

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Felton Village Hall on Thursday 14 June 2018.

Present: Cllrs E Davidson, D Green, H Lindley J Marshall and J Secker. County Councillor Sanderson
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin
4 members of the public

19 Apologies for absence – None

20 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

21 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person)

Four residents from Wintrick attended the meeting to raise their concerns about the Eshott airfield application. They have major concerns about the following:

Proposed operating hours of 7am to 11pm – not acceptable, especially when the application to extend the hours for 4 aircraft to land after 7pm at night was refused by NCC and again at Planning Inspectorate appeal level in 2006 – why the change now by NCC?

The size of aircraft up to 5600kg, which are large aircraft and sometimes very noisy aircraft which was demonstrated at the Wings and Wheels event when a 300kg aircraft caused a lot of noise but this was accepted by residents as it was a one off event, not a daily one.

Increasing the capacity from 70 to 100 will require more storage space which is unsightly in a rural setting

Recording of movements – states airfield operators are not responsible but pilots are not using the correct routes so who is responsible for managing this? Flight routes are advertised on the website along with runway requirements but the Applicant states he has no control over what flight route pilots use, it has nothing to do with him. Previous operator (who is still the owner) managed this well why can the new operators not follow suit?

One resident stated he used to run a business at the other end of the airfield which was not a noisy enterprise however his planning conditions stated opening times of 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and had to be shut Sundays and Bank Holidays and this business had less impact on residents.

The residents do not accept that the hours have to be increased for aircraft requiring to make diversions, microlights can land anywhere and there are already contingencies for this in the emergency landing conditions.

There are a number of businesses registered to the Applicant at the Airfield which is in breach of planning conditions.

Concerns over safety or refueling of aircraft, especially military ones who keep their rotors running when fueling taking place. This refueling takes place directly beside residential properties.

The laws have not changed in relation to the airfield however responsible operators have rules and controls at other airfields, and the previous owner enforced the rules, this is not happening with the new operators.

County Councillor Sanderson stated he is a member of the Planning Committee however he has put an objection in to the extended flying hours as he does not see any reason for the changes in timings. He has put a request in that this application be considered by Committee as opposed to delegated powers and this has been agreed. This means that the Parish Council and members of the public are allowed to speak at Committee and it is important that they put across viable arguments against the plans.

Cllr Marshall stated the Parish Council feel it is important to not just highlight how the application impacts personally. It is unusual to get an application to committee so this is going in the right direction, make use of the time to get points across and he thanked CC Sanderson for getting this application to Committee. It appears that other airfields work with the community and discuss proposals with residents before applying for permissions. It is

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really disappointing that the new operators have not communicated with the community and this is destroying any good will that previously existed.

22 The minutes of the meeting 10 May 2018 were signed as a true record.

23 Matters Arising therefrom:

- a) Notice Board – NCC has now installed the notice board – the Clerk has two sets of keys. It was agreed Cllr Lindley would also have a set. Cllr Lindley stated that the top lock on the public section was not working. Also need to look at whether it is possible to lower the height. Clerk to investigate. Clerk
- b) Bin request for Wintrick Road – Cllr Lindley and the Clerk looked at alternative locations, the other side of the road on the grass verge was suggested but the landowner felt this was not the right place. The Clerk to contact another resident who may own a patch of land in the same area. If this is not the case and the bin cannot be relocated it will be removed.
- c) Data Protection (GDPR) – The Clerk circulated two data protection policies – one for public and one for staff – as per the NALC recommended proforma. It was felt that a lot of the content did not relate to Thirston Parish Council so this is to be reviewed by all Councillors in time for discussion at the August meeting. Also the Clerk forwarded the Audit Questionnaire which was undertaken to identify any areas that need to be addressed by the Council. The Clerk has identified some areas for review and this should be looked at by all Councillors in time for the August meeting. All/Clerk
- d) Felton Bridge Meeting – parking issues – Clerk is waiting for a response from Felton PC on the proposed meeting dates put forward. Clerk
- e) Evolis Radar Speed Sign – quotes for. MAINS pack is priced at £1399 with the SOLAR pack is at £1799 (prices before VAT and carriage). The only other cost is that of packaging & transport at £90 (not inc VAT) per unit and this gives a total purchase price of £1889 for a SOLAR pack. The only other hardware costs would be a handful of hose clamps/jubilee clips as well as 2 padlocks. The PC would need to request NCC to install a pole unless there is an appropriate one at the entrance to the village that can be utilised. Clerk to, in the first instance, look at whether NCC would look to provide a sign now that there is a children's nursery on the route through West Thirston. Clerk

24 Report by County Councillor

NCC has part funded a statue of Emily Davison in Carlisle Park in Morpeth – this will be unveiled in the summer and also a children's community event will be held.

