

Longframlington Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting on: 6th October 2021
Meeting at: The Memorial Hall, Longframlington
Meeting time: 7:00 pm
Present: Cllrs: Allison Davis (AD), Graham Fremlin (GF) - Chair, Diane Lakey (DL), Gillian Nelles (GN), Gillian Apthorpe (GA), Dave Wellden (DW)
In attendance: Councillor T Thorne (TT), Clerk

The meeting opened at 7.05 p.m.

- 1) **Apologies for Absence** – Nicholas Heggie (NH),
- 2) **Table Urgent Business to be discussed in 20 below** – None
- 3) **Declaration of Interests** – None
- 4) **Gifts & Hospitality** - None
- 5) **Community Police Report**- None
- 6) **County Councillors Report** – TT had just returned from the Conservative Party Conference where the main focus had been the 'Levelling-Up Agenda'; investing to raise standards to create wealth across the board. He had attended a fringe meeting on catering and hospitality where Government had focussed upon wage rises, career progression and training. In Education the attention had been on equality of opportunity, which was shown to open up new avenues for young people across the board. With respect to NCC, progress was being made with the Northumberland Railway Line and the development of a new cable manufacturing company in Blyth. These, it was hoped, would encourage more business into SE Northumberland. At the Conference, there had been a strong feeling that too many greenfield sites were being allowed for development as the costs to developers of removing contamination from brownfield sites was too great. He had expressed the view that there should be some form of government incentive available to developers, to encourage them to open up more brownfield sites.
Locally, TT expressed the view that new people into the village had brought fresh opportunities to shops and businesses in our community. This was challenged by members of the PC. Carr's Corner and the Running Fox may be doing better but other businesses were not. Many of the new people in the village were bypassing local business to use facilities near where they worked. TT suggested that there be some research carried out into the impact of new developments in the village. Members expressed their concern over the lack of services in the village including car parking, primary school and road crossings on A697. Developers had got away with not having to provide the necessary infrastructure by carefully keeping the numbers of houses below that which required them to make a financial contribution. We had only ever received £5000 in S106 money which was used for developments in the playground, and to obtain this money, the PC had gone through many hoops. Whilst the lack of infrastructural need had been brought to the attention of Planning and the Planning Committees on many occasions this had virtually been overlooked. Parking was becoming a very big issue in the village, particularly the amount of parking taken up by the Running Fox. An issue that the PC had raised many times and been ignored. Whilst the Tank Turn is used for parking there is limited space and the village needs a dedicated parking area. The lack of controlled road crossings on the A697 was a very serious issue. School Children who lived at the east side of the village had to cross the road at very busy times to get the school bus. The situation will only get worse as traffic is diverted from the A1 during its duelling. All of our children had to be bussed to school which had a great impact on the village's carbon footprint. Indeed, no cognisance of the impact of the large numbers of residents having to travel to work seems to be given when considering planning matters. Primary children were attending Swarland School in far greater numbers than those from Swarland itself. The school had been built as a temporary measure very many years ago and needed to be replaced. Longframlington had a site earmarked for a new school which NCC were trying to sell. Why could this not be used to build a new school for our children? Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan should have an impact, why was it that NCC planners constantly ignored the wants and needs of our village. TT was grateful for the views of the Parish Council and ask that these be put in writing so that he can take our issues forward with NCC. GF agreed to write to him within the week. **Action: GF**
- 7) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the virtual meeting held on 1st September 2021 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such. Proposed GN, Seconded DL.

Housekeeping Issues – These issues should take no longer than 60 minutes to deal with.

