

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting on: 14th January 2025
Meeting at: Longframlington Memorial Hall
Meeting Time: 7.30 p.m.
Present: Cllrs: James Allen (JA), Steven Bray (SB), Mark Fenwick (MF), David Owen - Chair (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS), Jamie Whicker (JW)
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Lesley Hall (LH)
2. **Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst move into the Longhorsley Division.** Cllr Glen Sanderson was unable to attend to answer members' questions. He had been invited to the March meeting which would be his last opportunity prior to the election in May.
3. **Co-option on New Councillor.** The Chair welcomed James Allen to the meeting where he was co-opted as a new councillor.
4. **Table Urgent Business to be discussed in 19 below.**
 - a. Embleton Terrace entrance
5. **Declaration of Interests.** None.
6. **Gifts and Hospitality.** None
7. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12th November 2024 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such. (Proposed JW, Seconded MF, All in Favour).
8. **Matters arising out of Minutes.**
 - a. Councillor Vacancy update. See 3 above.
 - b. Sale of the Rothbury Estate. A reply had been received from the Wildlife Trusts' Executive Assistant to thank us for our letter to Craig Bennet, and for all the work the PC were already doing to protect and restore nature and to inform us that they would respond fully in due course. JW asked the Council to consider how they could support a request to the Wildlife Trusts for a young farming couple to take the tenancy of the Lee. It was unlikely, that BHPC could formally do this, but it would do everything in its powers to support the needs of local farmers.
 - c. Honorary Titles: arrangements for Honorary Freedom of the Parish Presentation Ceremony. The following was agreed:
 - i. To obtain costing and proofs for the Freedom scrolls **Action: Clerk**
 - ii. To produce a guest list (50 maximum). Members to provide Clerk with suggestions and Vincent and Peter be asked as to who they would like to attend. **Action DO/ALL**
 - iii. To produce and send out invitations for Vincent and Peter and guests. **Action: Clerk**
 - iv. Programme for the event. **Action: Clerk**
 - v. To confirm venue and refreshment arrangements when numbers known. **Action: JS**
 - d. Demolition of the old bus stop at the B6344 New Houses junction. JW had inspected the bus shelter and apart from ivy growing over the building he reported it to be in reasonably good order. JW was asked to provide an estimate of costs to make good the shelter. **Action: JW**
 - e. Meeting with David Smith MP. Re-scheduled meeting to take place at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 17th February 2025 in the large meeting room, Longframlington Memorial Hall. Members were asked to consider questions for David. The following had indicated they would (at present) attend: JA, SB, LH, DO, JS. Clerk to send reminder nearer the event. **Action: Clerk**
9. **Police Update.** Community Police had informed the PC that there were no particular issues for the Parish at this time. Information regarding issues within the area were sent regularly to members through Northumbria Connected. Residents were asked to be vigilant with regards to door-to-door salesmen. Currently there were two male charity salesmen in the area making late night calls. The police warned that the elderly could be particularly vulnerable to being coerced into setting up donation payment agreements.
10. **Finance**
 - a. Notification of receipts since the last meeting. None
 - b. Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

09/12/2024	B&K Wharf	Meadow seed WWCF 116	96.00
11/12/2024	D I Boyson Countryside Management	Site visit/hedge prep/ X3 days training WWCF 116	1260.00
15/12/2024	Julie Ayre	Clearing buffer zone WWCF 107	150.00
15/12/2024	Julie Ayre	Planting buffer zone WWCF 107	315.00
03/01/2025	HMRC	PAYE	254.00

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03/01/2025	Garth Rhodes	Salary & Expenses Including backdate	1030.66
		Total	3105.66

c. Bank Reconciliation. Approved.

