

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Meeting on:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
**Meeting at:** Longframlington Memorial Hall  
**Meeting Time:** 7.30 p.m.  
**Present:** Cllrs: Steve Bray (SB), Richard Elphick (RE) Mark Fenwick (MF) Lesley Hall (LH), David Owen (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS), Jamie Whicker (JW)  
**In attendance:** Clerk: Garth Rhodes

*The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.*

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None,
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 14th May 2024**- were approved as a correct record and signed as such (Proposed LH, Seconded JW, All in Favour).
3. **Annual Review: Cllr Owen gave a summary of issues from the past year:**
  - Rothbury Estate. Finally sold to NWT, although funds still required to purchase the whole Estate. Generally favourable reaction to the proposals for the future from NWT. Some potential conflicts of interest remain but a positive future looking likely. Our field was withdrawn from the sale, but we have been told that we may have an opportunity to purchase it once the main Estate sale is finalised. We will take soundings this coming year and look to funding support from, the Wingates Trust.
  - The Wingates Windfarm Community Fund Trust has been very supportive of our environmental work and funded our projects. We hope this will continue.
  - The Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee has been active again. Many thanks for the volunteers on the committee and especially Jackie and Jamie as Chair. Water quality assessment continues with our involvement in water monitoring and testing. Many thanks to Mark for taking a lead on this. A data set is becoming available which will allow us to see changes in water quality more clearly. Many thanks to the organisers and volunteers for the multiple forays into our Parishes to collect rubbish. It has made a huge difference. Unfortunately fly tipping continues although it is sporadic.
  - Planning. It has not been a busy year for planning, but there has been some controversy. There is some concern that developments occur which have not been approved.
  - David Smith MP A fruitful meeting. MP listened and has said will respond. We will wait to see what actions take place Longhorsley Division – Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst now in the Longhorsley Division of the County – Glen Sanderson is our County Councillor. This remains a frustrating development as our links are with Rothbury, and our MP is for North Northumberland, which does not include the rest of the Longhorsley parishes.
  - Highways issues continue to be important. There have been many occasions when Highways have responded and produced welcome improvements. Fix My Street has helped bring issues to their attention, although the response has been a bit patchy. We are still faced with areas of poor maintenance which we need to focus attention on. Road closures for more efficient road maintenance needs to be used sensitively as we have seen major disruption in our Parishes where closure have resulted in very lengthy diversion.  
Thanks to Garth for his continued support and expertise which makes our job as councillors possible!
4. **Council Membership**. Congratulations were extended to all Councillors for their election and especially Richard, our new Councillor for Brinkburn.
5. **Election of Officers**
  - a) **Election of Chairperson**. DO indicated that he was both willing to stand or stand down as Chairperson for a further year. There were no further nominations. MF nominated DO and SB seconded. All in favour.
  - b) **Election of Vice Chairperson**. LH agreed to stand as Vice-Chairperson. DO nominated LH and JS seconded. All in favour.
  - c) **Agree new Bank Signatories and complete forms**. DO, LH and the Clerk to remain as bank signatories for the forthcoming year. t
  - d) **Councillor responsibilities for the coming year were agreed:**
    - Chairperson DO
    - Vice Chair LH
    - Climate Change & Biodiversity Committee JW/JS/MF/RE
    - Cluster Meetings: JS
    - Highways and Footpaths JS

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# Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

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- Rothbury Joint Burial Committee JW
- Longframlington Cemetery MF
- Millennium Field JW
- National Park DO
- Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund Committee SB
- Parish Noticeboard SB
- Defibrillator SB
- Longframlington Emergency Planning Group DO
- Communication & Media DO
- Rothbury Emergency Planning JW
- Emergency Flood Plan MF

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.53 p.m.*

**Garth Rhodes**

**Clerk**

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