

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting on: 29th September 2020
Meeting at: On-line at Zoom 821 6616 8365
Meeting Time: 7.00 p.m.
Present: Steven Bray (SB), Catherine Green, (CG) David Owen- Chair (DO), Lesley Hall (LH), Jackie Scarpa (JS)
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes
The meeting opened at 7.04p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Vincent Milburn (VM)
2. **Table Any Other Business to be addressed in 18 below**
 - a. Current issues at Northumberland County Council
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting held **7th July 2020** were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and to be signed as such.
4. **Matters arising out of Minutes.** To receive updates on the following matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda including:
 - a. Letter to residents. No further action had been taken on this due to the current pandemic.
 - b. Light Pollution from Longframlington. Lesley Hall had spoken to David Thompson who had indicated he would take action to adjust the lights from his farm once the harvest had been completed.
 - c. Defibrillator at Embleton Terrace. See 9b
 - d. Football Nets. The nets have been purchased and received. Andy Ayre has agreed to install but has ordered further retaining clips as there were insufficient numbers provided with the order.
 - e. Coronavirus issues & updates including restrictions on Local Government face-to-face meetings. Government and NALC advice is that council meetings should remain on-line. It was possible to arrange face to face meetings, but **all** national and local restrictions would have to be met making this extremely difficult to arrange. Agreed to continue with on-line meetings until advice changes.
 - f. Local Electricity Bill and response from Anne-Marie Trevelyan (AMT) MP. AMT had replied to say that she supported the bill and was in support of the Government's Local Energy Programme. She stated that since 01 January 2020 the previous Feed-in Tariff scheme had been replaced with the Smart Export Guarantee, which would give small-scale low-carbon electricity generators, such as homes with solar panels, the right to be paid by certain electricity suppliers for the renewable electricity they export to the grid. This new scheme could create a whole new market, encouraging suppliers to competitively bid for this electricity, giving exporters the best market price while providing the local grid with more clean, green energy, unlocking greater choice and control for solar households over buying and selling their electricity.
 - g. Northumberland Local Plan Examination: Consultation on additional evidence. All details on the consultation had been circulated. No comments were received from members.
5. **Correspondence** – Correspondence list had been previously circulated
 - a. Live Kitchen- Rothbury First School. An email had been received from the new joint headteacher, Cheryl Brotherton, after the resignation of Nicki Mathewson in August, to say that Live Kitchen was up and running very successfully in the school and it had helped to increase the uptake of school lunches. They were grateful for the PC's donation which helped to pay for the cost of installing Live Kitchen. The invitation to sample lunches for two representatives, offered earlier in the year, which had been postponed, due to the current circumstances, would hopefully be hosted later next year.
6. **Planning**
 - a. Planning Applications

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>PC Comment</u>
19/04930/FUL	Land South East of The Hope Farm	AWAITING DECISION	See previous minutes for PC comments. A request had been received from the Planning Officer asking that, as further clarification had been submitted to explain this was to be a farm workers dwelling, if the PC had further comments. No further comments had been received from members so original BHPC comment was still in place.
20/00541/FUL	The Gussett Farm-House NE65 8JH	PERMITTED	See previous minutes for PC comments

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20/01555/FUL	Brinkheugh U4039 Westerheugh Junction to Todsteadd Refurbish, alter and restore farmhouse	PERMITTED	No objection
20/02017/BT	PCO Pauperhaugh Proposal to remove phone box 01665570234	Registered	The Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council object to this proposal on the grounds that the phone box is situated on a busy road in a remote rural area and provides a necessary service in times of emergency. Whilst it is acknowledged that most people now carry mobile phones this is not always the case. The telephone at Pauperhaugh could be the vital link in a crisis situation. The Parish Council requests that if the decision is made to remove the landline at this point, that this is replaced with an emergency mobile telephone.
20/02132/FUL	Land South East of Tindles Hill Caravan Park	Registered	<p>Comment submitted by DO through Delegated Powers: The Parish Council wishes to object to this planning application. You will see from your files that we have consistently opposed the creeping expansion of this site which has occurred since the original application was approved. At each stage, we have been given assurances that there will be no further expansion. A request for further expansion then seems to appear a few years later. As you will see from the files, our arguments against the expansion of the site have been documented on a number of occasions. I have attached our letter of objection from 2008, which outlines our objections to the planning application at that time, and which are the basis for our objection to the latest proposal.</p> <p>To summarise some key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High landscape value of the site and surrounding area. • Prominent location which is visible from many locations • Road safety concerns with respect to increased traffic on the narrow class C road. • Large existing caravan sites within a few miles of Tindles Hill.