- 8) **Matters Arising out of Minutes**
 - a) **Traffic calming measures Rothbury Rd.** TT had received little response from Highways to his approaches on this matter. GF had eventually met on site with Highways after him copying correspondence to the Leader of NCC. It was now clear that there was no proposal to impose a one-way system around The Green. Highways had agreed that there were a number of things that were wrong with the current positioning/arrangements of the chicanes and whilst they had carried out a survey of the most westerly chicane, the video quality was poor and they thought they were looking from the wrong direction so the results were not useful. They had agreed that putting road cushions in the running lanes would be more effective in slowing traffic and had now removed the bollards (apart from those at the most westerly chicane). They had suggested that they would carry out the final Road Safety Audit in order to ascertain any further work or changes needed. GF had spoken with Highways about the importance of physical site meetings before road work developments were carried out. GF had emailed Highways to provide an update for the PC meeting but this had failed to materialise. GF was thanked for all his efforts on this matter.

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- b) Play area fence. GA had cuttings ready for planting in the allotments of a range of different species of hedging which would, when ready, be transferred to the play area. There was also hedging in Plot 13 which had to be removed which might also be suitable. GA asked for assistance as it was important that the cuttings were planted in the allotment as soon as possible, as they would need to be lifted early in the New Year before the vacant allotments were reallocated. **Action: GA**
- c) Village Christmas tree – GA reported that she was in negotiation with Alnwick Rugby Club for them to order a 20 ft tree on our behalf and arrange for its transportation to Alnwick. Transport would be needed to get the tree from Alnwick. GF was also awaiting a quotation from one of his sources. GA/GF to follow up and liaise on this matter. **Action: GA/GF**
- d) Re-engage with NCC re power connection to bus shelter. NCC had still not responded to our numerous requests. Power will still be available from the Paper Shop for this year's Christmas Tree. **Action: GF**

- 9) **Meetings to Attend / Attended** – GF had met on site with Neil Snowdon (NS), Highways, regarding a number of highways issues and to ask why we were not getting our LTP requests approved. He was able to show NS the issues on the A697 and at Alnwick Fords. NS suggested that the signage at Alnwick Fords should be placed on large white backgrounds to be able to provide better visibility for road users and he would follow this up. He also asked GF to provide him with traffic data usage on the A697 in order for him to make further investigation **Action: GF**

10) Finance

- a) Receipts in the months of September 2021. Approved.

13/08/2021	Purves WM Ltd	Feivan x2 crem plots x1 crem h/stone	200.00
06/09/2020	NCC Ref 4711596	Precept second half	12000.00
24/09/2021	Barclays Bank	Interest	<u>0.15</u>
Total			12200.15

- b) Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments. Approved

04/09/2021	PKF Littlejohn LLP	AGAR External Review	240.00
08/09/2021	G A Christie	Maintenance - July	218.00
08/09/2021	G A Christie	Maintenance - Aug	200.00
30/09/2021	NCC Inv.228530	x3 extra grass cuts	475.20
01/10/2021	G Rhodes	Salary & Expenses	272.46
01/10/2021	HMRC	PAYE	67.20
14/09/2021	British Gas A/C600689588	Electricity Sports court	10.45
22/09/2021	WAVE Inv. 9416403	Water Cemetery	13.23
Total			1496.54

- c) Requests for donations. None

- d) Bank Reconciliation to 4th October 2021. Approved

Balance per bank statements as at 24/09/2021				
	Community account			81177.83
	Business Saver			<u>6104.62</u>
				87282.45
Less unrepresented cheques				
	08/09/2021	G A Christie	218.00	
	08/09/2021	G A Christie	200.00	
	30/09/2021	NCC Inv 228530	475.20	
	01/10/2021	G Rhodes	272.46	
	01/10/2021	HMRC	67.20	<u>1232.86</u>
Uncredited Deposits				
	24/09/2021	Saving A/c Int	0.15	
Balance				<u>86049.59</u>
Balance per cash book				<u>86049.59</u>

- e) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) y.e. 31.03.2021. On the basis of the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR, in the opinion of the External Auditor the information was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. Members thanked the Clerk on a successful audit.

