

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 10 March 2022.

**Present:** Cllrs S Allan, L Clarehugh, E Davidson, D Green and Cllr Marshall  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin  
Two members of the public

**106 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Jackson and CC Sanderson

**107 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – None

**108 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) - None**

**109 The minutes of the meeting 20 January 2022** were agreed as a true record.

**110 Matters Arising**

- Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked – still outstanding by NCC Clerk
- Street light request for East Thirston – contact has left NCC so Clerk is trying to establish who the replacement is. Clerk
- Replacement bus stop sign – still outstanding by NCC Clerk
- Directional sign, left over the bridge – still outstanding by NCC [*this has now been reinstated*]

**Cllr Davidson joined the Meeting**

- Noticeboard at Eshott – The Clerk reported that the alternative to wooden boards were not fitting for Eshott Village. Cllr Clarehugh has contact details of a local joiner who makes noticeboards and will pass to the Clerk. Cllr Green has got heading letters left over from the last board so no need to acquire these. Cllr Clarehugh/  
Clerk
- Tree Officer re checking of trees within the parish – No response from Tree Officer Clerk
- Blocked drain and manhole cover at Wintrick – still outstanding by NCC Cllr Clarehugh
- Queens Jubilee Arrangements – Felton PC as has decided to plant an oak tree. They have also said that they could potentially provide a grant to help with the VH/W.I. plan if this will not be covered by the NCC Jubilee Fund. Clerk to contact to see if they need a letter of support for funding. Clerk also to ascertain if it would be possible to plant an oak tree in the rockery and if so Cllr Clarehugh would be able to source a tree. Clerk
- Light on the steps down from the Peth not working – outstanding by NCC. Clerk
- Give way sign onto the A1 from West Thirston has been knocked down – still outstanding by NCC Clerk
- Defibrillator needs registering with new “the Circuit” database – Clerk still waiting on details from resident who looks after the defib machine. Clerk
- Kerb stone on the left hand bend into West Thirston off the A1 need resiting – still outstanding by NCC Clerk
- 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 – still outstanding by NCC Clerk

**111 Report by County Councillor Sanderson**

Last week and this week has been dominated by our action to show support for Ukrainian refugees and the people still there who are suffering appalling treatment.

I have written to the Prime Minister and the County's MPs asking that a larger programme for refugees is agreed as I want our County to be involved with taking in people who so badly need our help.

We have a good record of helping Syrian and Afghan refugees in recent years and we must do our best now.

We raised the Ukrainian flag at County Hall this week and have lit the Border Rail Bridge in Berwick in blue and yellow.

We have 16 Collection Points across the County - details are on the website - and we have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown.

However logistically it is proving to be very difficult so I have just done a video again for the website asking if people might hang fire for the moment with goods and consider a financial donation instead because money is most needed right now.

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On Burgham I know some of you have seen the planning outcome.  
Touching wood I think I am on the final cases of Northern Powergrid compensation for which some residents are still waiting and have asked me to get involved.

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

**Recreation Field Meeting** – Good discussion took place and progress is being made in relation to maintenance. Work has been carried out by some of the committee on cutting back brambles and overhanging branches. Cllr Cuthbert has been working with a subgroup for plans for renewing equipment and MUGA resurfacing. Looking at more draining works on the field. New members have joined the group and there is enthusiasm going forward. Need clarification as to whether Thirston PC continues to be represented and who the right person might be for this. Clerk to ask Felton PC for a response to the letter re the change in terms of support being given from April 2022 onwards.

Clerk

**NALC presentation on Planning Enforcement** - Clerk attended this presentation which was quite informative.

**Meeting with NCC and CAA** – It would seem that processes are in place to ensure a satisfactory resolution to outstanding planning condition in relation to the Management Plan. Another meeting with NCC has been arranged for later in this month. Some questions were raised with the CAA which are to be put in writing by the Clerk.

Clerk

## 113 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – There has been no clean up since storm Arwen. The steps installed by Skill Mill have been washed away but the seats are still in place. It is hoped Skill Mill will return but no doubt there are areas in greater need for safety reasons at the moment.
- b) Landscaping – A quote has been received and accepted for the next two years for the rockery and verge cutting from Thirston New Houses to the bus stop.
- c) Councillors to suggest short term/medium term/long term projects – With the closure of the A1 recently due to an accident it made Cllr Marshall aware of what the road through the villages will be like when the A1 is dualled and suggested there should be a proper path from Thirston New Houses to the bus stop. Cllr Clarehugh stated a pathway is to be installed along what will become the access road (old A1) from the caravan parks to the new junction. It was agreed to raise this at the next meeting with Highways.

