

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at The Nursery, Old URC Hall on Thursday 24 January 2019.

**Present:** Cllrs E Davidson, D Green, H Lindley and J Marshall.  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

**96 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Cllr Davison proposed Cllr Lindley as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Marshall and agreed unanimously.  
Cllr Lindley proposed Cllr Marshall as Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Davison and agreed unanimously.  
The declaration of acceptable of office forms were duly completed.

**97 Apologies for absence – Cllr Allan**

**98 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – Cllr Green – Matters Arising – Light in Eshott Village.**

**99 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) –**

A member of the public raised concerns about the airfield and how the operators are not taking responsibility for activities taking place here and residents on the ground are concerned re safety. It was asked of CC Sanderson who concerns should be raised with as CAA only control the training element. If there is concern about a safety issue then Public Protection should be informed.

The resident requested that NCC ensure that the operators inform pilots of any changes in the use of runways should fencing be installed at the end of a runway and suggested NCC be present when any fencing is installed however the resident was informed that this was not an NCC specific issue. The police have recently spoken to NCC about the airfield.

The resident also informed the Councillors that the CAA does not have any height data for the current pilots using the airfield however this can be sourced from Newcastle Airport as they do hold data on flightpaths coming into Eshott Airfield.

**100 The minutes of the meeting 13 December 2018 were signed as a true record.**

**101 Matters Arising therefrom:**

- a) Notice Board – NCC stated they would be reducing the height of the noticeboard w/c 14 January – to date this has not been completed. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- b) Felton Bridge Meeting – parking issues – following the Felton Bridge meeting held with NCC this has been put on hold (see 103 – Reports back from meetings).
- c) Street furniture complaint update – The grit bin has been changed from yellow to green by NCC and Cllr Marshall moved the bin slightly down the pathway out of residents view.
- d) Speed strip request for West Thirston – The Clerk has contacted NCC to see when these are being installed and NCC are chasing with the contractor. Clerk
- e) Bus stop sign replacement of – the bus stop sign was actually not on the lamppost that was renewed. It was on the telegraph pole beside so NCC said it was not their responsibility to replace. The Clerk contacted Arriva for a replacement along with a timetable replacement and Arriva stated it was NCC's responsibility. NCC has now accepted this and is sourcing both sign and timetable. Clerk to follow up if not in situ in the next few weeks. Clerk
- f) Auditor situation for 2019/20 – Clerk still to arrange to meet with previous auditor with gift and confirmation that he is not continuing. A replacement has been arranged. Clerk
- g) Street light in Eshott Village – NCC reported that the consultation has resulted in the light remaining on. 32 properties were consulted, 15 responded, 7 for removal and 8 for light to remain. Cllr Green continues to get complaints from those affected by the lamp. The owls have gone and there is concern that the bats will be affected when they come out of hibernation as it is in their normal flight path. Can residents at least have the old soft yellow sodium light back, or have this lamp switched off after 10pm or reduce the height of the pole to the original height. Clerk
- h) Street lights around the rockery – No further response from NCC. A complaint has been received from one resident re the 2 new lights at the top of the Peth, one replacement

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and one new one installed beside each other – the new one shines into the bedroom of one property so this needs to be adjusted, changed or turned off. Clerk to contact NCC on this issue.

Clerk

## 102 Report by County Councillor

CC Sanderson reported the following:

Bridge parapet and railing repairs to take place this year with an anticipated start date of March 2019. Concerns have been raised about the nursery children crossing the road as currently they don't need to. Clerk to contact the nursery owner to inform her to contact CC Sanderson should she feel there is an issue and then a meeting can be set up with NCC to address any concerns. Thanks were given to CC Sanderson by the Councillors for ensuring this project actually takes place.

The issue with the Canine Centre planning issue is with NCC who will respond to the PC in due course.

Airfield – Cllr Sanderson is arranging a follow up meeting between NCC and the PC for March.

LTP – this will be launched next week and a recording amount to be spent on roads. Broken cattle grids will be replaced and industrial estates will receive proper servicing. Safety scheme budget is increased to £330k this year so more funding for Neil Snowdon to work with at NCC. £150k has been allocated to faded white lines.

The anti-littering campaign of last year is to be increased going forward. It cost £2.6m/year to tidy up litter in the County. NCC are looking to fit highway vehicles with dash cams to help with the prevention/prosecution of offenders.