- b. Planning for the Future - White Paper. The consultation to end on 29th October. There were 24 proposals to respond to. Members were asked to provide any comments by 20th October. Agreed the submission would be delegated to DO/Clerk to complete and submit. **Action: DO/Clerk**
- c. Changes to the Current Planning System: In conjunction with **Planning for the Future** the Government were carrying out this second consultation regarding changes to the current planning. Agreed the submission would be delegated to DO/Clerk to complete and submit. **Action: DO/Clerk**

7. Finance

- a. Receipts since the last meeting were approved:

03/09/2021	NCC 4660161	Precept	1970.00
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- b. Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting were approved:

06/07/2020	Deborah Snaith	Grasscutting	40.00
06/07/2020	Julie Ayre	Grasscutting	160.00
13/07/2020	Garth Rhodes reimbursement	Net World x2 football nets, clips, pegs	69.90
13/07/2020	Colliedog Computers	Annual Mailbox subscription	39.00
02/09.2020	Garth Rhodes	Salary & Expenses Jul- Sep	273.90
02/09/2020	HMRC	PAYE Apr-June	64.80
02/09/2020	Northumberland Estates	Playground rent	50.00
02/09/2020	Julie Ayre	Grasscutting Jun/Jul/Aug	360.00
29/09/2020	N/land County Council	PC Insurance	175.07
29/09/2020	Rothbury Parish Council	JBC element second Half	232.00
29/09/2020	Longframlington PC	JBC element second Half	238.00
		Total	1702.67

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- c. Requests for donations. It was agreed to donate £100 to the Embleton Terrace Road Fund. **Action: Clerk**
- d. Bank Reconciliation to 29th September 2020 was agreed.

Balance per bank statements				£
on 10 September 2020				3472.47
Less unpresented cheques	29/09/2020	N/land County Council	175.07	
	29/09/2020	Rothbury Parish Council	232.00	
	29/09/2020	Longframlington PC	238.00	
				645.07
Uncredited Deposits -				
				0.00
Balance				2827.40
Balance per cash book				2827.40

- e. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20. Notification of exempt status had been formally acknowledged by the external auditor. The PC would receive no further communication unless the accounts had been challenged at a local level.
- f. Review Clerk's salary. The members were asked to consider and agree the clerk's salary for 2020/21. *(At this point in the proceedings the Clerk left the meeting.)* The consideration of the review of the Clerk's salary would normally have taken place at the start of the current financial year but national negotiations were only completed recently. The members agreed to accelerate the Clerk's salary to SCP 12 at £11.53 per hr. to be backdated to 1st April 2020

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

8. Highways

- a. Highways and Footpaths Report – JS reported that the footpaths were quite overgrown as fewer people were walking them and there was less maintenance during the current Covid-19 pandemic. JS agreed to put notice on the noticeboard to encourage people to use the paths so that they do not become impassable. **Action: JS**
- b. Report on any issues raised/ to raise with Highways Department including:
- i. Traffic Calming Measures: Embleton Terrace. DO/Clerk had been in communication with NCC Highways to express our disappointment that all our priorities for 2020/21 had been rejected and that the PC was particularly concerned that that NCC did not see the need for the 20 mph with road markings signage at either end of Embleton Terrace, giving their argument that Embleton Terrace did not meet the criteria for a reduced speed limit due to the short length of frontage development. The Terrace had many households with young children, and we were very concerned about their safety. We asked if it would be possible to appeal against this decision and if so how to go about this? In addition to this request, we also asked if it would be possible to have 'Children Playing' signs erected at each end of Embleton Terrace and additionally on the existing post, erected by NCC, to the entrance to the rear of Embleton Terrace, along with a 'dead end' sign on this post. NCC replied that the rules on speed limits were set nationally by the Government. They stated that, for a 30mph speed limit, there should be both 20 or more houses and a frontage length of at least 600 metres. Embleton Terrace did not meet these criteria which is why it did not have a reduced speed limit. They would consider playground warning signs if the playing field opposite the houses was still in use and also provide a 'no through road' sign for the back lane. Clerk had written back to say that Councillors were very keen to see some form of traffic calming measures on this stretch of road particularly aimed at safety for the children who live on the terrace. Suggestions in addition to the post signage included SLOW markings on the road and the installation of speed monitors. Rather than entering into a long email exchange we had asked for a site meeting with the relevant person from Highways who could advise us and discuss our options. NCC replied that they were only allowed to have site meetings if it was essential and they wouldn't be able to construct anything during the current financial year, as there was no budget available. However, they did have the capacity to do a feasibility into what could be done. This would entail a designer considering what measures would be appropriate and coming up with a list of different options which we can then discuss. They could then consider funding the agreed option(s) in 2021-22. If we were happy with this approach, they would set things in motion and we were asked to make sure to include traffic calming as one of our LTO priorities. Members agreed to this approach and the Clerk to write to NCC to this effect. **Action: Clerk**
- The LTP priorities are outlined in 8 iii below.