Cllr Allan

## 114 Planning:

**To report on any planning decisions:** None

**20/02094/FUL** – Land NW of Burgham Park Golf Club - Remove green keepers compound and erection of 56 dwellings plus upgrade of access road, electric sub station, SUDs, domestic package treatment works and domestic gas storage. REFUSED at Committee.

**21/02064/FUL** - Northumberland Country Zoo Animal house to include pool and on-show viewing area for the public – GRANTED

**21/04762/FUL** - Agricultural Building East Of Bockenfield Manor - Conversion and alteration of agricultural building to residential use including construction of single storey porch, detached garage, chimney upon gable and introduction of external cladding (amended 04/02/22) – GRANTED

**22/00093/PRUTPO** - Chapelside House, Eshott - Pruning of Ash tree by removing single bough, southside of the tree to reduce the lateral loading being carried through the main two trunks – PERMITTED

**Planning applications pending:**

**20/02026/COU** – Cottages at Burgham Park Golf Club – Change of use from holiday cottages to residential dwellings – No Objections – the Clerk asked for clarification from Planning Officer if this application will now be refused or withdrawn following the refusal of 20/02094/FUL. It has been recommended for refusal. Just awaiting a response from the

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chairs of the LAC committee to see if the file can be determined under delegated or if it needs a committee decision.

**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

**21/02941/FUL** - Dukes Cottage, West Thirston – Side extension and front porch – no objections

**21/04084/FUL** – Land W of Foxhemels – 2 storey residential dwelling – no objections

**21/04280/FUL** - Paintballing Site Eshott Heugh - Hybrid planning application consisting of a detailed application for 30no holiday lodges, storage barn, parking and access and an outline application with access and all other matters reserved for the associated leisure building (Use Class E)

**22/00708/FUL** - 7 Thirston Court West Moor Farm – Construction of garage and garden shed

## 115 Requested Agenda Items:

NCC – Storm Arwen Review – Clerk to response to NCC to state the need to rely on the local community to clear up after the storm which is no surprise as Northumberland is such a big county for NCC to cover and NCC needed to assess the threat to life and prioritise. It would have been easier if there could have been a way to get authorisation to close roads for tree removal however the community just went ahead and stopped access for a limited time to ensure safe removal of debris.

## 116 Correspondence:

- NCC – Northumberland Local Plan – for adoption on 29 March – Concerns have been raised as to why only Eshott Airfield has a safeguarding map adopted in this plan – it should be all unlicensed airfield in the county or none. Clerk to write to NCC to raise this issue again. Clerk
- NCC – Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund – NCC has allocated £70,000 to create a Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Fund for grant funding to help to take part in celebratory events, and community and legacy projects, to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
- Email - A1 Morpeth to Felton - Community Engagement by Highways England – footpath issues along A1 – concern has been raised about the lack of footpath along the south bank of the Coquet underneath the existing and proposed viaducts. Clerk to source maps to highlight the areas being discussed to make it easier to understand what is proposed. Clerk
- Donation request from Age UK – It was agreed to donate £25 Clerk
- Donation request from Citizen Advice – it was agreed to donate £25 Clerk
- Email from resident re Parking Restrictions at Bridge End – The owner of a property at Bridge End has found he cannot park by the barrier due to the double yellow lines installed on the bridge. This was referred to NCC who stated there was no requirement to consult on these proposals and referred him to Felton PC and CC Thorne as the parking restrictions were requested by them. Clerk to send a response to the owner stating the Parish Council understand his frustrations but these parking restrictions were implemented by NCC for safety reasons. Clerk
- Email - Northumberland Libraries News update – request to attach their monthly newsletter link to PC website – Clerk to add to website. Clerk
- Email request to be included on TPC website – Gocompare - a guide to preparing for a flood and protecting your property – useful flood information but as this is providing advertising it was agreed this would not be suitable for the website and there are plenty of guides available from Northumbrian Water and NCC.
- Email – Felton CAN – litter picking and verges – CAN members are willing either to organise litter picks say, every six months or so, or to assist in picks organised by the Parish Councils. They are also keen to stop cutting of verges but have included the cutting of the verge Thirston PC currently has cut as they understand the need for access to the bus stop. It was agreed that CAN should undertake the litter picking and Clerk

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Clerk to provide details, however for the PC to be informed well in advance so residents can get involved should they wish.

