

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Felton Village Hall on Thursday 13 December 2018.

**Present:** Cllrs S Allan, E Davidson, D Green, H Lindley, J Marshall and J Secker.  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin  
5 Members of the Public

**81 Apologies for absence –** County Councillor Sanderson

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

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

The residents requested feedback from the NCC meeting held with Planning and Public Protection recently. Cllr Secker reported that there were two issues raised. The first issue being enforcement problems where conditions attached to planning approvals were not being met and when NCC are contacted about these the NCC Legal Department are stating they cannot enforce them and nothing is being done about this. Secondly the airfield was discussed. It was initially about the installation of lights, the Director of Planning had inspected them and stated they are not lights but runway markers and are moveable so nothing can be done about them in planning terms. The PC then asked how to make representation to NCC in relation to complaints. NCC stated to use the planning portal however on investigation by Cllr Secker after this meeting, following a complaint from a resident from Old Swarland, he found that you can only report a Planning Condition being breached. The Planning Portal cannot be used to report a complaint about noise, low flying aircraft etc which are the main complaints being received at present. The CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) stated NCC is the Legal Authority in control of the airfield however NCC state they are only interested on what takes place on the ground and have no authority to impose flight routes despite the CAA Safe Operations of Unlicensed Airfield document stating otherwise. Cllr Secker has subsequently written to NCC asking who should be the contact for aircraft nuisance – no response has been received to date. He has also written to the CAA for clarification re authority over pilots as NCC claim they are not responsible – no response to date. Cllr Secker has asked CC Sanderson to chase a response from NCC and Cllr Secker will chase CAA and inform them of the meeting with our Local MP in January.

CC  
Sanderson  
Cllr Secker

It was also raised that there were a number of outstanding issues in relation to planning and public protection and one resident has not had a response from NCC in relation to the recent plane crash that resulted in contamination of their land. Public Protection agreed to follow this up and contact the resident concerned.

It is a very unsatisfactory situation when there is no clear route on who to complain to.

There is to be a follow up meeting in three months time.

The residents raised issue with the H&S rules and what the operators are obliged to do and can do, especially in relation to military operations at the airfield. They also raised the issue of the runway width not being the recommended width for safe operation for the size of plane now using the airfield. They raised the issue of ensuring all complaints are logged. Cllr Secker stated the Clerk is logging all complaints and it was agreed the Clerk ensure adjacent parishes inform their residents of how to log a complaint as any complaints being made direct to NCC should also come to Thirston PC so that there is an accurate log of all complaints being made.

Clerk

Since the meeting Public Protection have been out to see one of the landowners who raised concerns about a number of issues. Two officers spent over 1.5 hours with the resident and asked very pertinent questions along with raising concerns of their own that they identified when walking around the boundary of the airfield.

**84 The minutes of the meeting 1 November 2018** were signed as a true record.

**85 Matters Arising therefrom:**

a) Notice Board – update – NCC has still not undertaken the work to reduce the height. Clerk Clerk

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- to chase up
- b) Bin request for Wintrick Road – update – this has now been moved to the bridge between East and West Thirston. The Clerk has since received an email of complaint about the rubbish at Wintrick Road and the resident has asked if another bin will be installed. The Clerk has responded to state that at present there is no suitable location on the Wintrick Road due to land owners not being willing to have it on their land. The resident also raised the issue of dog fouling still being a problem and whether poo bag dispensers could be installed along this road. Cllr Marshall stated this was tried at Felton Recreation Field and it resulted in all the bags being taken from the dispensers in one go. Clerk to ask Dog Warden to up patrols in this area. Clerk
  - c) Felton Bridge Meeting – parking issues – Cllr Secker reported that Cllr Hood from Felton PC had said that there seemed little merit in a meeting as there was no obvious solution to the problem. Clerk to speak to Felton Clerk to see what the situation is. Clerk
  - d) Warning Signage for the nursery – no further action can be taken.
  - e) Parish Council meeting venue in 2019 – the Clerk wrote to the nursery with a list of dates and requested confirmation that this arrangement was still acceptable. To date no response has been received. Cllr Lindley to speak to nursery owner on Monday to ascertain if she had received the letter and is willing to host the meetings. If not it was agreed to continue to use Felton Village Hall but not at the reduced rate as this necessitates attending the Felton Village Hall Meetings which had no relevance to the Parish Council. Cllr Lindley  
Clerk
  - f) Street furniture complaint update – NCC still to relocate the grit bin. Clerk to pursue.
  - g) Speed strip request for West Thirston – this has not been installed yet. Clerk to ask NCC for an anticipated installation date. Clerk  
Clerk
  - h) Bus stop sign replacement of – still waiting on NCC to replace this and Clerk will pursue.
  - i) Auditor situation for 2019/20 – Mr Canner has agreed to take this on however the Clerk has not been able to speak with Mr Edwards to confirm he is not able to continue, to thank him for his work and give him his gift. Will keep trying to contact him to arrange a suitable time to visit. Clerk
  - j) Lighting at Eshott – NCC has stated that as the light was reported to being out and has now been fixed they cannot switch this off until the residents have been formally consulted by NCC as to whether they wish this light to remain on. Letters should have gone out to residents this week. Cllr Green stated that since the light had been switched on there have been no sightings of owls.
  - k) Lighting at West Thirston – The Clerk has asked NCC for clarification as to the situation with regard to the new lights installed around the rockery area. NCC has requested light numbers and the Clerk has given these and is awaiting a response as to why so many lights are needed and the fact the residents are not keen on them being switched on.

