

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting on: 15th March 2022
Meeting at: Longframlington Memorial Hall
Meeting Time: 7.30 p.m.
Present: Cllrs: Steven Bray (SB), David Owen- Chair (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS) Jamie Whicker (JW).
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

The meeting opened at 7.32 p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Lesley Hall (LH), Vincent Milburn (VM)
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meetings held Tuesday 11th January 2022 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such.
3. **Matters arising out of Minutes.**
 - a. Repairs to telephone/defibrillator booth. Repairs are ongoing **Action: JW.**
The defibrillator checked on a monthly basis with a report being sent to the Circuit national database. **Action: SB.**
4. **Correspondence** – Key items of correspondence had been included in agenda. Correspondence deemed to be of interest had been circulated by email and the Correspondence List circulated to members.

5. Finance

- a. Notification of receipts since the last meeting. None
- b. Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting. None. The National Pay Award had finally been reached on rates of pay, applicable from 1 April 2021. Pay uprated by 1.75%. This would raise the clerk's current hourly rate at SCP 12 from £11.53 p.h. to £11.73 p.h.. It was agreed to implement the pay award with immediate effect and that backpay to be included within the Jan-Mar pay claim. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Requests for donations. Requests for donations had been received this year from: Great North Air Ambulance Service, Citizens Advice Northumberland and Northumberland Age UK. There was a lively discussion with respect to the Council's position to giving donations. It was agreed that no donations be agreed at this time but that this matter be deferred to the September meeting when hopefully all members would be in attendance. In the meantime, the 2021/22 donation budget of £500 to be held in reserve. **Action: Clerk**
- d. Bank Reconciliation to 15th March 2022. Approved.

Balance per bank statements at 1st Feb 2022	2664.42
Less unpresented cheques	0.00
Uncredited Deposits	0.00
Balance	2664.42
Balance per cash book	2664.42

6. **Planning** – There were no current requests for consultation that had not already been commented on.

7. Highways

- a. Highways and Footpaths Report.
 - i. Footpath NE of Embleton Terrace to East Raw. The stile into field is damaged, and stile crossing next field boundary is broken. Further down crossing the Forest Burn via the Miners Bridge and right after crossing the bridge, there is a short stretch along the river which has been cleared of trees and numbered pegs have been placed into the ground. JS Has asked NCC to investigate their usage as they could be shooting pegs and advisory signage for walkers may be required. There is an alternative route, turning left before the iron bridge and along the burn back to the road at the Lee Ford. However, this path is impassable due to fallen trees. NCC asked to investigate getting these cleared.
 - ii. Sign Post - Path via Sunnyside to Chirm Well Cottage, SE of Embleton Terrace on road to Longhorsley. The sign post is broken. Reported to NCC.
 - iii. Bridge at Maglin Burn. NCC reminded that this bridge still needs repairing.
- b. Report on any issues raised/ to raise with Highways Department
 - i. Subsidence at Todstead. No further information received on this matter. Clerk to request an update from Paul Jones: Service Director - Local Services, NCC. **Action: Clerk**
 - ii. Survey of Todstead residents regarding traffic calming at Todstead/Villa Lane. LH was to report on her discussions with residents about this matter but was absent from the meeting. DO to speak to LH. **Action: DO**
- c. Traffic Calming Measures Embleton Terrace. Report from DO/Clerk: The cost to install two VAS signs would be in the region of £10k including purchase of two signs, their approval and installation (by NCC). The intention was to request funding from WWFCF for this project. However, this fund required a 25% contribution from the applicant (£2.5k). Since the Council had not accounted for this within the current budget, it would not be able raise this amount in 2022/23. It was agreed that this matter be deferred until setting the 2023/2024 budget/precept, when this additional cost could be considered for inclusion. Members would consider, using some or all the 2021/22 & 2022/23 budget allocated for donation contributions to fund this project, at the September 2022 meeting. This could amount to £1k, thus reducing the extra amount needed to make up the 25% contribution in 2023/24 to around £1.5k.

8. Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund

9. Coquetdale Cluster Meeting

- a. Report from last meeting. Key items:
 - i. Cllr G Sanderson had given last minute apologies due to a serious issue and would attend the next meeting.

