

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 11 June 2020.

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

124 Apologies for absence – County Councillor G Sanderson

125 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – Cllr Green – Street Light in Eshott

126 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) – None

127 The minutes of the meeting 30 April 2020 were agreed as a true record and were signed at a later date due to Covid-19.

128 Matters Arising therefrom:

- a) Street light in Eshott Village – Cllr Green reported that the light glare is now reduced however the light is still not going off at 11pm. Clerk to request this be rectified. Clerk
- b) Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint – outstanding – Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- c) Steep Bank – slippery surface – The Councillors state this needs resurfacing not cleaning, as per the original request, as the surface is not suitable and results in it being a hazard for residents as has already been the case. Clerk to request resurfacing. Clerk
- d) Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – outstanding - Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- e) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked – outstanding – Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- f) Letter to NCC re Airfield – letter sent 13 May, this has not been acknowledged or responded to by NCC. The Clerk asked NCC if they are planning to respond and they stated “All the correspondence received on the airfield is being looked into by a variety of agencies - we will update in due course”.
- g) Meeting with NCC re Airfield – A virtual meeting has been arranged. Clerk to circulate notes from previous meeting. Clerk
- h) Litter Picker request to NCC – this request has been submitted but no response received to date. People in Eshott and West Thirston are picking up litter on their walks but equipment would be helpful. Clerk to request again. Cllr Green reported three dumped bin bags on the road towards the A1 which need removing – Clerk to report to NCC. Clerk
- i) Street lights outside Pumpkin Pie Nursery – work had been partly completed but due to Covid19 the limited staff available are working only emergencies only. Hopefully work will be finished soon now staff are returning to work.
- j) PROW access – Landowners are aware that more people are using the PROW's however with the result of the Covid-19 virus farmers also have to protect themselves and some PROW go across areas that farmers regularly use. With this in mind regulations have been relaxed to allow diversions of PROW to protect both the farmers and public. You will now find that alternative permitted routes have been set out with waymarkers to provide the correct route to follow. This information has been reported back to the resident who raised the issue.
As an aside, the gates that are locked and barricaded by farmers all around the parish are to try to prevent poachers accessing land as they do considerable damage to crops and land. It is an unfortunate situation to be in but poaching and trespassing with vehicles for baiting are common place around this area.
- k) Flytipping reports – these were reported to NCC and the two areas of flytipping were cleared up within a few days.
- l) Druridge Bay closure of carparks – CC Sanderson responded to state that NCC were following government guidelines and Thirston PC were not the only ones to raise this issue. The majority of car parks are now open for visitors following lifting of some restrictions.

129 Report by County Councillor Sanderson

I'm pleased that the bridge work is almost complete and I'm hoping we will be able to get the Thirston traffic calming scheme back on track again although there will be some delay in this.

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Our Housing Waste Recycling Centre's were amongst the first in England to get up and running in May and things have gone well - we have just extended the range of materials that can be brought.

Almost all our visitor and seaside car parks are back open again and we have made a start in opening our public toilets. We have had to be very careful in our risk assessments to ensure that users and cleaners will be safe - in most cases this will mean a significant increase in cleaning costs.

Most of our other front line services are back up and running whilst the essential services were kept going throughout - this is a testament to commitment of our key staff to whom I am very grateful.

Clerk

Written thanks to go to CC Sanderson for all his hard work and perseverance on the bridge repairs.

Clerk

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to paint the bollards on the old bridge the same green as the bridge railings. CC Sanderson is aware of this, the Clerk to ask what is the best way of going about getting the paint done.

130 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Felton Cemetery Joint Committee – the year end accounts were approved.

131 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Northumberland Anglers have once again cut back the hedging and sprayed the weeds along the riverside footpath and Cllr Davidson to put a note of thanks in The Bridge Newsletter once it is up and running again.

Cllr
Davidson

b) Landscaping – Weeding has been undertaken on the rockery and a good job has been made of cutting the verge to the bus stop.

c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – the neighbourhood plan has been updated with the comments received following the consultation that had to halted due to Covid19 in preparation for re-consultation. NCC has undertaken and completed the SEA Scoping report and the Environmental report due in the next few weeks.

132 Planning:

To report on any planning decisions:

19/05017/OUT – Land East of Greycroft – proposed 9 residential dwellings – REFUSED

20/00954/FUL - 8 Burgham Park, Burgham - Single storey extension to increase size of kitchen, works to re-site oil storage tank and wheelie bin enclosure and works to garages to provide games room, gym and garden store – GRANTED

APP/01348/VARYCO – The Old Farm Byre, East Thirston – removal of conditions 10 (Highways), 11 (Permitted Development), 15 (Permitted Development), 16 (Permitted Development) pursuant to permission 13/01837/FUL – APPLICATION WON ON APPEAL.

Planning applications pending:

18/03736/FUL - Felmoor Park, East of A1 - 24 lodges, 10 caravans, miniature golf – Site visit undertaken – no objections

19/00300/PREAPP – Burgham Park Golf Cub – Erection of 56 dwellings and improvements to course and club house – objections submitted and request for inclusion in pre-app discussions.

19/03659/VARYCO – Eshott Airfield – make temporary hours of 7am to 11pm permanent – objections submitted.