Road repairs following the snow are ongoing – NCC has applied for more funding from central government towards costs. New machinery is being purchased for pothole repairs and NCC is getting on top of the damaged roads. However some funding has been taken from 2 LTP schemes to help with road repairs, one scheme being the Felton Bridge works. The bridge works will go ahead but there will be slippage in timing. The bat inspection has taken place and there is no evidence of bats at the bridge, this means the planning process can get underway.

25 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Felton Village Hall – it was agreed by the Village Hall Committee that a Council representative can attend meetings in Cllr Lindley's place as long as Cllr Lindley remains the Trustee, which she agreed to. Minutes of meetings to be sent to the Clerk for circulation to Councillors so they are up to date with any business of the Village Hall in the event of needing to cover for Cllr Lindley.

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26 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – outstanding issues raised with NCC re bridge concerns on FP4 and footpath at bottom of Thirston House. NCC has confirmed the bridge is on their list for review and in relation to the water on the pathway at the rear of Thirston House NCC has confirmed they have temporarily diverted all the surface water into a pipe under the path, which has dried the path up. They have a plan to carry out some more robust drainage later in the summer.
- b) Landscaping – the tubs are looking good on the bridge and the contractor to undertake work on the rockery this month.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan – Public consultation events to take place at Burgham Golf Club on 3 July, Felton Village Hall on 4 July and then Gallery 45 for a week. Flyers to be sent to all residents and notification to go on the website and noticeboards. NCC has provided a list of Consultees to be informed of the Neighbourhood Plan and local groups in the neighbourhood area – the latter still to be identified. There is no legal requirement at this point to inform consultees but it is good practice. Clerk to action.

Clerk

27 Planning:

a. To report on any planning decisions:

18/00928/FUL - The Brambles - Kitchen Extension – GRANTED

b. Planning applications pending:

17/02923/VARYCO - Burgham Park Golf Club - Vary Cond 13 - remove holiday restriction – objections submitted – to be decided by the Local Area Council

17/04290/OUT - COU of land and construct 30 houses - Land East of Greystone – Objections submitted

17/04477/FELTPO - Studley Cottage - Fell 2 trees & crown reduce one – Objections submitted

18/01133/FUL – 1 West Moor Farm Cottages – dropped kerb & hard standing – No Objections

18/01376/VARYCO - Land West of West Moor House - vary cond 2 - change internal configurations – No Objections

18/01510/VARYCO - Felmoor Park, East of A1 - Vary 2 and 9 relocate pitches to avoid tree removal – No Objections

18/01707/VARYCO - Eshott Airfield - Vary 1-8 including operating times 7am to 11pm – on circulation and deadline has been extended so a more extensive consultation can take place.

c. Planning Issues

- Canine Centre acoustic barrier update – NCC has confirmed the application to discharge this condition has been received and is currently waiting validation by the Central Registry Team.
- Update on trees behind Northumberland Arms – the Clerk has requested an update from NCC to ascertain if the identified works have taken place. No response has been received to date.

28 Services

- Main pathway – hedges require cutting back – The Clerk has requested immediate action on this – to date no response has been received on timescales from NCC.
- Arriva timetable and update of bus numbers on shelters – it was noted in the NCC Town and Parish Liaison Working Group in May that NCC is working on this.
- Cutting back of hedge around 30mph sign on entrance to village – Clerk to ask J Hood if he can do this.
- Clearing of vegetation on path by Field of Hope – this has been sprayed back but no edging has taken place.
- Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – this has been reported to NCC again with photographs.
- Pot Holes – Road through West Thirston has been repaired. Glenshotton, Bockenfield, Eshottheugh, A1 to Eshott – holes have been identified with paint by NCC but no works taken place as yet.
- Water from Wall at The Peth – NCC has confirmed that they are looking into this but as yet

