

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Pumpkin Pie Nursey, URC Hall, West Thirston on Thursday 5 December 2019.

Present: Cllrs S Allan, E Davidson, D Green, T Jackson, H Lindley and J Marshall.
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

- 80 Apologies for absence –** County Councillor Sanderson
- 81 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda –** Cllr Green – Matters Arising (b) Light in Eshott Village
- 82 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) –** None
- 83 The minutes of the meeting 31 October 2019** were signed as a true record.
- 84 Matters Arising therefrom:**
- a) **Bus stop sign replacement of** – despite several email reminders this has still not been completed by NCC. Clerk
 - b) **Street light in Eshott Village** – the light is off from midnight until 5.30am despite requesting it being off from 11pm til 6am and NCC is looking at what baffle can be put on to reduce the glare. Clerk
 - c) **Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint** – both NCC highways teams have reported that the works undertaken are acceptable. Martin King thinks what might help is, if he was to meet with a member from the PC to discuss on site the extent of their concerns. That way, it may be easier meeting and managing expectations. Cllr Jackson agreed to be the point of contact for this meeting. Clerk to forward details to Mr King. Cllr Jackson Clerk
 - d) **Wintrick Junction – white lines request** - In hand, no timescale given as yet. Clerk to pursue.
 - e) **Grass Verges into West Thirston – cutting of** – The Clerk has now contacted three contractors and received two quotes. It was agreed to use J Hood Landscaping and have three cuts per year along with the one from NCC. Clerk to liaise with contractor as to when NCC will be doing their cut so there is no clash. Clerk Clerk
 - f) **The Bridge Newsletter – online and interactive request** – No response – It was agreed to remove this from the agenda.
 - g) **Email to Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP requesting update** – no response due to being in purdah.
 - h) **Duke Bank walkway – lack of maintenance** – trees require cutting back. Cllr Davidson reported after the meeting that this had just been done by the Northumbrian Anglers Federation due to complaints from the anglers. Cllr Davidson thanked them and they said to contact them should they need doing again. Clerk
 - i) **Steep Bank – slippery surface** – Clerk has submitted an urgent request to NCC, to date no response has been received. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
 - j) **Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton** – NCC promised to have this drain repaired.
 - k) **Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked** – NCC have been informed of the issue with the ditch and this is on their urgent list of issues to address. Clerk to ascertain if work has been done yet. Clerk
 - l) **Potholes along Wintrick Road** - these have been completed. Clerk
 - m) **Potholes on the road to Eshottheugh** – Repairs still to be undertaken.
- 85 Report by County Councillor Sanderson**
Nothing to report.
- 86 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC**
A meeting was held with Kelly Angus, Glen Sanderson and a number of residents and Councillors re the airfield. NCC don't want residents to think they are not doing anything, they were concerned about NCC's reputation re not responding to complaints NCC are receiving.
East Thirston Planning Appeal – two meetings were held with residents, one involving NCC as to how to progress with planning appeal response. The Parish Council has subsequently

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put in a response to the Planning Inspectorate.

87 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Nothing to report.
- b) Landscaping – The dead bush has been removed. The Clerk has also received a quote for the next two years maintenance of the Rockery. It was agreed to appoint John Hood Landscaping again for the next two years. Clerk to confirm this in writing.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – NCC has confirmed that a Habitats Regulations assessment work undertaken by our Ecologists has concluded that 'Appropriate Assessment' is needed. This conclusion automatically triggers the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). NCC therefore advise that SEA should be carried out before you consult on the pre-submission draft version of the Plan. A meeting was held with Rob Naples about this and it pushes back the timelines for the NP by about 14 weeks. It was also suggested that the rockery be included in the green space for West Thirston but the Clerk has investigated and this is not NCC owned so probably Highways England as originally part of the old A1 and as such cannot be included as a green space. NCC Local Plan is proposing Burgham is going to be covered by green belt so therefore NCC raised concerns about the settlement boundary but on reasoning with NCC as to why this was proposed they have accepted that there can be a settlement boundary included in the pre-submission draft however this will be reviewed when received by NCC as part of the approval process.

Clerk

88 Planning:

a. To report on any planning decisions:

APP/P2935/W/18/3217291 – Northumberland Estates application for housing – Planning Inspectorate Appeal – DISMISSED AT APPEAL

18/03562/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - Form mound, widen paths, erect 16 shelters – APPROVED following amended plans being received as public protection has objected due to shooting noise potentially being in excess of 77 dB(A) and guidance considers it highly likely that people will become annoyed at shooting noise levels in excess of 65 dB(A).