Bank Reconciliation at 5th January 2025		£
Balance per E bank statements at 03/01/2025		4839.40
Less unrepresented payments		0.00
Uncredited Deposits		0.00
Balance		4839.40
Balance per cash book		4839.40

d. Requests for donations. None.

e. Consider and agree grasscutting and maintenance estimate for 2025/26. The Parish Council agreed all four quotations for the work at the Playing Field. Members asked the Clerk to express their gratitude to Julie and Mike for all the fantastic work they had done during the last two years and over previous years. The playground was now looking wonderful. **Action: Clerk**

f. To agree the Budget 2025/26 and to set the Annual Precept 2025/26. The budget and increased precept request of £500 to £7,000 was agreed. The precept increase would keep a modest contingency which should cover the costs if an election was necessary in May 2025. If an election did take place, it was likely that a further Precept increase would be required to cover any outstanding election costs carried forward into 2026//27. The property charge for 2025/26 on the previous year would mean a -2.56%: £-1.40 (-0/12p monthly) decrease for Band D residents in Brinkburn and a 15.92%: £ 15.25 (£1.27) increase for Band D residents in Hesleyhurst.

11. Planning. To note and discuss any planning issues since previous meeting.

Reference	Address	Status	Parish Council Comments
24/02747/FUL	The Old School House Longframlington NE65 8HY. Demolition of rear/side extension and construction of rear extension to dwelling	Permitted	See previous minutes
24/02805/LBC	The Barn, 6 Brinkburn Lodge Cottages Longframlington	Application Registered	See previous minutes
24/03361/FU	Land To South West Of Wardhill Farm House Longframlington	Application Registered	See previous minutes
24/03362/FUL	Cattle Grid North West Of The Chirm Longhorsley	Awaiting decision	See previous minutes
24/04439/FUL	Lee Siding Cottage Longframlington. Side and rear extension, and loft conversion.	Application Registered	No objection

12. Highways

- a. Highways and Footpaths Report. Sunnyside Footpath sign had been replaced. No other issues at this time.
- b. Report on any issues raised/ to raise with Highways Department. SB had been in contact with Paul Allan, Highways to commend them on the improvement of road gritting this winter. The replacement of the culverts under the road at Suer's hill was underway. The Chair thanked JW for pursuing this matter.

13. Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund

- a. Report from Last Meeting. SB reported that seven applications had been considered at the last meeting. The successful applications were:
 - i. Upgrading of the Blyth Scouts Spylaw Cottage, Simonside: £3k
 - ii. Alnwick Dolphins Video equipment: £2k
 - iii. Scotsgap Methodist Church update: £2k
 - iv. Northumberland Wildlife Trust birdboxes: £4.5k
 - v. Longhorsley Village hall Warm Space £500
 - vi. Wingates Hall: PA system £2,800
- b. Embleton Terrace Road application. This was in preparation. The cost for the resurfacing would be c£25k and unlikely to be fully funded though WWCF. **Action: SB/DO**
- c. Climate Change & Biodiversity (CC&B) application 2025/26. This was still to be developed and would be discussed at the next CC&B committee meeting.

- 14. Climate Change & Biodiversity Committee.** To receive a report from the Committee. The CC&B 24/25 projects were all well underway and would be completed soon. The recent hedge laying course had been a great success. The Chair thanked the committee and its volunteers for the excellent visual impact and improved biodiversity within the Parish. The activity had proved very successful in promoting the Parish's commitment to biodiversity.

The Coquet River Action Group (CRAG) had now been testing the river for almost a year and were to present their findings at an event on Tuesday February 11th at 7.30pm in Felton Village Hall. CRAG had also requested support from the PC for the following actions:

- i. To undertake E-Coli testing during the summer months. (CC&B had WWCF funding to purchase the tests to be carried out within the Parish). **Action: MF/Clerk**
- ii. Identification and control of invasive weeds. This would focus initially on the Coquet tributaries. Within the Parish these were: Blackburn, Forestburn, Maglin burn, Todburn, Cockshot burn.
- iii. River Fly: kick testing over the summer months. Further training for CRAG volunteers would be available. MF offered Brinkburn as a venue for this as it was an ideal location with good access.