The introduction of and increase in parking charges in the County has had a mixed response however £9m is required to build new car parking so these charges as being used to offset some of this cost.

The Local Plan has gone through to the next stage County Hall refurbishment is progressing. Advance Northumberland is now in charge of Arch and the direction of this organisation is changing.

Cllr Marshall asked what the situation was with regard to the bus timetables and signage which requires updating. CC Sanderson stated to contact Neil Easton. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that the replacement signage for beside the Northumberland Arms is in hand.

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

Cllrs Lindley and Green and the Clerk attended a meeting at NCC for an update on the situation regarding the repairs of the bridge parapets. The procurement process is taking place and it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded for work to start end of March 2019. Initially only one small part of the parapet will be removed to test the process and this will be on the Thirston corner by the black and white chevrons. When full work commences there will be a requirement for a single lane system over the bridge and residents and business will be given notice of this. Also test will be undertaken on the bridge structure to see if strengthening works are required in the future.

## 104 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – outstanding issues raised with NCC re bridge concerns on FP4. Cllr Marshall reported a new bridge has been built on the pathway at the back of Browns' land on the way to Wintrick. Clerk to check that NCC has not done this thinking it is FP4 bridge. Cllr Marshall reported that it was in a bad state of repair so needed replacing.
- b) Landscaping – Nothing to report.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – A consultant has now been appointed. The Clerk has drafted the application for funding up to the end of March 2019, the deadline date for this claim being 31 January 2019, and requested Cllr Lindley look at the application before submission, this was agreed. No Clerks fees can be claimed for work undertaken – any

Clerk

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costs would have to be paid for by the Parish Council. This was agreed and the Clerk would email the Councillors with the time undertaken to date.

Clerk

## 105 Planning:

### a. To report on any planning decisions:

18/02877/FELTPO - The Limes, Eshott Village - 4 x trees for removal, 3 x trees for pruning and dead wooding and remaining for thinning out – PERMITTED – Update on NCC re concerns over exceeded works.

18/03411/FUL - The Croft, East Thirston - Erect Falcon chambers and aviaries - REFUSED

18/02154/FUL - Land West of Eshott Heugh Farm - steel framed building - PERMITTED

18/03834/FUL – Land NW of Eshott Heugh Farm – Buildings for animal displays and classroom - PERMITTED

18/04053/ADE – Felmoor Holiday Park – advertising Consent - PERMITTED

### b. Planning applications pending:

17/02923/VARYCO - Burgham Park Golf Club - Vary Cond 13 - remove holiday restriction – objections submitted – a new Snr Planning Officer has taken this on and has requested the applicants agent sets out their intentions and will inform the PC of the outcome of this request.

18/03534/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - retro - retention of ground butt

18/03562/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - Form mound, widen paths, erect 16 shelters

18/04386/LBC - Kirkhill, West Thirston - Replace sash windows

18/04172/TREECA - 5 Bridgend, West Thirston - Tree pruning, tidying up, no felling – not consulted

19/00131/FELTPO – Angus Lodge, Stable Drive, Eshott – thinning and 3m crown reduction to two Lime trees

### c. Planning Issues

- Canine Centre acoustic barrier update - 12/03484/FUL and 17/02672/VARYCO. A complaint reference: 101005733421 has been allocated and a full response should be received by 11 February 2019.
- Update on trees behind Northumberland Arms – NCC has spoken to the owner and they need to submit a discharge of condition application before they can do the works on the trees. Once this has been submitted and approved they can then to the works regarding the trees. Concern was raised that this would be the same issue as with the Canine Centre – the work should be undertaken before a discharge application is submitted. Clerk to clarify with NCC planning.
- New Beer Garden – Northumberland Arms – NCC has informed the owner he is required to put in retrospective planning application for these works. To date nothing has been received.
- 18/02877/FELTPO – complaints that the tree works approved under the above Planning Application have been grossly exceeded over what was agreed. A site visit has been undertaken and it was not found that any mature trees (which form part of the TPO) have been removed contrary to the permission given, this was cross referenced with the photos taken at the time of the site visit for the application for the tree work. Also replacement planting has already taken place.
- Eshott Airfield Issues –emails, letter and phone calls raising issues
  - Cllr Secker requested the Clerk inform the airfield that drones are operating at Eshott Hall. The airfield responded, copying in the Interim Director of Planning stating that the drones are in the control of professional commercial operators, the licenses of which have been checked. There is no risk to the public. The Clerk responded stating the PC just wished to inform the airfield incase they were unaware of the drones.
  - A resident responded to the email that the PC did not believe a working group of residents could or should be under the umbrella of the PC. The resident was disappointed at this and stated working groups are not open to the public, no minutes need to be taken, they look at/advise on specific matters and report back to the PC.
  - The Clerk contacted Public Protection in relation to concerns over the activity centre

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at the Airfield – to date no response has been received from NCC.