19/00669/PREAPP – Plot 4, Eshottheugh – Holiday leisure park comprising 24 single story chalets and 19 two story chalets – objections submitted

20/00764/FUL - Pethfoot House, West Thirston - Repairs, maintenance, refurbishment, alteration and minor extension works – no objections

20/00933/LBC - The Granary 2 East Thirston Farm Steading – ground floor extension to rear of property. Proposed internal door to be removed and blocked up – No objections

20/00742/FUL – Oakdale 4 Burgham Park – installation of wind turbine - No Objections

20/01323/FELTPO - Beech Cottage, Eshott - Crown lift T1 Beech to 7m; Crown reduce T2 conifer to 4m; Remove T3 conifer at side of property; Pull back T4 Birch to allow 2m clearance from property; pull back T5 Cotoneaster to allow 2m clearance from garage roof; Re-pollard centre T6 Cotoneaster – No Objections

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20/01373/LBC - The Old Manse, West Thirston - Listed Building Consent to replace lean-to with single storey extension, plywood door and window with french doors and north elevation windows with like style wood framed double glazed 12 pain sash windows – No Objections
20/01327/FUL – Building NW of Blackbrook Farm - Conversion of redundant agricultural building to provide a single dwelling unit – No objections

Planning Issues:

- A request for approval by the PC for a flag pole to be installed in West Thirston was received by the Clerk – the Clerk informed the resident that planning permission may be required for this due to the height and that they need to seek clarification from NCC.
- The Clerk received an email from a resident asking if the PC had been consulted about further changes to the Thirston Court site or a request for commercial garages to be built at this site. The Clerk reported that the PC have not been consulted on either proposal and there is nothing on the Planning Portal pertaining to these requests.

133 Requested Agenda Items:

- The Peth – blocked drains and gullies – Clerk to chase up as not been cleared as yet. Clerk
- Japanese Knotweed – Cllr Lindley has reported that this stating to grow on the land again. The issue is that the PC can keep killing it off but unless people further up the river do the same then it will continue to be washed down onto the riverside land. However the PC has a legal requirement to destroy the JKW. It was agreed to speak to the Northumberland Arms and see if a contractor can be appointed to do both areas so try to eradicate from this area Clerk
- Pot holes – by Birnie Farm and near to Thirston Mill – not been filled - Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- Speeding issues at East Thirston – an email has been received raising the issue of speeding again through East Thirston. This has been looked at a number of times with NCC and the last time to Clerk was advised to request a 40mph from East Thirston to West Thirston on the LTP. This was subsequently rejected by NCC. Clerk to contact NCC to see what can be done as this road is dangerous, there are now more residents in East Thirston and it is too dangerous to walk from East to West Thirston as there are no footpaths. A speed survey has been undertaken but analysis is still required and there is also a question raised as to how effective this has been as there were traffic lights in situ at the time. Clerk
- Cutting back of hedging between Old School house and top of Peth – a request has been put into NCC for this hedge to be cut back and NCC has confirmed they will undertake the works asap. Clerk to chase up if not undertaken in the next week. Clerk

134 Correspondence:

- NCC – Update on opening of carparks
- Donation request from Felton Village Hall – it was agreed to donate £100, no budget was allocated for this however as £100 was allocated to Felton Fair and this will not be taking place this year it was agreed the funds could be allocated to the Hall which is of community benefit.
- Letter of thanks re moving of seat by riverside
- Emails containing information submitted to various authorities re Eshott Airfield
- Emails of complaint re overflying by airfield
- NALC and CAN update emails
- Clerks and Councils Direct and CPRE Newsletter – it was agreed no to circulate these at present.

135 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £13,276.03
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB92	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses	£373.48

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	24 Hours for PC (£348.00) Zoom Conferencing (£14.39) Home Working Allowance (£11.09)	
IB93	Northumberland Estates Rental for Riverside	£5.00
IB94	Felton Village Hall Donation	£100.00

(c) **Receipts** – None

(d) **Audit** – the accounts had been approved and were with the internal auditor. However there is a conflicting opinion as to whether Felton Cemetery funds should be apportioned into TPC's accounts. This however causes issues as there are no actually "boxes" on the reporting documents to facilitate this. The Clerks of the 3 PCs have spoken to the internal auditor suggesting different ways of reporting these apportionments however none of the suggestions were deemed satisfactory. A requested for clear guidance as to how to account for this apportionment has been submitted to NALC as they are the body who state this apportionment must take place. It was agreed that if no response was forthcoming by the end of June then the accounts would go ahead as is and the Clerk to report to the internal auditor for assessment.

Clerk

136 Urgent Items

- Road onto A1 – there is a trough forming as drivers emerge onto the A1 where the road has worn away. This is an awkward spot for cars accelerating away from the junction
Clerk to report to Highways England for repairs to be undertaken.
- Email of complaint re formation overflying of West Thirston – two monoplanes have been reported for formation flying over properties and concerns were raised about the safety of this activity. Clerk to forward to CAA and NCC.

Clerk

Clerk

137 Items for next agenda

Review of Council Policies – Clerk to circulate before next meeting
Potential projects within the Parish

138 Resolution to exclude public and press

The Parish Council passed a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude public and press due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, which includes discussion of personal data.

The Clerk updated the Councillors with regard to the solicitors letter received for a claim of slander. A response was sent to the solicitors which had been run by Zurich Insurance for their approval outlining the PCs position. A response has been received back from the solicitors which has been passed onto the legal department within Zurich Insurance and the Clerk is waiting on their feedback.

Clerk

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm

Date of Next meeting: 23 July 2020