The Council agreed to support all of these initiatives in principle which would be discussed in detail at the next CC&B meeting in February. **Action: MF**

15. Emergency Planning:

- a. Community Flood Plan. To be submitted to the Environment Agency when all warden applications had been received. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Flood Warden Applications. To be submitted when all members have completed applications. **Action: LH**
- c. Flood Warning Signage. Awaiting designs from Graham Bucknall. The signage would have been extremely beneficial during the recent floods. It was agreed that within this parish the issue of roads flooding and cutting off communities and stranding vehicles was a far greater risk than property floods, which appeared to be the priority for the Environment Agency.
- d. Non-mobile phone communication for the Flood Wardens / Safety Officers. An email had been received from Mark Ahearne to say that the family had discussed the issue of non-mobile phone communication for Flood Wardens / Safety Officers. They had researched what would be required and the family were happy to fund 4 or 5 licensed-business-2-way-radios. A holding letter had been sent to Mark thanking him for the very generous offer. Agreed that DO would speak to Peter Roberts (Mountain Rescue) about the suitability/range of these radios. Once equipment with the necessary specifications had been identified, and Mark and family agreed, a decision on purchase to be taken via delegated powers. **Action/DO/MF/Clerk.**

16. Coquetdale Cluster Meeting

- a. Items to discuss from the latest Cluster Meeting. JS reported that the Cluster meeting with David Smith MP (DS) had been very successful. He had been very positive and was keen to be proactive on important issues for Coquetdale including
 - i. Broadband and wi-fi Masts.
 - ii. The purchase of the Rothbury estate. DS was scheduled to meet with the Wildlife Trusts (WT) and was keen to represent the views and concerns of local people and the farming community. At the meeting he was told that there were concerns that the WT were being given a biased view of the biodiversity needs of the estate. There had been strong representation from the re-wilding community and there was concern that the views of tenant & regenerative farmers and those wishing for a more balanced approach to maintain and promote the indigenous flora and fauna might be ignored. It was known that the WT wanted to stop shooting on the estate and there was concern that they may also want to stop sheep farming too. DS said that he saw the issue of feeding the nation as the first and foremost priority and would be making this view known to the WT. It was agreed that DS be asked to report on his discussions with the WT at the meeting with BHPC in February.
- b. Items for next Cluster Meeting Agenda.
 - i. Footpath/bridleway/cycle routes within Coquetdale
 - ii. Emergency Flood Planning; a joined-up approach across Coquetdale

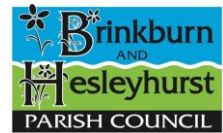
17. Cemetery & Joint Burial Committee Reports

- a. Longframlington Cemetery. Still awaiting confirmation from the Diocesan Office for the date of the consecration of the cemetery extension. No other issues to report.
- b. Rothbury JBC. It had been estimated that the current cemetery had sufficient space for 150 -200 plots and therefore additional land would need to be acquired within the next ten years.

18. Public Rights of Way

- a. Definitive Map Modifications.
 - i. Definitive Map Modification Order (No 7) 2024 BOAT 29 & 30. (B6334 through Cockshot to Rothbury Road). Confirmed and operative from 13 November 2024.
 - ii. Definitive Map Modification Order (No 8) 2024 BOAT 32 (B6334 – Healey). Confirmed and operative from 13 November 2024.
 - iii. Definitive Map Modification Order (No 13) 2024 BOAT 31. (Woodhead). Order made 13th November. Council recorded No objection.

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- iv. Definitive Map Modification Order (No 16) 2024 BOAT 28. (Brinkburn High House). Order made 13th November. Council recorded No Objection.
- b. Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Consultation. DW had made a positive response to the consultation with no issues of contention.

Any Urgent Business

- c. Embleton Terrace entrance. The new owner of Endeavour had approached JW to say that the entrance to the rear of Embleton Terrace was on his deeds and showed that only some of the residents had access rights to the rear of their properties via this route. He had very generously offered to sell the entrance access to the Parish Council for £1 (with any legal costs being paid by the Council) to enable a legal agreement to be drawn up to allow all residents full access rights. The matter was discussed at length and whilst the Members acknowledged the very generous offer, it was agreed that this was not a matter for the Council, but for the residents of Embleton Terrace. There were a number of possibilities for how this matter could be resolved and it was agreed that the Chair speak directly with the owner of Endeavour to discuss this matter. The Parish Council would provide any appropriate assistance within its powers to enable a mutually agreeable outcome for the residents.

19. Items for Next Meeting. None.

20. Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 11th March 2025 in the Memorial Hall Longframlington at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.

Garth Rhodes, Clerk, 5 Wardle Terrace, Longframlington, NE65 8AB, Tel: 01665 570347, Email: Clerk@Brinkburn.net