works best for funding. Also need to see what the residents and Felton PC will support. Costs for the new building vary from about 30k for a second hand building to considerably more for a new build.

RoSPA report was pretty good, one of two minor items to be addressed. An action plan has been put together to address issues. There is perpetual dog fouling on the field and the potential for CCTV is being looked into.

Resurfacing of the MUGA is being costed along with replacing the boards around the MUGA.

## 26 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – No issues.
- b) Landscaping – report from resident that rockery shrubs are well manicured.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – The Clerk has submitted the next grant application and this has been approved and awaiting payment. Burgham were consulted in relation to a proposed settlement boundary, concerns were raised by one resident as to whether this was necessary as Burgham is proposed for being in a green belt area but NCC advised it was not guaranteed that the proposal for the green belt would go ahead, if it did a settlement boundary would hold added weight. 14 out of the 20 properties at Burgham has supported a settlement boundary. The Clerk is to draw up the paperwork for Burgham and Eshott to have settlement boundaries. Green Space reports have also been produced by

Clerk

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the Clerk for The Peth and Eshott Village Green and these have been sent to the Planning Consultant along with amends on the first stage discussion report for her input. The Clerk has also received a number of enquiries from third parties to be included in the consultation process and is awaiting a response from NCC as to whether these companies should be included in consultation or just pointed in the direction of the website.

Clerk

## 27 Planning:

### c. To report on any planning decisions:

19/00643/FUL – Woodland Burial Site, Bockenfield – Single Storey building for crematorium with parking – APPROVED

### 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

19/00300/PREAPP – Burgham Park Golf Club – Erection of 56 dwellings and improvements to course and club house – objections submitted and request for inclusion in pre-app discussions. A resident has contacted the Clerk for more background in this and a response has been given that it is early stages and residents will be informed if and when a full application is 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 e Parking – no objections. To be decided at County Committee.

19/01348/VARYCO – The Old Farm Byre, East Thirston – vary conditions 10,11,15 & 16 – objections submitted. The residents contacted the PC as the applicant had been asked to submit this variation to take the onus off NCC Enforcement to enforce the conditions set. CC Sanderson arrange a meeting with resident and planners and following this meeting the planner is minded to refuse the application but will undertake a site visit prior to preparing his report.

19/01984/FUL & LBC – Old Farm House, West Thirston – kitchen/orangery extension incl new timber doors to rear and a glazed lantern

19/02000/FUL – Rosslea, West Thirston – Remodel existing roof to raise rear eaves lines, 2 dormers to front including resizing of existing. Reduce porch footprint and remodel.

Formation of mono pitch roof to existing garage conversion flat roof.

### c. Planning Issues

New Beer Garden – Northumberland Arms – Clerk is pursuing this still with NCC as no retrospective application been received despite this now being the time of year the beer garden will be in use.

Clerk

## 28 Services

• Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – still waiting installation of this. Clerk to pursue with NCC.

Clerk

• Steps covered in debris – slippy when wet – Clerk to request these are cleared by NCC.

Clerk

• Weeds – only some have been sprayed a number have been missed – Clerk to pursue with NCC

Clerk

• Weeds between garage and farm along footpath a disgrace – Clerk to see if NCC are responsible for this area, if not then get a quote from contractor.

Clerk

• The 30mph flashing sign is being obscured by hedging. Clerk to contact the home owner to request they cut back their hedge.

Clerk

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## 29 Requested Agenda Items:

- Policy Review – Publication Scheme, Handling Complaints, Retention/Disposal Policy, Financial Regulations, Standing Orders were all reviewed and agreed with the exception of the change in the date at the end of Standing Orders.
- Defib Machine – Clerk is waiting to hear back from Stephen Carey fund as to who arranges the calibration and replacement pads for the machine. The Clerk also raised that the occupiers of the property the defib is attached to require reimbursement of electricity costs since installation – the cost advised by Stephen Carey Fund is £50 per annum. So two years of contributions required. It was agreed to pay the first year immediately and then look to set up a direct debit for this to be paid annually. Clerk
- NCC Planning – divesting responsibility via removal of planning conditions  
There have been three areas of issue within Thirston PC along with removal of or variation of planning conditions which are not being addresses correctly by NCC as it is due to their lack of time/ability to enforce ie, Dog Training Centre, Old Farm Byre and Eshott Airfield. Concerns were raised that NCC are keen to promote business in Northumberland to help local economy but are not taking into consideration the impact on residents. Also an application may state they are benefiting the local economy but no evidence of this is required by NCC. NCC need to explain themselves and this has already been brought up with them to no avail.
- Eshott – T Junction at east of village mirror request – visibility is poor for coming out of this junction due to hedging. Clerk to seek advice from NCC as to whether a mirror can be put in place and who is responsible for this. Clerk
- Speeding through Eshott – advisory signs request – Clerk to ask NCC what can be put in place. Also speak to NALC as they may be able to give advice as to what other parishes do. Clerk

## 30 Correspondence:

- NCC – email from Mr Murfin offering Planning Presentation – it was agreed to invite Mr Murfin to a PC meeting, if this is not possible then look to link in with a meeting with other PC's. Clerk
- NCC – Northumberland Domestic Abuse information – poster to be put in noticeboard. Clerk
- NCC – ILG Seminar - Strengthening the well being of market towns in the borderlands – 10 July at Hexham – for information as not really relevant to Thirston Parish. Clerk
- NCC - Love Northumberland Hate Litter feedback on campaign message and materials – questionnaire completed – Clerk to submit to NCC.
- Northumberland Estates – Rent review for Riverside land – The Councillors agreed to this rent review for 2020 – The existing agreement is £1 per year to be increased to £5 per year. Clerk to sign the new agreement and return to Northumberland Estates. Clerk
- Groundworks – confirmation letter of neighbourhood grant approval
- Call for funding applications from Sister Windturbine Project – not applicable as only covers a small part of the parish.
- Flytipping in Layby on road to Wintrick – a report was received to state a caravan and asbestos had been flytipped. The Clerk informed NCC and this has now been removed. Clerk
- George F White – request for Neighbourhood Plan update – it was agreed to direct them to the Thirston website Clerk
- Email from resident re update on airfield and future situation due to the current operations getting worse for residents – Clerk has logged this on the list of complaints held by the PC. Clerk
- Request for link to nearest job centre to be added to website – it was agreed to add this. Clerk

### Emails Forwarded:

NALC Newsletters

NCC – Removal/reduction of physiotherapy services in Northumberland

NCC – Local Area Council Committee – 8 July 2019

**To Circulate:** Clerks and Councils Direct

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## 31 Finance

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £12,347.16.

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

Payments this meeting:		
IB64	Zurich Insurance (paid between meetings)	357.41
IB65	Northumberland Estates Rental	1.00
IB66	L Hamlin Salary - £323.76 Neighbourhood Plan - £134.90 SLCC membership - £76.00 Home working allowance - £11.09	545.75
IB67	Cllr H Lindley - plants	52.00
IB68	Mr Bates – electricity for defib machine	50.00

(c) **Receipts** – None

(d) **Insurance Renewal** – it was agreed to renew the insurance with Zurich and this payment has been made since the last meeting.

## 32 Urgent Items - None

## 33 Items for next agenda – Apologies from Cllr Lindley

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Date of Next meeting: Thursday 8 August 2019