

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield on Thursday 14 December 2023.

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

74 Apologies for Absence – None

75 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – Cllr John Marshall, item 82, 23/04081/FUL - High Park Farm

76 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) –

Resident asked how the Parish Council was going to respond to the High Park Farm application (23/04081/FUL). As the Councillors had not had the opportunity to discuss the application this item was brought forward in the agenda. The resident highlighted a number of issues and concerns that they felt were appropriate and the Parish Councillors agreed with these issues. There are a number of areas where the application does not comply with the Northumberland Local Plan and there are concerns about traffic using West and East Thirston roads to access the site and the single track road up to the site. Clerk to draw up a response from the Parish Council and once approved submit to NCC and copy to Felton and Acklington Parish Councils as consultees.

Clerk

77 The minutes of the meeting 2 November 2023 were agreed as a true record.

78 Matters Arising therefrom:

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

- a) Lighting on The Peth – the vegetation has been cut back from around the lighting but this has not improved the visibility along the pathway. The Clerk has reported this to NCC and requested brighter bulbs or more lighting. The Street Lighting Manager has confirmed he will investigate. Clerk
- b) Missing Weldon Bridge signage – No progress to date. Clerk
- c) Land beside powergrid building – No progress to date. Clerk
- d) Footpath resurfacing request – a request has been submitted to NCC and this may also be looked at more favorably due to the recent email from Thirston New Houses residents. Clerk
- e) Bus stop repairs - works delayed due to bad weather.

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

- a) Manhole cover at Wintrick (12/2021) – This has been ordered and should be replaced imminently.
- 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) – still outstanding Clerk
- c) Pathway improvements at riverside (03/2022) – still outstanding but new NCC contact been informed of the situation. Clerk
- d) Road at Bywell Shooting Ground in need of repair (11/2022) – repairs due in early next year.
- e) Kerb stones opposite Wintrick Road (03/2022) – these have been realigned by NCC during the recent resurfacing of the A1. The Clerk sent an email of thanks.

79 Report by County Councillor Sanderson – Christmas best wishes received and circulated.

80 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Remembrance Day Service- This was well attended and the natural wreath was complimented.

Felton Biodiversity Group – Cllr Day attended this meeting. Areas discussed were

- Verge Management – plants are growing along the verges and it has been recommended to NCC to change the mowing regimes
- Footpaths project – no further progress to date
- River Coquet Project – catchment wide response to water quality. Rothbury and Warkworth WI's are undertaking water quality tests. Funding is being sought for these tests. Northumbrian Water and other relevant agencies are being brought on board to look into the water quality issues further.

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Felton & Thirston WI – Cllr Allan met with a volunteer to drop off some yellow rattle. WI volunteers will put this down around the bus shelter and tidied the area up.

81 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – need to trim where picnic table has been installed. Cllr Davison offered to do this in the spring. The area from Felton along the Coquet to High Park has been badly washed away and the footpath is very close to the edge. It is just up from the Concrete bridge where Thirston Burn runs into Coquet. This needs investigating by NCC as a priority. Clerk
- b) Landscaping – Clerk has requested quote for works for 2024/25.
- c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects – Village gateways, bus shelters – ongoing. Clerk has tried to speak to NCC about this and being pointed in the direction of who deals with this there has been no response to date. It was agreed that the Clerk go to NCC with proposed sites and see if they have any objections. Clerk

82 Planning

To report on any planning decisions:

23/02758/FUL – Thirston Cottage - Construct single storey extension to detached outbuilding for storage - WITHDRAWN

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

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

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

23/00601/S106A - Land East Of Greycroft West Thirston - Modification of S106 agreement dated 07-10-2020 on approved application 19/05017/OUT in order to change tenure of the 2 Affordable Homes from Rented Units to Discount Market Value Houses.

23/01921/FUL - Bockenfield Aerodrome Ltd Eshott Airfield - To allow amended operating hours to 07:00-23:00, training and fuelling of military and emergency services aircraft, provision of temporary structures and retrospective café – email confirmation received for deadline for comments to be moved to 11 August

23/03579/VARYCO - Land North West Of Burgham Park Golf Club - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application 20/02094/FUL - to allow variation of approved layout to substitute Violet House Type H502 with Rose Type H504 on plots 15 and 17 and to change single garage provision to double garage provision for those houses

23/03887/FUL - Burgham Park Golf Club - Erection of stone wall to form entrance feature to new housing development

23/04075/VARYCO - Burgham Park Golf Club - Variation of condition 13 (occupied for holiday purposes thereonly) on approved app 11/00938/VARYCO in order to remove planning condition 13

23/04081/FUL - High Park Farm Change of use of agricultural building to a facility to dry paper pulp to produce animal bedding to include feeder, drum, burner, stack installation and control room.

