

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**Meeting on:** 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
**Meeting at:** Longframlington Memorial Hall  
**Meeting Time:** 7.30 p.m.  
**Present:** Cllrs: Steven Bray (SB), Mark Fenwick (MF), David Owen - Chair (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS), Jamie Whicker (JW)  
**In attendance:** Two members of the public, Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Lesley Hall (LH), James Allen (JA)
2. **Table Urgent Business to be discussed in 19 below.**
  - a. Northumberland County Council planning website review
3. **Declaration of Interests.** None.
4. **Gifts and Hospitality.** None.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such. (Proposed JW, Seconded SB, All in Favour).
6. **Matters arising out of Minutes.** (not appearing elsewhere on the agenda).
  - a. Councillor Vacancy update. James Allen had agreed to serve as Councillor and was to be co-opted at this meeting, but due to a family bereavement he was not be able to attend. It was hoped he would agree to the co-option at the January 2025 meeting.
  - b. Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst move into the Longhorsley Division; response to Cllr Sanderson (GS). DO had written to GS and invited him to the meeting. Unfortunately, he was unwell and had sent his apologies. It was agreed to invite him to the next meeting on Tuesday 14th January for 7.00 p.m.( in order to give sufficient time to get through the Agenda). **Action: Clerk**
  - c. Sale of the Rothbury Estate. Following the successful meeting between JW and Grant Wilson(Northumberland Estates) regarding our relationship with Rothbury Estate with respect to Biodiversity issues, the Clerk had sent a follow up email to confirm what had been agreed and to ask for further detail regarding the application for the two deer grids and the proposed plantation at Wards Hill. Shortly after this the official announcement of the sale of the Rothbury Estate to the Wildlife Trust was announced. JW sent a further email asking for more clarification. Grant had replied to say that negotiations were still going ahead, and he would get back to us once there was more clarity on the detail of the sale etc. We had received no further information with respect to the deer grids. JS had produced a draft letter of introduction, support along with a request for discussions with the Wildlife Trusts to Craig Bennet, Chief Executive. It was agreed that the letter be signed by both DO & JW and that Vincent Milburn be asked to inform Craig of the imminent delivery of the letter when he met with him later in the week. **Action: DO/JW/Clerk**
  - d. Honorary Titles: arrangements for Honorary Freedom of the Parish Presentation Ceremony. Nothing further to report at this time.
  - e. Town and Parish Council Autumn Conference Feedback. DO reported that the event had been somewhat disjointed. A worthwhile debate about verge management had taken place. The NCC officer responsible stated that health and safety was a priority over biodiversity. There was general support from those who attended for the development of wildflower verges as an environmental asset. It had been agreed that more needed to be done on this matter, though nothing formal was agreed.
7. **Police Update.** Community Police were unable to attend the meeting due to shift patterns. However, they had informed the Clerk that there were no parish. issues to report. Other issues for the area were included in the Northumbria Connected emails which had been regularly circulated.
8. **Finance**
  - a. Notification of receipts since the last meeting: None.
  - b. Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

22/09/2024	Rothbury JBC	RJBC Precept payment 2nd half		262.00
30/09/2024	HMRC	PAYE		213.20
30/09/2024	Garth Rhodes	Salary & Expenses		867.55
08/11/2024	Julie Ayre	<u>Playing Field:</u> Scything wild flowers	40.00	
		Planting trees	116.00	
		Cutting hedge	160.00	
		Mowing x7	315.00	631.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>1973.75</b>

c. Bank Reconciliation. Approved.

Bank Reconciliation at 10th November 2024	
	£
Balance per bank statements at 10th November 2024	7945.06
Less unpresented payments	0.00
Uncredited Deposits	0.00
Balance	7945.06
Balance per cash book	7945.06

d. Signature for Bank Account update. The bank mandate along with LH details had been submitted by hand to TSB, but no response had been received. **Action: Clerk**

e. Requests for donations.

- i. Rothbury Wrestling Academy
- ii. Wag & Company North East Friendship Dods
- iii. Carers Northumberland

Consideration of these requests would be deferred until the March meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

f. Tap consider approval of the local government services pay agreement 2024/25 and Clerk's annual pay rise from June 2024.

- i. The Members endorsed the Local Government Association national rates of pay backdated to 1 April 2024 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This would mean the Clerk's pay rise would be backdated at SCP 14 at the new rate of £14.84 from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 . An increase of £0.63 p.h.
- ii. The annual incremental pay review for 2023/24 for the Clerk had not been considered in June 2024 (at the anniversary of Clerk's appointment). Members agreed a backdated incremental rise to SCP 16 from June 2024 (£15.33 p.h. at the new 2024/25 rate).

**Action: Clerk**

9. **Planning**. To note and discuss any planning issues since previous meeting.

Reference	Address	Status	Parish Council Comments
24/02747/FUL	The Old School House Longframlington NE65 8HY. Demolition of rear/side extension and construction of rear extension to dwelling	Application Registered	No Objection
24/02805/LBC	The Barn, 6 Brinkburn Lodge Cottages Longframlington	Application Registered	No objection
24/03361/FU	Land To South West Of Wardshill Farm House Longframlington	Application Registered	The Parish Council object to this application because there is no justification for the installation of the deer grid.
24/03362/FUL	Cattle Grid North West Of The Chirm Longhorsley	Application Registered	The Parish Council object to this application because there is no justification for the installation of the deer grid.