11) Village Activities None

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12) Allotments

- a) Management
 - i) Upkeep of Plot 1b. GF had met with the plot holder who was given the choice of either tidying the plot or giving up the tenancy. He was considering his options. The tenants on Plot 1a still had to tidy their plot. GF to monitor. **Action: GF**
- b) Maintenance
 - i) Removal of rubbish and spoil around the allotments and pruning of the allotment hedging. Gavin Christie was in the process of clearing the rubbish and pruning the hedges.
 - ii) Replacement of taps. GF had been away from the village and would get this sorted on his return. **Action: GF.**

13) King George V Playing Field including:

- a) Clerk's weekly/monthly inspection report. The following items were brought to the attention of members for their consideration:
 - i) Small horse rocker: Tail cracked with rough edges, laminate on seat coming away, wood in mid-section rotten. Coming to end of life. Agreed to replace. Clerk to obtain three quotations. **Action: Clerk**
 - ii) Large swings: chippings need raking: This was a constant problem and would rectify once chippings bedded down.
 - iii) Sports court: Tennis posts and nets lying on ground and a trip hazard. To be removed as end of season. **Action: GF**
 - iv) Old line marker broken lying on ground outside store and is a safety hazard. To be removed. **Action: AD/DW**
 - v) Bin near sports court: top rail rotten, nails exposed and needs replacing **Action: DW**
 - vi) Large slide: side matting needs refixing. Gavin Christie (GA) to repair **Action: Clerk**
 - vii) Rills: need strimming. Request GA to carry out **Action: Clerk**
 - viii) Adult multi gym: some paintwork chipping. Equipment has not been serviced/ inspected since 2019. Servicing not required. DW to touch-up paintwork. **Action: DW**
 - ix) Wooden tables: need treating. Agreed x2 tables are fully treated, x1 table to be inspected in the Spring when it may need replacing.
- b) Actions following previous sports courts and playground inspection including:
 - i) Boarding round junior swings. Work complete. Thanks to DW.
- c) Repairs to Millennium gates. Quote had been received from Stephen Lunn who manufactured the gates:

To remove and refit gates.	£630.00	
Repair damage to gates	£ 600.00	
Dress old paint, spray paint with 2 pack epoxy paints (About 4 plus coats. this paint new has very good longevity)	£1290.00	
Total	£2520.00	(No VAT to be added.)

It was unanimously agreed that as this was a bespoke and very specialised piece of work and there were no other companies available in the area to do this work, that the requirement for the work to go out to tender would be waived. Whilst it might be possible to arrange less expensive transport costs, if any damage was undertaken in the process, the PC would become liable. The PC approved the quotation in full. Instructions for the work to be undertaken to await notice of when the Tank Turn repairs were to take place, as it would be best to undertake both pieces of work at the same time. **Action: GF/Clerk**

- d) Gates/bollards at the five pedestrian entrances to the park. No preliminary enquiries into this had been undertaken. As it was apparent that there would be no one-way system imposed around the Green, it was felt this was no longer a priority at this time.

14) Planning

- a) To note any planning issues since previous meeting.

Reference	Address	Status	Parish Council Position
21/03583/REM	Land South of Fram Park	Registered	No objection
21/02463/VARYCO	Land West of North End Farm	Registered	See previous minutes for details
21/01648/VARYCO	Land North of Fairfields	Registered	See previous minutes for details
21/02697/RENE	Land East of 7-8 Harrogate Cottages	Permitted	See previous minutes for details
21/03127/FUL	Land West of Deneburn	Registered	See previous minutes for details
21/01730/VARYCO	Land West of Meadow Lodge	Registered	See previous minutes for details
21/02513/FUL	Low Fords Longframlington	Registered	See previous minutes for details
21/02943/VARYCO	Westroad Garage Rothbury Road	Permitted	See previous minutes for details