- Email - Scams Awareness from Age UK – running a programme for 2 year to help residents avoid being email scammed via group sessions or one to one visits. It was agreed to ask for posters advertising this programme and also to liaise with Felton PC to see if there is any interest in a group presentation to be held in the Village Hall. Clerk
- Email - National Highways Yorkshire and North East Stakeholder Survey – 5 minute survey to see if they are engaging efficiently with PCs – Clerk to complete. Clerk
- Verbal concern re Narrow Bank Wall – the wall had collapsed over the footpath and this was reported to NCC – it is has since been made safe.
- Email re trees at Wintrick to East Thirston – two trees are looking precarious – this has been reported to NCC as they are on the verges as opposed to farmers field – No action taken by NCC to date. Clerk
- Email re pathway improvements down to the riverside – following the request to residents for ideas to improve the parish a resident has requested that the FP from the Bridge downstream gets quite muddy for the first section (mainly due to accumulation of dead leaves). Would it be possible to put some more stone chippings down (as has been done in the past) to raise the path level up out of the mud? Clerk to speak with NCC footpath officer. Clerk
- Email re proposed British Air Racing event – concerns have been raised by a number of residents in relation to the proposed air racing event to be held at the airfield in September. This has been raised with NCC and CAA.
- Email re NCC not imposing noise restrictions in relation to Airfield – copy to PC for information.
- Emails in relation to helicopters at the airfield – refuelling, training and fumes – a number of complaint emails have been received direct and as copies into NCC. This has been raised with NCC and CAA.
- Emails re breach of flying hours and flying in after dark – a plane took off at 8am which a number of reports were received and concern about a plane landing within the approved hours but after dark with no lighting available at the airfield. This has been raised with NCC.
- Email re face to face meetings – concern has been raised about the suggestion of holding PC meetings at the Golf Club. The Clerk has responded to state this was only being investigated should complaints be received about holding zoom meetings but as this has not been the case the PC will continue holding meetings via zoom until a practical venue is available. It is also noted that there are more members of the public participating in zoom meetings than face to face.
- Emails from NALC – Boundary Commission - concern re planning if Thirston moved to Hexham area. It will bring Thirston under new planners who do not understand the area and dealings with ongoing issues. Clerk to raise the Parish Councils concerns with Rob Murfin to ensure if this does happen history is not lost and whether he has any influence over designated areas. Clerk

### 117 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £13,036.33. This balance was reconciled with the bank statement and agreed by the Councillors.
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

There was a lengthy discussion about the contribution towards the toddler swing and it was agreed the percentage requested was disproportionate and therefore the Parish Coucillors agreed to a donation of 16% of the costs amounting to £590.56 as opposed to the suggested amount by Felton PC of £1,254.94. It was agreed a meeting between the two councils should be arranged.

Clerk  
Cllr Allan

There was also a discussion about making a donation to the Ukraine Appeal. As there is £250 left in the budgeted donation for this financial year and this is the last meeting of the financial year it was agreed to donate £250 to this important appeal. It was also

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agreed to put a link on the website and post on facebook a link for anyone wishing to make a financial donation as this is the preferred type of donation at present.

Clerk

Payments this meeting:		
IB134	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 28 hours at £15.50 up to 10 March (£434.00) 12 hours at £15.50 11 March – 31 March (£186.00) 2 x zoom (£28.78) 2 x home working allowance (£22.38)	£671.16
IB135	Felton Parish Council Rec Field Recharge (£1,197.50) Requested donation to toddler swing (£590.56) War Memorial Insurance recharge (45.96) Felton Cemetery Contribution (£673.92)	£2,507.94
DD	Information Commissioners	£35.00
IB136	Age UK	£25.00
IB137	Citizens Advice	£25.00
IB138	Ukraine Appeal	£250.00

(c) **Income** – the Clerk will submit the VAT reclaim for this financial year after this meeting.

(d) **Bank Card Machine** – Cllr Marshall reported he had arranged a replacement as his was not working and this was easily done by calling in at the bank.

### 118 Urgent Items –

- Cllr Marshall stated there are a lot of outstanding items from NCC that have not been progressed for a number of years. Clerk to contact NCC to raise the PCs concerns and request information on the situation with each outstanding issue for the next meeting. Clerk to copy CC Sanderson in for information.

Clerk

### 119 Items for next agenda –

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

Date of Next meeting: 28 April 2022