### 86 Report by County Councillor

CC Sanderson states NCC are almost at the end of the consultation over parking – where they are investing up to £10m on new car parking spaces based on the need that exists in towns and seaside car parks. To service the borrowing rather than cutting frontline services he is wanting to introduce or increase charging at some of the stations and seaside car parks. This will enable the continuation of free parking on existing town centre car parks. Consultation finishes in early January and once NCC has carefully considered all the comments he will be laying out the final plans.

On the airfield CC Sanderson felt the meeting with NCC was useful and will arrange a follow up in three months' time.

Work is going well with the bridge programme and it is hope that we will be able to make a start in Spring 2019. A meeting can be set up in January for an update from the officer dealing with this if the PC would find this helpful. It was agreed this would be useful. Clerk to relay to CC Sanderson. Clerk

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

Rec Field Meeting – Cllr Marshall reported that ongoing maintenance had been undertaken on the play area with RoSPA items being addressed and monthly checks taking place.

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Drainage on the field is an issue and it is thought drains are silting up – this is to be investigated. Water is running down the Recreation Lane onto the field entrance – this has been relayed to the PC. Work has been undertaken on feasibility of building for community and potential users contacted have indicated their support in using the facilities. Costings being drawn up for temporary portacabin to meet the needs identified with associated costs to go back to the two Parish Councils. Also a vision for the recreation field over the next few years as to what is required with costings. Need to identify a strand of fundraising to take projects forward – this is due in February.

## 88 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – outstanding issues raised with NCC re bridge concerns on FP4
- b) Landscaping – the contractor confirmed that he thought the PC were to plant the bulbs.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – A meeting has been arranged in early January with the preferred Consultant to work on the plan.

## 89 Planning:

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

18/02154/FUL - Land West of Eshott Heugh Farm - steel framed building - PERMITTED  
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 – however concerns have been raised that the works have grossly exceeded the permissions. This has been reported to NCC and the Clerk is awaiting a response. Clerk to pursue.  
18/03414/FELTPO - Woodlands House, Pipistrelles - Prune trees - PERMITTED  
18/03398/PRUTPO - Snowdrop Cottage, Eshott - Crown lift and prune - PERMITTED

Clerk

### b. Planning applications pending:

17/02923/VARYCO - Burgham Park Golf Club - Vary Cond 13 - remove holiday restriction – objections submitted – Clerk to ask NCC what is happening with this.  
18/03411/FUL - The Croft, East Thirston - Erect Falcon chambers and aviaries - NCC has not arranged a site visit with the agent or the owner and is recommending refusal. The applicants have contacted NCC who stated there were a number of objections – in fact there were no objections. The application has passed the deadline for decision by 5 weeks with no explanation from NCC however NCC has promised a response tomorrow following consultation with the Chair of Planning at NCC.  
18/03534/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - retro - retention of ground butt  
18/03562/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - Form mound, widen paths, erect 16 shelters  
18/03834/FUL – Land NW of Eshott Heugh Farm – Buildings for animal displays and classroom  
18/04053/ADE – Felmoor Holiday Park – advertising Consent

Clerk

### c. Planning Issues

**Canine Centre acoustic barrier update** – NCC has sought legal advice and as the condition has been discharged they cannot serve Breach of Conditions Notice. The Clerk responded to state the condition was discharged with the following wording “it can be considered that this condition is now discharged, so long as the approved details are hereby implemented and used for the perpetuity of the development.” This is obviously not the case however NCC responded to state that this is not an isolated issue and it has been raised with Senior Planning Officers who are evaluating how conditions are worded and discharged going forward. Whilst this does not resolve the issue in this instance they are working to avoid this occurring in the future. The Councillors still believe there is an argument for this to be pursued due to the wording in the discharge notice. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk

Clerk

**Update on trees behind Northumberland Arms** – NCC has not given an update for this and it is the time for tree planting so Clerk to pursue.

Clerk

**New Beer Garden – Northumberland Arms** – NCC has again not given an update on this situation despite reassurances that the PC would be updated following the meeting in October. Apologies were once again given by Abbie Nendick the Senior Enforcement Officer for the lack of contact. She is however of the opinion that planning permission is needed for

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the beer garden and have invited the submission of a retrospective application and will let the PC know once this has been submitted.