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21/02375/FUL	R Green and Son Front Street	Permitted	See previous minutes for details
21/02944/REM	Land South of Lightpipe Farm A697	Registered	See previous minutes for details
21/01136/FUL	Land South of Embleton Hall and behind Front Street	Refused	See previous minutes for details
21/01370/FUL	Land Adjacent to St Laurence Court Footpath	Registered	See previous minutes for details
21/03808/FUL	North End Farm North End Dairy Lane	Registered	No Objection

Members expressed their concern that so many applications were outstanding which was down to these being held up by NCC Planning. GF had met with representatives of Cussins who had agreed to consider a revision to the location of the footpath through the development. They agreed this was irregular. Also, they were aware that they need to provide more detail for the arrangements of the junction onto the C106. This is also required by Highways. They were also willing to consider naming one of the streets after the late Cllr John Munro.

- b) Street Naming – Land North of Fairfields/ Tantallon Fields: Proposal: Street naming for 34 new dwellings; Proposed Estate Name: Tantallon Fields. Street Names: Celandine Close; Bryony Court; Columbine Close; Chamomile Close; Gentian Court; Brooklime Close. The Council were not in favour of recognising the development as an estate. None of the other recent developments in the village had been given estate names and it was agreed that this was superfluous. If, however this was a new NCC policy, then LPC would not be in favour of the use of the name 'Tantallon' which was the name of the developer. The name Tantallon had no connection with the history or locality of Longframlington. They would accept 'Fairfields' or even 'Thompson' as an estate name. The Council were against the use of the suggested plant names, as they were not plants local to the area and were easily misspelled, which could contribute to much confusion by postal and delivery services. The Council proposed the use of names of plants that were local to this area of Northumberland which would be much more in keeping with the village e.g., Rowan, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Alder, Gorse. The suffixes were acceptable. **Action: Clerk**
- c) Village Hall/12 High Town Boundary. The residents were planning to reinstate the boundary early next year. Part of the work involved excavation of the area which would be easier if the contractor could have access with a dump truck from the Memorial Hall side in order to remove the waste. Boards would be put down to prevent any damage to the grass and any potential damage would be put right at their expense. The request was granted with the following conditions. That the residents of 12 Hightown:
- i) Inform LPC and the Memorial Hall Secretary (in advance) of the dates when the work was to be carried out.
 - ii) Agree with the Memorial Hall Secretary when access along the driveway was required, so that the work was carried out during quieter periods of use of the hall.
 - iii) Ensure the drive and pathways were kept clear of any waste.
 - iv) Rectify any damage incurred at their expense.
- d) Bank House External Alterations. There was a covenant on the property which required Parish Council approval for any changes to the existing exterior of the building. The new residents were undertaking renovations and requested agreement by the PC. The Council agreed that it had no initial objections to the proposed external alteration work, as long as there was an assurance that this change would have no negative impact on the use of the adjacent car parking arrangements, which were solely for the residents of Old School Court. The Council to request a copy of the covenant with respect to external alterations to Bank House, for consideration, before formal consent be given. **Action: GF/AD/Clerk**
- e) NCC Planning Validation Checklist Consultation (Parish/Town Councils). Since 2008 local planning authorities were required to publish information checklists they use to 'validate' the planning applications they receive. The draft Local List was open for public consultation until Friday 8th October 2021. Members agreed to submit individual responses. **Action: All**

15) Cemetery issues:

- a) Burials/Ashes internments. None.
- b) Memorial applications. None.
- c) Cemetery Extension. GF had spoken with Graham Caldron (GC) from the NCC Legal Department and informed of the current situation advising him that it was urgent for NCC to confirm the land ownership and either ensure that it was registered to LPC or if registered to NCC that they take back the cemetery and make good the PCs expenditure over the years. GF to provide GC with any information we hold on conveyancing of the land and then GC will undertake a property search. **Action: GF**