Planning Issues:

Bockenfield Caravan Park – NCC awaiting retrospective planning permission for a number of major issues on this site.

Felmoor Park – Entrance lighting and signage – still waiting response from NCC as to what action, if any, is to be taken.

Felmoor Park – Not complying with planning approval for timber cabins – still waiting response from NCC as to what action, if any, is to be taken.

Email complaints re the lack of traffic management with new housing – the developers were not complying with the planning approval conditions and this was reported to NCC. Delivery vehicles were queuing on the roads causing traffic hold ups and poor visibility, vehicles were also parked on the grass. Also a tracked vehicle has driven over the grass from the site entrance to the side where

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drainage has been installed and churned up all the grass verges and probably damaged the daffodils that are planted in this areas. This has also been reported to NCC.

83 Requested Agenda Items:

- Budget Approval – NCC has extended the deadline to allow for discussions to take place about the Cemetery increase. The Clerk has requested a meeting of the three parishes but has not received a response as yet from Felton PC. Also Clerk to circulate the Cemetery finances.
- Meeting Date Changes – 25 Jan to 1 Feb and 8 Aug to 15 Aug – these changes were agreed.

Clerk

84 Correspondence:

- NCC – Castle Morpeth Area Committee Agenda – for information.
- NCC – Electoral register update - the Clerk has received the recent update.
- Northumbria Police email re poaching in Felton – for information
- Email re CAN Renewable Energy and Carbon Reduction Roadshow – for information
- Email requesting cutting back of verge for children accessing village from Thirston New Houses – this was put to NCC who has stated that this cannot be done by NCC as it would involve traffic management plus there is already a footpath on the opposite site of the road. It has been referred to traffic safety officer to assess if anything can be done.
- Email re Environment Agency’s Flood Resilience Engagement – Clerk to invite the representative to attend the February meeting. He is already drafting a community flood plan after discussions with Felton PC and it was felt that a joint plan should be put in place.
- Message re bench being washed away – the bench was washed up into a tree. Some Felton residents rescued it and the Anglers Federation are reinstalling it.
- Emails re Airfield breaches – forwarded to NCC
- Email from Ethos Environmental who are working with NCC with questionnaire on open spaces – Clerk has responded
- Email re change of village map in noticeboard – a request was made for an update with a new property added. The Clerk has done this and put the new version in the notice board.
- Email from resident stating how lovely the natural wreath was at Remembrance Day Service – for information.
- GNAA Donation request – it was agreed to donate £50 as per the budget.
- Felton CAN bulletin - circulated
- NALC News - circulated

Clerk

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85 Finance

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £13,952.27 TPC funds and £4,929.97 FCJC Funds totaling £18,882.24. The balance was reconciled with the bank statement and agreed by the Councillors.

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

Payments this meeting:		
IB179	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 30 hours at £17.58 (£527.40) Home working allowance of 6 weeks (£6.00) Payment for wreath (30.00) Wine for Auditor (£14.25)	£577.65
IB180	Donation to Great North Air Ambulance	£50.00
IB181	Royal British Legion	£30.00

(c) **Income** – None

86 Urgent Items –

- Tree at the Peth – a tree fell down and blocked the Peth. NCC responded and removed it within 2 hours and the Clerk sent an email of thanks.
- Water on road down the Peth – water was pouring down the Peth from two areas of the wall just below the rockery. Photos were sent to NCC and they are investigating. *[NB note that the day after the meeting the water was running from the drain at the top of The Peth and it was brown water – this was immediately reported to NCC with photographs].*

Clerk

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- The wall at the Peth needs repointing as some of the stones are very loose.
- Blackbrook Farm pot holes are in need of urgent repair
- The Narrow Bank has water pouring down it again and needs reporting to NCC
- There have been a number of complaints in relation the Highways work on the A1. Not a lot has been done which is not all weather related, what has been done is bad quality, the mess in Bockenfield Layby is unacceptable (large amounts of mud making areas impassible), a pot hole actually appeared in newly laid tarmac. These issues and concerns to be relayed to Highways.

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Clerk

87 Items for next agenda – Budget approval

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm
Date of Next meeting: 1 February 2024