

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting on: 8th July 2025
Meeting at: Longframlington Memorial Hall
Meeting Time: 7.30 p.m.
Present: Cllrs: Steven Bray (SB), Richard Elphick (RE), Mark Fenwick (MF), David Owen - Chair (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS), Jamie Whicker (JW)
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

- 1) **Apologies for Absence.** Lesley Hall (LH)
- 2) **Table Urgent Business to be discussed in 19 below.**
 - a) Cllr Glen Sanderson: Looking forward to working together
 - b) Corporate Performance Report
 - c) £10bn Blackstone QTS Data Centre investment in Cambois
- 3) **Declaration of Interests.** None.
- 4) **Gifts and Hospitality.** None.
- 5) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13th May 2025 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such (proposed: JS, Seconded: MF, All in Favour).
- 6) **Matters arising out of Minutes.**
 - a) David Smith (DS) MP & Letters to Boundaries Commissions. Clerk had asked DS's PA if the letters had been sent out but had received no reply. A further request to be made. **Action: Clerk**
 - b) Freedom of the Parish. The event had been a great success and enjoyed by all. The food and venue(Wingates Institute) had been excellent. DO speech had been well received.
- 7) **Police Update.** No report received. Clerk to write to Community Police to say PC looks forward to receiving their reports or attendance in the future. **Action: Clerk**
- 8) **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.

20/05/2025	Garth Rhodes reimbursement	Skelf Frames x2 frames for freedom scroll	76.00
20/05/2025	Rothbury Parish Council	RJBC First half	231.00
09/06/2025	Ryehill Community Ventures	x 60 bird boxes	750.00
12/06/2025	NCC 018647306294	PC Insurance 2025-26	279.42
16/06/2025	Longframlington Memorial Hall-2025-545	Room rental CC& B 2025-26	126.00
16/06/2025	Longframlington Memorial Hall-2025-544	Room rental Parish Council 2025-26	126.00
16/06/2025	Wingates Village Institute	Afternoon Tea for Freedom Event	250.00
29/06 2025	HMRC	PAYE	459.60
29/06/2025	Garth Rhodes	Salary & Expenses	705.15
		Total	3003.17

- c) Requests for donations. Citizens Advice Northumberland. Decision deferred until March 2026 meeting.

- d) Bank Reconciliation to 7th July 2025. Approved.

	£
Balance per e- bank statements	2725.92
Less unrepresented payments	0.00
Uncredited Deposits -	0.00

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Balance	2725.92
Balance per cash book	2725.92

- 9) **Parish Council Yearly Action Plan.** The annual Action Plan was agreed. The actions for the forthcoming two months will be tabled on the agenda at each meeting. **Action: Clerk**

- 10) **Planning.:** To note and discuss any planning issues since previous meeting including

a) Current Planning applications

Reference	Address	Status	Parish Council Comments
24/03361/FUL	Land To South West Of Wardhill Farm House	Permitted	Objection because there is no justification for the installation of a deer grid.
25/00677/FUL	4 Embleton Tce: Install air source heat pump	Permitted	No objection
25/01102/VARYCO	Cockshot Farmhouse	Registered	No objection
25/01096/VARYCO	Cockshot Farmhouse	Registered	No objection

- b) Wards Hill Woodland Creation Clerk had twice written to Planning to ask for an update/explanation on what was happening with the woodland creation at Ward's Hill. Rob Murfin, Head of Planning, responded saying they would provide an update. Glen Sanderson had asked that Planning send him a copy of their response. On Saturday at our biodiversity event, the Clerk had spoken with Mark Shipperlee (MS), Operations Director of Living Woods (who are responsible for the woodland creation at Tod's Place, Brinkburn), about our concerns at Ward's Hill. MS was involved/had connections at a national level for approving government funding for woodland development. He asked Clerk to write to him, (which he had done), to ask MS to follow up on the Ward's Hill application. He was of the opinion that if this was a habitat for curlew and skylarks then the woodland would not receive any funding. On 8th July, Viv Cartmell (VC), Planning Area Manager (North) had written to say that we were probably already aware that the applicant had withdrawn the application 25/01241/ROAD for the infrastructural roads within the woodland. It was not clear from this response whether or not the whole woodland creation development had been withdrawn. Clerk to write to VC for clarification. **Action: Clerk**