16) Action Plan – October 2021

- a) General Service review and assessment - Ensure asset register is up to date with transfers and purchases. Clerk reported the asset register was up to date.
- b) Review community engagement. Members agreed that the current level of engagement was satisfactory particularly with the significant consultation that had taken place through the neighbourhood Plan.
- c) Check on provision and conditions of grit bins; bus shelters; waste bins. All Cllrs to check own areas. **Action: ALL**
- d) Grit Bins – Research and source grit supply for forthcoming winter. Gavin Christie to carry this out. **Action: GF**

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Main Issues

- 17) Neighbourhood Plan (NP).** NCC had now completed the Regulation 16 consultation and put together a 6-page document of amendments. AD had responded to say that LPC had no formal response to any of the individual points, but would like NCC to be aware that the wording included in our Neighbourhood Plan was based on the consultation feedback that we had received from the community. At every stage we had attempted to find appropriate wording that both met the legislative requirements and accurately reflected the wishes of the community. It would not be fair or democratic to change our policy wording at this late stage, simply to align it with NCC's preferred way of wording. The policies were drafted in the way that the community and the Parish Council preferred, and, provided that they met legislative requirements, we would keep the wording as written. The Examiner had now responded to our Plan, as written, and had recommended a very few minor changes. AD expressed her frustration that throughout, NCC had made the process as difficult and longwinded as possible. Their amendments appeared to both negate the strength of the NP in influencing planning matters and in making life easier for them. The Council unanimously agreed that once the NP had been approved it would write to NCC and the relevant Government departments to express our concerns about the obstructive way in which NCC had attempted to thwart and influence our Plan and the overly complicated and time-consuming requirements of central government when making a neighbourhood plan.
- 18) Queen's Silver Jubilee.** At the last meeting TT informed members that communities could claim up to £2k for celebrations. There had been little response to a previous Facebook announcement on this matter. It was agreed that GA would place a further notice on Facebook to encourage people to come forward to help arrange an event. This matter to be taken forward to the next meeting. **Action: GA**
- 19) Preparation for Remembrance 2021.** Last year special arrangements were put in place during the pandemic. It was likely that a limited service would again have to take place either on the Tank Turn or on the Memorial Hall Car Park with a wreath presentation by a small party into the Memorial Hall. GF agreed to negotiate arrangements with the Hall Committee and Churches. **Action: GF**
- 20) Climate Action Rothbury.** Cllrs had been invited to the launch of Rothbury Climate And Nature (RCAN) on Saturday September 18th. GA had attended and reported that the focus seemed to be on Rothbury and the Upper Coquet valley. There seemed little interest in Longframlington's involvement. Members agreed that this was a good initiative for Rothbury and the Upper Coquet valley but appeared to have little impact on Longframlington.
- 21) Any Urgent Business**
- a) Invitation to Tender LPC and Cemetery Maintenance. Members agreed to the distribution of the four tender documents to the list of potential contractors and the date for submission of 19th November 2021. It was agreed to add hedge trimming in the dog walking field and allotments to the Dog Walking Area tender and cutting and removal of cuttings at the end of the growing year of the cemetery extension, to the Cemetery tender. **Action: Clerk**
- b) Definitive Map Modification Order (No 7) 2021 -Public Bridleway/Footpath No 5 (Snoop Bank Parish of Longframlington). The Parish Council agreed to fully support the order to upgrade the footpath to bridleway. **Action: Clerk**
- c) Clerk's Laptop. Clerk reported that he was having problems with the laptop. It was taking a long time to load and kept freezing. DL agreed that she had had similar problems when she was using it during the clerk's absence. The clerk had sourced a suitable replacement version of the HP Pavilion which had a Ryzen processor instead of Intel and was superfast. It was agreed that it was time that it was replaced, as it was coming on 8 years old and outdated. **Action: Clerk**
- 22) Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7.00 p.m.**

Garth Rhodes – Parish Clerk, 5 Wardle Terrace, Longframlington, Northumberland NE65 8AB. E-mail longframlingtonpc@gmail.com