10. **Highways**

- a. Highways and Footpaths Report JS had no issues to report.
- b. Report on any issues raised/ to raise with Highways Department
  - i. Fencing Panels at Weldon Bridge JW to check if removed. If not to put report onto Fix My Street. **Action: JW**
  - ii. Large stones on track adjacent to B6344 Todstead – Weldon Bridge. Large stones moved from road edge
  - iii. Surface Water on new repaired section of B6344 Todstead – Weldon Bridge. Repairs had been undertaken; no surface water at present time.

11. **Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund** SB reported that the management of the Windfarm had now been taken over by Nadara and their contribution to the Community Fund had increased to £40k p.a. There was between £70 -£80k currently in the fund. Six applications had been considered at the last meeting. Four of these were approved. The Embleton Terrace Road Fund Committee had agreed to move forward with an application to WWCF for the resurfacing of the road behind Embleton Terrace. Julia Plinston had indicated that BHPC could submit the application on their behalf. A number of companies had been approached and quotations had been received which ranged from £2k-£7k for pothole repair and £25k - £41k for re-surfacing. SB/DO to draw up detailed proposal for consideration and submission to WWCF. **Action: SB/DO**

12. **Climate Change & Biodiversity Committee**.

- a. Committee Report. Members had previously received the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee. JW highlighted the following:

- i. The 2024/25 funded programme was progressing well.
  - ii. The 2024/25 hedge laying course (3 individual days of courses) was to go ahead in December, with the hedge laying competition and the possibility of a further course in the Spring.
  - iii. Most of the 24/25 bird boxes had been erected with a further 35 boxes to complete. Still waiting for the Rothbury Estate to confirm whether they would allow boxes along the Forest and Maglin Burns.
  - iv. The Committee were actively looking for additional members. Judith baker, a key member of the committee who had led on the baseline survey was moving out of the area. She would be sadly missed but she hoped to continue her involvement from a distance in the biodiversity work.
  - v. A Volunteer pack which included information/ registration documents/insurance cover detail was in production and to be presented for consideration at the next CC&B meeting.
- b. Purchase of Water Testing Kits. The members agreed to the purchase of its own water testing kits from the WWFC funds. This would enable the current kit which was on loan to be used by Upper Coquetdale groups and would mean that the Parish would continue to have its own equipment in the long term. **Action: MF/Clerk**
- c. Crag Volunteers Insurance & Volunteer information form The PC approved this documentation and insurance cover for those individuals undertaking water testing. **Action: MF/Clerk**
- 13. Emergency Planning:**
- a. Community Flood Plan. Members approved the flood plan. Warden details yet to be finalised. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Flood Warden Applications. Members agreed to become flood wardens and completed the application forms. DO to arrange with LH for her to complete the application. Clerk will then send them to Colin Hall (EA) en bloc. **Action: DO/LH/Clerk**
- c. Flood Warning Signage. The flood planning team had agreed, on the advice of Colin Hall (EA) to request the installation of flood warning signs at key fords and crossings in the Parish and a request was submitted to NCC, who had agreed to the installation of these signs. MF and JW had a site meeting with Graham Bucknall (NCC Highways) to discuss the best approach for each site. GB was to draw up proposals for consideration by BHPC.
- 14. Coquetdale Cluster Meeting**
- a. Items to discuss from the latest Cluster Meeting This was to take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November when David Smith MP was to attend. JS would Chair this meeting.
- b. Items for next Cluster Meeting Agenda.
- i. Update on telephony: Wi-Fi and Copper landlines
  - ii. Sale of the Rothbury Estate **Action: JS**
- 15. Cemetery & Joint Burial Committee Reports**
- a. Longframlington Cemetery. Consecration of the cemetery extension would now take place in the Spring 2025, during the better weather.
- b. Rothbury JBC. JW had advised the JBC on the drainage issue at the cemetery and this was in the process of being repaired. The discussion with the Duke's estate for the diversion of the stream back to its original route were progressing well.
- 16. Public Rights of Way**
- a. Definitive Map Modifications update. Definitive MMO (No12) 2024 BOAT No 27 has been received. MF had already sent out a strong recommendation to object to this order as this is a disused track with no current access across the Coquet onto the B6344 and this has been the case for more than a century. The Council agreed to submit an objection on these grounds. **Action: MF/Clerk**
- b. Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation. DO had submitted comments on behalf of the PC and would report his comments at the next meeting. **Action: DO**
- 17. Demolition of the old bus stop at the B6344 New Houses junction**. This matter was deferred from the last meeting where it was felt for Health and Safety reasons, the old bus stop should be demolished. It was agreed that the bus stop be demolished and to await any public reaction before consideration of a replacement shelter be discussed. JW was asked to provide a quote for the demolition and removal of the old shelter. **Action: JW**
- 18. Meeting with David Smith MP Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 a.m.** Members were asked to consider issues for the meeting. **Action: All**
- 19. Any Urgent Business**
- a. Northumberland County Council planning website review. Chair/Clerk delegated to make response. **Action: DO/Clerk**
- 20. Items for Next Meeting**
- a. Annual Budget and Precept.
  - b. Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation
- 21. Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Memorial Hall Longframlington at 7.00 p.m.**

*The meeting closed at 9.29 p.m.*

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