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- ii. Subsidence B6344 at Todburn. Information had been received from NCC that there were longstanding, deep seated issues surrounding the stability of the road and embankment at Todstead. The causes were complex in nature and the site had several constraints which made any solution difficult and time consuming to construct. The site is a SSSI and is adjacent to the River Coquet and so would need an Environment Agency (EA) permit. There were also a number of protected species present at the location. Recent movements, indicated by inspection and monitoring, had forced NCC to put traffic management in place to ensure the safety of the travelling public. They were continuing to carry out a feasibility study to present options for repairing the road. Site investigations would be undertaken in the near future to help understand the mechanisms below ground that were causing movement. Consent from the EA was being sought to allow the work to be carried out, which would in turn help to inform what the best course of action would be.
- c. The Local Transport Plan priorities for 2021/22. The following priorities were agreed:
 1. Traffic Calming Measures along Embleton Terrace, The Lee, Longframlington
 2. Traffic Calming Measures at Todstead on the B6344
 3. Improvements and restoration of ford between Todburn and Todstead

9. Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund

- a. Defibrillator funding application – The application was with Julia Plinston ready for the submission at the next WWFCF meeting which seemed to have been postponed from its original date. SB had received a cheaper quote from the London Heart charity for the defibrillator, which was around £300 less than NEAS, and included a £200 grant and a 10 yr. manufacturer's warranty. The model was more suited to non-professional users, than the one recommended by NEAS. They could provide the NEAS recommended model if we so wished at around £200 less than the NEAS quote. SB to provide DO with the London Heart information to make any necessary changes to the application. **Action SB/DO**
- b. Upgrade of land at South West corner of crossroads above Embleton Terrace. No further action on this issue. Agreed that once the request for funding for the defibrillator had been addressed, a request for funding the land upgrade would be made to WWFCF.

10. Coquetdale Cluster Meeting

- a. Report from last meeting. The meeting had been postponed because of the pandemic.
- b. Items for next Cluster Meeting Agenda. It was agreed to ask that the issue of the condition of the B6334 at Todstead and speeding traffic on this stretch of road be included on the agenda. **Action: Clerk**

11. Joint Burial Committee Reports

- a. Brinkburn & Longframlington including dissolution of the Brinkburn & Longframlington JBC. DO had confirmed with Longframlington PC (LPC) that BHPC wished to go ahead with the dissolution at the end of this financial year. LPC had agreed to subsume JBC business into its normal PC meetings during the continuation of the Covid-19 restrictions. DO had asked that BHPC be kept informed of Longframlington Cemetery issues. No major issues at present as the extension of the cemetery has been put on hold. DO had formally thanked MF for his representation on the JBC and asked that he kept a watching brief on the Longframlington Cemetery.
- b. Rothbury. AS VM was absent from the meeting, no report was available. Clerk to contact the Rothbury PC clerk to ask for an update. **Action: Clerk**

12. Police Update from Police Community Support. The following report had been received on 27/09/2020:

'The below information reflects Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst areas.

Crimes reported 1: Public Order offence on the B6344, **Anti- Social Behaviour 2:** These refer to incidents of vehicle ASB

Other Business: Other incidents reported are vermin control shoots - firearms licence holders are required to notify Police when these are being carried out.

We hope everyone is staying safe and well. We appreciate the reports being received by members of the public and encourage this to continue.

LOCAL CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – *As you will be aware there are current restrictions in our area to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Any reports received of breaches of guidelines are followed up and dealt with accordingly. Please report any breaches.*

OP CHECKPOINT – *We have been conducting proactive patrols around rural areas including your parish stopping and checking vehicles suspected in poaching and rural crime. Any incident of this nature that is reported will always be followed up. Please, if you see any suspicious vehicles or persons in the area REPORT THIS on 101 or online NORTHUMBRIA.POLICE.UK.*

FARMWATCH – *Please spread the word to any farmers/workers that we are here to support them and provide crime prevention advice. I have already visited a few farms in the area and issued new FARMWATCH*

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signs and signed them up to the scheme – Basically this allows us to notify them of suspicious vehicles or incidents in the area.

My email address is 4965@northumbria.pnn.police.uk – if something is not urgent and you would like some advice please get in touch.

Thank you – Russell Stalker cso4965 Alnwick and Rual'

13. Northumberland National Park Local Plan Adopted. The Local Plan had been adopted on 15th July 2020 and therefore all planning decisions made on planning applications within the National Park needed to have regard to these new policies. The Authority thanked all Parish Councils for their input into the various consultation stages over the last 4 years. All relevant documentation on this matter had previously been circulated.

14. Any Other Business

a. **Current issues at Northumberland County Council.** CG asked about what direct impact the replacement of the Leader and the Chief Executive being put on extended leave, after her claims of 'serious whistle-blowing', would have on the PC. Members were concerned of the possible repercussions upon the work of the PC. Clerk was asked to write to the new Leader Cllr Glen Sanderson to ask how the current situation at NCC would impact upon the PC. **Action: Clerk**

15. Items for Next Meeting.

a. **Agree the budget and Precept Request for 2021/22**

16. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 15th December at 7.00 p.m. on-line
Tuesday 19th January at 7.00 p.m. on-line (an extraordinary meeting if required to finalise the Precept request once Rothbury JBC have finalised the Hesleyhurst Rothbury JBC budget element)

The meeting closed at 8.25p.m.

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