19/03429/FUL – Northumberland Zoo – Extension to existing reception facilities – APPROVED

19/04112/FELTPO – Benson House, Eshott – removal of lower branch and epicormic growth – APPROVED

b. Planning applications pending:

18/03534/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - retro - retention of ground butt – the planning office is still waiting on a response from Public Protection following a meeting with the applicant.

18/03736/FUL - Felmoor Park, East of A1 - 24 lodges, 10 caravans, miniature golf – Site visit undertaken – no objections

19/00300/PREAPP – Burgham Park Golf Cub – Erection of 56 dwellings and improvements to course and club house – objections submitted and request for inclusion in pre-app discussions.

19/03659/VARYCO – Eshott Airfield – make temporary hours of 7am to 11pm permanent – objections submitted – this application will be determined at the February 2020 Committee Meeting. The Parish Councillors expressed concern that Mr Horsman is still the case officer for the airfield despite being informed by NCC that a new case officer would be appointed.

19/04011/VARYCO – Kirkhill – amend proposed windows to sitting room only

19/00669/PREAPP – Plot 4, Eshottheugh – Holiday leisure park comprising 24 single story chalets and 19 two story chalets – objections submitted

19/04134/FUL – 7 Bridge End, West Thirston – Conversion of garage to form habitable room. Remove garage door and replace with timber wall and sash window – the Coucillors reviewed this application and they have no objections.

Clerk

APP/01348/VARYCO – The Old Farm Byre, East Thirston – removal of conditions 10 (Highways), 11 (Permitted Development), 15 (Permitted Development), 16 (Permitted Development) pursuant to permission 13/01837/FUL

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c. Planning Issues

New Beer Garden – Northumberland Arms – awaiting planning application.
 Dog Training Centre – construction of compound – The resident concerned has to submit information to NCC for them to decide if action is to be taken.

89 Requested Agenda Items:

Draft Budget for 2020/21 – the budget was agreed and the Clerk will submit the Precept request to NCC in the New Year. Clerk

Airfield Lights – verbal complaints have been received re the lights on a hangar which does not have approval for lighting. Clerk to request the comments be submitted in writing so this issue can be taken up with the Enforcement Officer. Clerk

90 Correspondence:

NCC: Northumberland Local Plan - Notification of Examination Hearings for Chapter 13 (Managing Natural Resources) – for information
 NCC: Call for Evidence: Households not connected to the electricity distribution network – the only property this may affect is Blackwood Hall. Clerk to check. Clerk

NCC: Email re: flight monitoring details at Eshott Airfield – circulated and comments submitted to NCC.
 Email: Request to support Local Electricity Bill – Councillors agreed not to adopt the proposed resolution until confirmation is received as to whether this affects anyone in the parish. Clerk

Email: Lloyds Bank – changes to security for online banking – for information
 Email: North Steads Sisters Wind Farm Community Fund – introduction to new Development Worker – the Clerk explained that only a small part of the Parish is included in the fund area, part of East Thirston and part of Wintrick.
 Email re What3Words app – Clerk to request details that can be put in the notice board and in The Bridge – this is an app which lets emergency services know where you are in case you have an accident/incident and are unsure of your location.

Emails Forwarded: NALC circulars, CAN News

To Circulate: Clerks and Councils Direct

91 Finance

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £14,752.87.

(b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB76	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses	321.60
IB77	John Hood Landscaping – Rockery	280.00
IB78	Felton Parish Council – Cemetery Contribution	828.90

(c) **Receipts** – None

92 Urgent Items

Tree felling behind Northumberland Arms – a resident of Felton alerted the PC to the fact trees were being felled. NCC were contacted and approval had been given for these works in 2017. However NCC have no record of trees to be replanted. Clerk to contact NCC with the details of the failed trees and the new trees to be planted. The deadline for this is June 2020 however the planting season is now. Clerk

Complaint re muck heap – a resident has submitted a complaint to the PC re a muck heap that has been on fire and is smoldering on adjoining land causing breathing issues for the resident. The Councillors agreed this was not a PC issue. Clerk to relay this to the complainant. Clerk

93 Items for next agenda – Cllr Jackson gave his apologies.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm
 Date of Next meeting: Thursday 23 January 2020