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

- ii. Cluster groups. Currently three within the County were a useful means for County Council personnel to meet with Parish Council's.
 - iii. Policing Matters. Reported a busy summer with tourism, and Operation Acorn involving Northumberland National Park, National Trust and Forestry England. The crime figure in the Alnwick area since the last Cluster meeting being 3470 incidents. 706 had occurred within the Rothbury area, 258 in the centre of Rothbury and 448 within the wider rural area. However, Coquetdale was considered a safe place to live, and the figures were on par with 2019-2020
 - iv. The road at Todstead: continually being repaired and disappearing, with a geotechnical survey currently being carried out by the County Council involving monitoring over a period. Many years ago, there had been discussions regarding a new road further up, however the suggestion had not been welcomed.
 - v. Broadband: The Factco fibre service to be installed via the B.T. lines. Cost approximately £25/month and £15/land line, with residential and business fibre available. Factco could provide a back-up phone in the event of a power cut. The government broadband vouchers were valid for up to two years.
- b. Items for next Cluster Meeting Agenda. Agenda had been set and members had no further items to include.
- 10. Cemetery & Joint Burial Committee Reports**
- a. Longframlington Cemetery. Tree damage incurred during Storm Arwen had now been cleared up. Confirmation had been received that the Home Office planning permission for the cemetery was still in force. LPC had now paid the NCC legal expenses related to the registration of the cemetery land. There were some complications regarding the registration of the land with Land Registry, as the middle section of the cemetery was registered as being owned jointly by Brinkburn & Longframlington parishes. Chair of LPC had written to DO to ask for confirmation that Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council was still in existence and that it was willing to sign over the ownership of the land to LPC. On receipt, a legal document for DO to sign on behalf of BHPC to transfer the land to LPC at no cost, would be drawn up. All in agreement to the transfer of the land to LPC. **Action: Clerk Rothbury JBC**. No report as VM absent
- 11. Police Update Report** Since the last meeting there had only been one incident of note; men going round the area claiming to be from the Red Cross asking residents for money. They had been challenged by residents and police called who conducted an area search, with a negative result. Police would continue to keep an eye out for these men and encourage residents to contact them if they return or if they notice anything untoward.
- Information passed on via Farmwatch:
- Report of Poachers – A697 (South of Wooler). At 2300hrs on Thu 10th Feb, a White (17 Plate) Transit Van.
 - Theft of ATV - A697, Wooler Overnight on Friday 4th/Sat 5th Feb: Honda TRX 420 from Grey Citroen Van(NV09KVE) - Glendale Farm Services. Various tools also stolen.
 - Suspected Poachers - Elwick, Belford. Report at 2308hrs. Red Land Rover Freelander
- There was a new Northumbria Police messaging system: 'Northumbria Connected' which enabled businesses and the public to receive Northumbria Police updates. Agreed to post notice on notice board. **Action: SB**
- 12. Defibrillator Training**. At the last enquiry, formal face to face training sessions were still not being offered by NEAS or London Hearts. SB to follow this up. The Stephen Carey Charity was still in existence and JW agreed to contact their trainer to see if he would be willing to provide a training session. The training would take place at the same time as the communication event with residents. **Action: SB/JW**
- 13. Communication with Residents**. To discuss further the proposal for a Social Event. This event to take place as previously agreed in the summer. It would take the form of a formal defibrillator training session followed by a 'knees-up'. There was already an event planned in the summer for residents of the Lee for which the marquee had been loaned from the Forestburn Show. The two events could be conjoined or else the marquee could be left erected for a later date or even borrowed for another time. JW agreed to follow this up and report back at the next meeting. **Action: JW**
- 14. Lee Farm Woodland**. To discuss further the proposal to create a woodland cemetery. At the 28th September 2021 meeting MF had suggested the possibility of creating a woodland cemetery in the new plantation. Members had a continued interest in the idea and at the last meeting had agreed that this item be an item for further detailed discussion at this meeting. In the absence of MF, it was agreed to defer this matter again and ask Mark to produce a more detailed proposal for the meeting. **Action: Clerk/MF**
- 15. Emergency Resilience Planning**
- a. Northumberland County Council - Storm Arwen Review. Information regarding the review had been sent to members in January which included details of how Parish Councils could make representations to the Scrutiny Committee. Following a request from the Clerk, no responses on this matter had been received from BHCP members and therefore the PC had not been able to make a submission. It was still possible to make a submission as the consultation period continued through March and April.
 - b. Longframlington Emergency Action Plan (LEAP). Longframlington had its first Emergency Planning meeting in February. DO attended and Clerk acted as secretary. It was agreed that residents of BHPC could access Longframlington emergency provision and this would be available for BHPC residents even if BHP was experiencing an outage and Fram was not. The two church halls and Memorial Hall could be available as warm hubs in future power outages. The long-term plan was to acquire emergency equipment and provisions stored in the village, probably the Memorial Hall, which was to be equipped with a generator supplied by Northern Powergrid. LPC was to work in conjunction with NCC and the Utility Companies to develop a co-ordinated plan. The PC would reconvene the LEAP group as and when it was able to move forward with these actions. DO said one of the strengths of the plan was the development of a cascade model for contacting residents in an emergency within the two parishes. In this way all people would be able to be contacted to ensure their safety. This would be reliant on there being volunteers to do this and BHPC would need to consider, at its next meeting, how volunteers within Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst would be recruited.
 - c. Rothbury Crises Management Working Group. Rothbury PC had set up a Crisis Management Working group which was well into implementing its emergency planning arrangements. They had agreed that residents of our parish could access their emergency provision. JW had agreed to represent BHPC and had attended a recent meeting. The Group had an excellent planned approach