## 90 Services

- Cutting back of hedge/tree around 30mph sign on entrance to village – A resident kindly offered to undertake the cutting back around the sign. Clerk
- Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – No work has been undertaken but the drain has been marked out. Clerk to monitor. Clerk
- Pot Holes – Road through West Thirston – couple of holes to report, Glenshotton – initial repairs have been marked out possibly for improved repairs, A1 to Eshott – 2 holes have reappeared. Clerk to report all issues. Clerk
- Water from Wall at The Peth – NCC is investigating this again. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- Clearing of steps at The Peth – Clerk to check whether leaves have been cleared. Clerk

## 91 Requested Agenda Items:

- Draft Budget 2019/20 – The revised draft budget has been circulated. The Clerk informed the Councillors that the Cemetery contribution may be reduced by about £150 – this was amended on the budget. The budget was then agreed and the precept set at £8,500. Clerk to relay this to NCC. Clerk

## 92 Correspondence:

- The Planning Inspectorate – consultation document A1 Alnwick to Ellingham Improvement Scheme – EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation – circulated but no comments submitted to the Clerk from Councillors.
- NCC - Indicative Council Tax Base letter – for information
- NCC – Improvements and Investments in Car Parking Provision – information on the creation of new parking spaces in Northumberland. Funding would be found through introducing and increasing charges at a number of busier tourist and railway station car parks. Consultation is taking place on these charges.
- NCC - Consultation on Car Parking Charges at Selected Coastal and Railway Car Parks – consultation as per item above.
- NCC - Consultation over Recovery of Costs for Provision of Traffic Management and other services to Events Organisers – this is an introduction of costs for traffic management at events held in Northumberland, excluding Remembrance Day Services – this does not affect Thirston Parish.
- Letter from Northumberland Estates re submission of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against the refusal of Planning Application 17/04290/OUT – they are due to submit an appeal but no date has been set as yet. The PC and residents who submitted objections should be informed of this appeal from the Planning Inspectorate.
- Email from resident re trimming trees in West Thirston – a resident was seeking advice on trimming trees in a conservation area and the Clerk informed her of what was required.
- Email from resident re parking for residents of Bridge End – a resident has raised concerns about the parking on The Peth and around the Bridge. The newer houses were granted parking permits but this was not extended to the row of houses 4-6 Bridgend and she is asking why this is the case. She is often required to park in the pub carpark or on the bridge due to visitors outside her property. Clerk to check with the NCC officer who deal with the consultation as the resident in question is not on the electoral register which may be the issue. Clerk
- Email from resident in relation to parking issues by the recycling bins – a resident from Wintrick has reported issues with the road being blocked by the bins due to people parking their cars/buses there along with those recycling their bottles. Some people are parking dangerously on the junction and they have requested some signage or double yellow lines to improve the situation otherwise the resident will be contacting the police. She has suffered verbal abuse when asking people to park sensibly. Cllrs agreed that some cars are left all day as people parking to catch the bus however as there is a layby area here for the bottle bank there is little that can be done Clerk to relay to resident. Clerk
- Email from resident re advertising in PC noticeboard – A resident has requested that they

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be allowed to put information posters into the noticeboard to advertise a voluntary initiative to promote positive mental health in the area. Clerk to reply stating as long as it is not a business then a notice can be put in the right hand side of the noticeboard.

Clerk

- Email re planning consent and building control approval Eshott airstrip Experience Centre - concerns have been raised over building control issues. Clerk to request NCC Building Control investigate the concerns raised over the internal materials of the shipping containers and the impact this has with fuel laden vehicles being stored within, ventilation system, what fire precautions and alarms systems are in place and how the centre safely operates beside an unlicensed airfield.
- Email suggesting a working group be set up for Eshott Airfield monitoring – already circulated. The Councillors stated a working group of residents is fine but cannot be under the umbrella of the Parish Council. All meetings of a PC have to be public and minuted so it would not be appropriate. Also the PC has to take an independent stand which would not be possible if such a group were to be linked to the PC. It would also allow the group more freedom if it is not linked to the PC. Clerk to relay this to the resident who raised the question.
- Barnardo's – poster and leaflets re recruiting hosts - it was agreed to put the notice in the noticeboard.
- Letter of Retirement received from the Cllr Secker, Chairman of the Parish Council, after 11 and a half year of serving on the Council. Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the New Year.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

**Emails Forwarded:** NALC Newsletters

**To Circulate:** None

**93 Finance**

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £13,401.48.
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
0006	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses	£318.65
0007	Felton Parish Council Cemetery Contribution	£994.68
0007	Felton Parish Council War Memorial Insurance Contribution	£6.21

- (c) **Receipts** – £50 compensation from Lloyds Bank due to internet banking issue. This has just been confirmed by receipt of bank statement so not included in Financial Summary.
- (d) **Issues with Lloyds Banking** – All paperwork for internet banking has once again been completed and sent to Lloyds for processing.

**94 Urgent Items - None**

**95 Items for next agenda**

Election of Chairman  
Feedback from Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP meeting

Cllr Marshall proposed a note of thanks to Cllr Secker for his considerable contribution to the Parish Council. He will be greatly missed and has been at the heart of tricky issues over the years as well as routine ones. He has given wise counsel and been a competent and sound Chairman. He said we have all enjoyed working with him and will miss him.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm  
Date of Next meeting: Thursday 24 January 2019