- The Clerk contacted Public Protection in relation to feedback from Public Protection to the resident following a visit in December – they have now responded to state a letter will be in the post to the resident within the week giving details of their findings following the site visit.
- Response received from CAA following Cllr Seckers letter re responsibilities. The responder has forwarded the letter to a colleague as it is not his area. No further response to date.
- Copy received of residents letter of complaint to NCC and CAA re noise disturbance and increase in flying hours without property consultation. The CAA state they have no authority over the airfield and NCC refer to the resident to the CAA.
- Notification of a Category A near mid-air collection on 17 June 2018 were two aircraft flew within 10 feet of each other oblivious to the other aircrafts position near Wintrick.

Cllr Lindley raised the issue that she generally gets planning applications first and then is unaware of what the other Councillors comments are. It was agreed that where possible the Clerk would send an email link of planning applications – this will probably only be viable for smaller applications for ease of viewing – everyone would then send their comments to all Councillors and Clerk. The Clerk would respond to applications on behalf of the PC and also send her response to the Councillors in email format.

Clerk/ALL

### 106 Services

- Cutting back of hedge around 30mph sign on entrance to village – this has been undertaken by a resident and Clerk to send letter of thanks. Clerk
- Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – still outstanding, Clerk to pursue with NCC. Clerk
- Pot Holes – Road through West Thirston – 1 pothole reported on the bend opposite the Old School House, Glenshotton – main repairs undertaken but a pot hole appearing further up the road, A1 to Eshott – pot hole to be reported about 1/3 of the way up the road out of Eshott to The Helm by the gate. Clerk  
Clerk
- Water from Wall at The Peth – no leakage for some time, monitor situation and remove this item from the agenda. Clerk
- Clearing of steps at The Peth – steps have been cleared.

### 107 Requested Agenda Items:

- Litter Pick for 2019 – it was agreed to undertake the litter pick 6 and 7 April. Clerk to make arrangements for equipment from NCC. Clerk
- Green bins at bottle bank and use of bottle bank by businesses. One resident received abuse when informing a business owner not to leave his business waste here. The Clerk confirmed she had checked with NCC and the bottle bank is for residents only. Clerk to speak to NCC to see if the “No Fly Tipping” sign can be moved closer to the bins and whether any screening from A1 can take place. Clerk to put signs on the green waste bins again informing that this is not for household rubbish. It was agreed this was always a problem just after Christmas. Clerk
- Wintrick road sign replacement request – the Clerk has requested that this is reinstated/replaced. The old sign is lying at the base of the signpost.

### 108 Correspondence:

- The Planning Inspectorate – consultation document A1 Alnwick to Ellingham Improvement – already circulated
- NCC – Notification of Publication Draft Local Plan consultation with drop in dates – already circulated
- NCC \_ Final Council Tax Base Payment
- NCC – Parish Cemetery Double Charge – confirmation of payment to be received this year
- The Pension Regulator – confirmation that Thirston PC as re-declared compliance
- ICO – notification of increase in registration fee from £35 to £40 – new direct debit form requires completion and signatures.

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- One response to help save our footpaths
- Email re “is grouse shooting driving away jobs as well as wildlife” informing the PC of a petition link. It was agreed this was not relevant to Thirston Parish so no response to be given.

**Emails Forwarded:** NALC Newsletters – Vulnerable Adults and Scams notification requires a response – it was agreed that there is not an issue in the parish with door to door scam sales people etc. Clerk to relay this to NALC.

Clerk

**To Circulate:** Clerks and Councils Direct, CPRE Winter Newsletter

## 109 Finance

- (a) Financial Summary was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £12,131.94.
- (b) Payments - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB53	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses	£318.65

- (c) Receipts – None
- (d) Issues with Lloyds Banking – Councillors and Clerk have received the card reader and information to enable internet banking to take place now.

## 110 Urgent Items: None

## 111 Items for next agenda: None

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm  
Date of Next meeting: Thursday 7 March 2019