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

and were happy to share their provision and information with BHP. There were planning to develop a Parish Council App which would disseminate information and which BHP residents could access.

- d. Analogue landline phones - brief update (Case Ref: ZA25904). We had received an update from Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP regarding the switch from analogue copper-wire landline systems to digital VOIP systems. She had held a meeting with Openreach in January to discuss concerns that such systems could leave vulnerable residents unable to communicate for help should they be without power for many days, especially where there were areas of poor or no mobile phone signal. Openreach said that the network providers (BT, Sky etc) were responsible. It was her view that the resilience and safety concerns this raised ought to have wider oversight and a joined-up approach. The Minister had heeded concerns, and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's interim report into the performance of the power companies in the wake of Storm Arwen had announced that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Ofcom along with the telecoms providers, would be launching a review into the performance and resilience of both landline and mobile networks in cases of power outages. DO said that he had received notification from BT that they were to replace the old copper network with fibre in the very near future. It was agreed to write to AMT to inform her and to ask her to intercede. **Action: Clerk**
16. **Northumberland Local Plan - Inspectors' Report.** The Inspectors' Report received by NCC on 26 January 2022 concluded that the Plan satisfied requirements and was sound, and capable of adoption. To adopt the Plan, approval was required by the NCC Cabinet (29 March 2022) and Full Council (30 March 2022). Following adoption, the Northumberland Local Plan, together with 'made' neighbourhood plans, (of which Longframlington's was one), would form the statutory development plan for Northumberland and provide the basis for making planning decisions in the County. The Council would notify when the Plan had been adopted.
17. **Great British Spring Clean.** We had received a request from the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign to take part in the 2022 Great British Spring Clean 25 March-10 April. Jamie had volunteered to organise a BHPC Spring Clean and to speak to Joan Brook about this matter. **Action: JW**
18. **Alnwick District Food Bank.** ADFB was now operating throughout Coquetdale, and they were trying to identify and meet food poverty needs in the area. They were contacting organisations in the hope that they could raise awareness, of the service ADFB provides; to support those who are living on limited incomes by providing them with food parcels. They had produced two posters to advertise the service and it was agreed to place one of these on the parish noticeboard. **Action: SB**
19. **Any Other Business**
- a. FramNews Activities Fair. FramNews were to hold an Activities Fair on Saturday 9th April 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. in the Longframlington Memorial Hall, to introduce people to activities currently running in Longframlington and to get new activities started. Leaflets to be distributed. **Action: DO**
- b. Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan. A Parish Council representative was invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, 24th to discuss creating a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Coquetdale. The following parishes were committed, or are in the process of committing, to joining the project: Rothbury, Thropton, Snitter, Harbottle, Hepple and Alwinton. They were hoping to finalise the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area by mid-May. It was agreed that the Parish Council were generally supportive of the NP and wished to be kept informed. **Action: Clerk**
20. **Items for Next Meeting**
- a. BHPC's position on Donations
- b. Funding of BHPC's 25% contribution to VAS Children Playing Signs
- c. Emergency Resilience Planning including recruitment of volunteers
21. **Date of and Venue for Next Meeting.** **Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting:**
Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.30 p.m. Longframlington Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

Garth Rhodes, Clerk, 5 Wardle Terrace, Longframlington, NE65 8AB, Tel: 01665 570347, Email: Clerk@Brinkburn.net