11) Highways

a) Highways and Footpaths Report

- i) JS had reported to Fix MY Street that Weldon Bridge had a significant amount of vegetation and saplings growing from its structure. Clerk to send in a further report. **Action: Clerk**
- b) Report on any issues raised/ to raise with Highways Department.
- i) JW to ask Carl Eungblut, Highways Inspector for an update on repairs to the road between Pauperhaugh Bridge and Gleadheugh Wood /Forestburn. **Action: JW**
- ii) Request repairs to road at Maglin Burn **Action: DO/Clerk**
- iii) Request to NCC to ascertain ownership of footpath along the Forestburn from Gleadheugh Wood towards the Lee Plantation and to report need for clearing of the path. **Action: JS**

12) Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund

- a) Report. The following grants were awarded at the last meeting:
- i) Longhorsley Village Fayre Mobile Climbing Wall: £1000.
- ii) Longhorsley Community Hall Matting: £2025.
- iii) Longhorsley Fencing behind Play Area: £6706.
- iv) Cambo Community Hall: £900.
- v) Living Woods Tree Nursery to be used as matched funding: £4825
- Nadara had awarded WFCF £40,000 for the current year.
- b) Notice boards at Todsteads & Weldon Bridge application. Awaiting quotes. **Action: JW/LH**

13) Climate Change & Biodiversity Committee. To receive a report from the Committee including:

- a) Sale of the Rothbury Estate. Briefing Paper Based on a talk in Jubilee Hall Rothbury 24.4.25 by Mike Pratt CEO and Duncan Hutt Director of Conservation of Northumberland Wildlife Trust (WLT) produced by Jeff Reynolds for the Coquetdale Cluster was received.
- b) Report on the Biodiversity Event, Playing Field, 5th July. The event had been a huge success. The venue had to move at the last minute from the Playground to Wingates Institute (WI) due to the high winds. Members of the Wingates community had been extremely helpful in making the hall available and helping to move and set up the event. The food provided by the WI was excellent. There was an a very good turn-out. It was unfortunate that more Cllrs had not attended. It was a real community event with a good sharing of ideas and information. Lots of

exciting things were hoped to come from the event. Julia Plinston from WWCF had attended and was very pleased. Also, Duncan Hutt, Director of Conservation of Northumberland Wildlife Trust had attended. He had indicated that he was keen to get involved further in discussion with BHPC given that so much of the Rothbury Estate sat within our parish, and he was aware of our biodiversity work. The Chair thanked JS and JW for all the hard work they had put in to make the event such a success. He said it had really made a very positive impact and established a good reputation for the Parish concerning its biodiversity activity. It was agreed that the WI was a good venue for future biodiversity events. Clerk to write to Julie Famelton to thank her and the WI for all their efforts. JS to purchase flowers for the ladies who made the food, paid out of BHPC. The collection boxes For HospiceCare had raised some money and they were to be taken to them for counting. **Action: Clerk**

- c) Project Reports. JW reported that there were a further 120 bird boxes to go up and that there would continue to be litter picking and scything of wild flower areas over the summer. Hedgelaying would probably continue in the autumn and there were several contenders for hedges to be laid. MF had recently attended the CRAG annual meeting. Water testing set to continue from source to the mouth of the Coquet. E.coli testing had recently started. The test taken in June had shown very low results for Brinkburn but higher near Rothbury and Felton and below. CRAG were leading on getting water bathing status for the Little Shore at Amble. If this was achieved, then the Environment Agency would have a responsibility to maintain this status. The next focus would be the removal of invasive species along the river and its tributaries and invertebrate kick testing. Before they could be tackled, both of these had certain complexities which had to be addressed.

14) Emergency Planning:

- a) Community Flood Plan & Flood Warning Signage Flood warning signs had now been installed at the haugh at Pauperhaugh and at Maglin Burn. A site visit to agree the positioning of a sign on B3644 between Pauperhaugh and the Blackburn layby yet to be arranged. Once this was resolved the Flood Plan would be amended and submitted to Colin Hall, Environment Agency for approval. **Action: MF/Clerk**
- b) Two-way Radios Had been tested today. They would be tested regularly throughout the year.

