

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 8th April, 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: N Douglas (Chairman)
K Bell
P Boyle
J Parker
L McMillan
S Alcock
County Councillor Glen Sanderson

CO11/1 **Apologies for Absence.** - Cllr. T Potts, Clerk S Doyle

CO11/2 **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March, 2026 (which had been previously circulated) were approved for content with an amendment to numbers noted in “Members of the public in attendance” and duly signed.

CO11/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda**
None tendered.

CO11/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings will be the AGM 13th May 2026 then on 10th June. The Parish Assembly will be held on 20th May 2026.

CO11/5 County Matters – County Cllr Sanderson was present at the meeting and gave the following report:

- Cllr Sanderson outlined the success of the Northumberland Line, ongoing efforts to secure additional train carriages, and plans to extend the line further in Ashington and Newbiggin, supported by funding from the combined authority mayor.
- Development continues for the New data centre in Cambois
- Super schools have been developed in Seaton Valley and Berwick and Amble is part way through development.
- Cllr Sanderson discussed government-mandated increases in housing targets, the impact on local planning authority powers, and the need for infrastructure to support new developments.

CO11/6 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – Members received and noted the Police Report dated 4th April 2026.

CO11/7 **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for March 2026, totalling £4,786.82

- 7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of February, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 31st March 2026.
- 7.3 **Final Accounts 25/26** - Members considered and have amendments to make to the Asset Register document.

CO11/8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) **Review of Planning Decisions –**

1. 26/00884/MISC

Install 6 x 9MTR wooden poles (7.3 m above ground)

Near Muckley Butts Cottage Longhorsley Morpeth Northumberland NE65 8QT

Decision: Application is permitted development

8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications -**

1. Trees in a Conservation Area Application: T1 Acer pseudoplatanus - Reduce lower overhang to neighbouring property, raise over highway (Shown in photo) and thin canopy 10%; T2 Acer pseudoplatanus - Remove 1 lower limb (shown in photo) and thin canopy 10%

St Helens Vicarage Drummonds Close Longhorsley Northumberland NE65 8UU Ref. No: 26/01098/TREECA · Received: Thu 26 Mar 2026 · Validated: Thu 26 Mar 2026

2. Install 6 x 9MTR wooden poles (7.3 m above ground)

Near Muckley Butts Cottage Longhorsley Morpeth Northumberland NE65 8QT Ref. No: 26/00884/MISC · Received: Wed 11 Mar 2026 · Validated: Wed 11 Mar 2026

3. Extension, alteration and subdivision of 2no. existing residential properties (house and attached bungalow/cottage) to create 3no. dwellings with associated parking/garaging facilities and external amenity areas

Low Hedley Wood Longhorsley Morpeth Northumberland NE65 8RE Ref. No: 25/04217/FUL · Received: Mon 24 Nov 2025 · Validated: Fri 20 Mar 2026

- 8.1c) The following applications are to be kept on the Agenda in order to ensure that they are not forgotten - **None at this time.**

8.2 **Moor Management Committee**

- i. First Moor meeting held 1st April
- ii. 29 Sheep and 4 ponies visible on 11th March
- iii. Inspection of boundary/perimeter fencing to be carried out
- iv. Correspondence received from Natural England with impending visit in coming months and potential higher tier stewardship that we can apply for.

8.3 The Old Church Wood – Report by Cllr Alcock

- i. Dates to be confirmed for work to start on the path, likely summer due to nesting season
- ii. Confirmation of grass cutting to take place in Old church Wood has been given to JA Chisholm.

8.4 Play Areas

- i. No written report was received for the meeting.

8.5 Allotments

- i. The draft tenancy has had some amendments made to it and is being sent back for checking with the National Allotment Society.
- ii. There has been no acknowledgement to the letters sent to the Legal representative of the Longhorsley Explorers so fulfilment of the eviction has begun and eviction date is 7th October 2027
- iii. An acceptance of vacant allotment 4 has been received by the Parish Council from applicant number 2 of the waiting list, all allotments are now tenanted.

8.6 Village Maintenance Issues

- i. Work is planned to commence Mid/Late April to the trench for CCTV cabling.
- ii. A response is awaited from Swarco with the serial number to allow a new battery to be purchased for the North end of the village speed sign.

8.7 Website

- i. Work has commenced on the build of the new website, current Agenda and recent minutes and agendas have been uploaded along with Councillors contact Details. The clerk and Cllrs Alcock and Parker will continue to work on this.

8.8 Longhorsley Tree

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the works to the footpath at Old Church Wood, the date for the Annual Parish Assembly, Nesting Season so keep dogs on leads and a FixMyStreet article to say that things like waste bins, dog poo bins can be requested using this platform and lastly a reminder to all to pick up dog mess and dispose of responsibly.

8.9 Donation Requests: - no requests received.

- 8.10 **Village Hall Committee - Report by Cllr Parker**
- i. A meeting was held on 25th March. Agreement that a Councillor will be present at the meetings of the sub committee for the Village Hall maintenance/repair. The secretary of the Village Hall Committee will send a formal request to the Chair of the Parish Council for representation. Next meeting date is 19th May.
 - ii. Legal work is progressing well to purchase the freehold. The constitution of the Village Hall falls under the leasehold. A draft constitution is being written now and will be shared with the Village Hall Committee in preparation for the freehold purchase.

CO11/9 Items Carried Forward

9.1 **Housing Developments in the Village to include:**

- a) **South Road Development**
- i. The members raised concerns about traffic congestion and signage at the South Road development, Cllr Boyle will contact the site manager to address the issues.

9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan –** Cllr. Parker is making good progress with work on-going and has shared work to date with the Council.

9.3 **Village Green**

a) **NCC Scheme & Management**

- i. On-Going

b) **Common Land**

- i. A meeting has been arranged for Mid April with Ward Haddaway to discuss the Village Green issues previously raised by Parishioners.
- ii.

9.4 **Welcome Letters –** none issued.

CO11/10 Other Agenda Items

10.1 **Parishioner Emails**

- a.

10.2 **Expansion of the Cemetery Entrance off the A697**

No update to report at this time.

10.3 **Flooding at Whitegates**

NCC are dealing with this and updates are awaited from them.

CO11/11 Other Items for Information –

11.1 Haining gate was discussed, currently the gate acts as a barrier for cyclists who would not stop or slow down if the gate was not in place. However, it is noted that the gate makes it difficult for those less mobile to access this footpath. Investigation is to take place into options to modify gate to improve accessibility whilst considering views of adjacent residents.

CO11/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda) –
12.1

The meeting closed at 8.45pm