Clerk

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- cannot ascertain where the issue is coming from. It was agreed to ask for CC Sanderson's help on this. It was also agreed to see if NWL could undertake a sample review to see what the content of the discharge is as it has been smelly recently. Clerk
- Kerbstone outside Leaside – this has been reported to NCC but no action taken as yet. Clerk
- 29 Requested Agenda Items:**
- **Policy Review** – Risk Assessment; Complaint Procedure; Financial Regulations; Publication Scheme; Disposal Policy – minor amendments were made to the Risk Assessment to increase insurance cover; the Financial Regulations to take into account BACS payments; the Disposal Policy in relation to Planning Applications following NALC revised guidelines and to include Thirston in the titles. These were all reviewed by the Councillors and agreed. Clerk
 - **Review of Ring Fenced Money** - As raised at the last meeting the Council is in a position where they have spent more on landscaping and street furniture than anticipated last year. The landscaping being due to payment for Japanese Knotweed, street furniture due to bin and noticeboard purchase. It was agreed to move the ring fenced money of £500 for election costs to landscaping along with £250 from working balance. £250 also to be taken from working balance and put into street furniture. This was agreed unanimously. Clerk
- 30 Correspondence**
- NCC – Transport Plan Feedback** – the priorities submitted have been not included on the LTP. Clerk to check with NCC as to what can now be included in the LTP as it would appear the criteria has changed. Next month NCC are asking for priorities for 2019/20 so have advised to have a think about what the PC wish to have included. For 2018/19 requests the following response has been received. Clerk
- NCC state that the speeding through Eshott village will require a speed survey with results discussed with the PC (despite only asking to have some signs moved so they can be viewed and NCC stating this had to be included on the LTP).
 - Pavement resurfacing at West Thirston junction to the bus stop – this is a day to day matter which has been forwarded to Area Staff and this type of issue should be directed to the area office in future.
 - Reinstate 30mph markings at East end of West Thirston and flashing sign request – again this is a day to day matter which has been forwarded to the Area staff.
- NALC – Document Retention Guidance** – this has been slightly amended in relation to Planning Applications and the Council has taken on board this guidance and amended the Disposal Policy as per 11 above.
- Post Office Near Me** – request to be added to website – agreed to include on website. Clerk
- Emails re airfield application** – a number of emails have been received in relation to the recent airfield application.
- Emails Forwarded:**
- NALC Newsletters
- NCC - Northumberland Local Plan** - Forthcoming consultation, July to August 2018
- NCC - Council Committee Meeting** notification
- National NALC Consultation** – shaping our future – Deadline 23 June – no comments to be submitted.
- NALC** – Possible Revisions to the Constitutions May 2018 – in agreement with the revisions so no comments to be submitted.
- NALC** – Town and Parish Liaison Working Group – 3 May 2018 feedback
- NALC** - Death of a Senior National Figure / Operation London Bridge
- A1 in Northumberland** Consultation Questions
- Newcastle International Airport** - Masterplan 2035 Consultation – Deadline 13 September 2018 – it was agreed this does not affect Thirston PC so no response to be submitted.
- Letter from Lanehead resident**, Felton, in relation to the North entrance to Felton Village and how untidy this area is. Duly noted but no response as this is not in Thirston parish.

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31 Finance

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £11,919.04

(b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
000739	L Hamlin – salary and expenses	£267.39
000740	Northumberland Estates – land lease	£1.00
000741	Viking Direct – stationery	£92.35
000742	NALC Membership	£142.72
000742	NALC Website Fee	£75.00
000743	H Lindley – plants	£38.00

(c) **Receipts** – None

(d) **Issues with TSB Banking** due to ongoing issues with TSB and the fact the Clerk now cannot access the bank account it was agreed to change banks to Lloyds. Signatories to be Cllrs Green, Lindley, Marshall and Secker.

Clerk

32 Urgent Items

Clerk to contact NCC in relation to school signs and speeding control measures now that the nursery is in the village.

Clerk

33 Items for next agenda

Data Protection documentation review
Apologies from Cllr Lindley

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42pm

Date of Next meeting: Thursday 2 August 2018