15) Coquetdale Cluster Meeting

- a) Items to discuss from the latest Cluster Meeting No recent meetings. The next meeting was to take place in August when it was expected the Wildlife Trust would attend and provide an update on the Rothbury Estate.
- b) Items for next Cluster Meeting Agenda
- (1) Neighbourhood Plan. A request had been received from the Rothbury PC Clerk, asking if Hesleyhurst still wanted to be part of a Neighbourhood Plan with Rothbury and Hepple given that funding for developing plans was to be reduced. Clerk had responded that although BHPC were involved in the early stages of discussion about this, it had never formally agreed to engage in developing a plan and that if the PC were going to do this it would be for both Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst. With the move of Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst into the Longhorsley Division, it was hard now to see how it could be part of a Coquetdale plan. The PC would like to be kept updated on developments of NPs in the area. It would be helpful for a briefing update on NPs to be included in the next Cluster meeting. Agreed to discuss potential for a BHCP NP at the next meeting. **Action: JS/Clerk**
 - (2) Continuation of BHPC in the Cluster. Now that BHPC had moved into the Longhorsley Division it would be helpful to gain formal approval from the Cluster that it continues to be a member. **Action: JS**

16) Cemetery & Joint Burial Committee Reports

- a) Longframlington Cemetery No issues to report.
- b) Rothbury JBC Clerk informed the meeting that due to the emptying of the pond at the Ram's Wood development, the stream at the cemetery had dried up. There was much concern about this development which still had to have final Planning approval. The development was already under investigation by Planning Enforcement because of the excavation of the pond.

17) Public Rights of Way: Definitive Map Modifications.

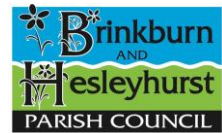
The following orders had been confirmed and reported by NCC as unopposed on 6th June 2025. They had now become part of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of way:

- a) DMMO 12 (2024) FP 12 & BOAT No 27 (Todstead/Brinkheugh)
- b) DMMO 13 (2024) BR 1 FP 2 FP 3 BR 4 BOAT 31 (Hope Farm via Throat Wood – New Houses Road)
- c) DMMO 16 (2024) BOAT 28 (Brinkburn High House to River Coquet)

18) Update on new website platform.

Northumberland NALC had formally agreed to move their website and for it now to be hosted by HugoFox (HF). NALC had asked whether BHPC wished to move its webpage to HugoFox or to its own website provider. It was agreed on both economic and operational grounds to move the webpage to HF. HF were also offering a .gov email address package but NALC were looking at other possibilities and advised the PC to hold off on this aspect at present. **Action: Clerk**

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19) Any Urgent Business

- a) Cllr Glen Sanderson (GS): Looking forward to working together. A very positive email from GS, (our new County Councillor following the move into the Longhorsley Division), had been received where he indicated he would like, whenever possible, to attend BHPC meetings. If not available, he would send a written report in advance. Clerk had written to thank him and provide him with the remaining 2025/26 dates of meetings. It was hoped he would attend the next BHPC meeting in September. Clerk to send him a formal invite in advance. Members were asked to consider issues they would like to discuss with GS, and to forward these to the Clerk in advance, so that he could pass these on to GS. **Action: All/Clerk**
- b) NCC Corporate Performance Report. The report which sets out the County Council's priorities for the next four years was received. Members were asked to read the report and use this information when thinking about questions to GS for the next meeting. **Action: All**
- c) £10bn Blackstone QTS Data Centre investment in Cambois. An invitation for up to two members had been received for a briefing on the development of the Data Centre on 30th July 2025. Members interested to inform the clerk who would make the bookings on a first come first served basis. **Action: All/Clerk**

20) Items for Next Meeting

- a) County Councillor's Report
- b) Action Plan for September/October
- c) Neighbourhood Plan for BHCP

21) Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 7.30 p.m. In the Memorial Hall, Rothbury Road, Longframlington

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

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