

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield on Tuesday 28 March 2023.

Present: Cllrs S Allan, L Clarehugh, E Davison, J Day and J Marshall
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

108 Apologies for Absence – Cllr D Green and CC Sanderson

109 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

110 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) – None

111 The minutes of the meeting 2 February 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

112 Matters Arising therefrom:

1) Matters arising there from (excluding long term outstanding actions in relation to NCC)

- a) Noticeboard at Eshott – Now installed and looking good.
- b) Path in West Thirston – repairs (08/2022) – NCC still to confirm what the situation is with regard to the water issue is coming from. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- c) Path in West Thirston – Cyclists (08/2022) – NCC still to report back to the Clerk. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- d) Dog Bin West Thirston (12/2022) – Clerk waiting on a response from NCC as to type of replacement and where it can be located. Clerk
- e) Road at Bywell Shooting Ground in need of repair (11/2022) – a request has been put into NCC for a full patch repair as opposed to just filling in pot holes. Clerk
- f) Light issue in West and East Thirston – West Thirston lights have been fixed. At East Thirston a further request has been put to NCC for a baffle to be fitted to the end light and for this to be repaired as back on again during the day. Cllr Allan reported that the light on the right hand sign going up the hill into East Thirston is very bright when driving up to it. Clerk to report to NCC. Clerk
- g) Flytipping at Bockenfield Layby – NCC did not take this away so Mr Clarehugh kindly removed the car body parts and took them to the tip as NCC stated as they were partly on the farmers land it was not their responsibility to remove them.
- h) EV Charge Points – the Clerk looked into putting charging points down The Peth. When assessing the area via the Northern Powergrid portal the only places they would support charging points would be on the old bridge, where the bus stop is and on the pathway down to substation. In terms of looking to put in points on the Felton side for use by Thirston residents, the points are not allocated to specific people/houses so they could be put anywhere for anyone to use. So you could have one directly outside your property but it is not for sole use by you. Also there are only three parking spaces on the side where Northern Powergrid could put chargers, which are beside the listed pedestrian bridge, as the rest of the road is double yellow lines and the Clerk is not sure that points would be allowed to be added where the three parking spaces are due to the bridge listing. Clerk to contact Felton PC to see if they are looking into charging points. Clerk
- i) Lighting on The Peth – a request has been submitted to NCC for the overgrowth to be cut back from around the lights to see if this improves the situation, if it is still dark down the Peth then to have move lights installed. Clerk
- j) Footpath at East Thirston – Clerk still to set up a meeting with the residents and Chairman. The 30mph speed limit is now in place in East Thirston. Clerk
- k) Missing Weldon Bridge signage – still waiting on a replacement. Clerk

2) Long-term Outstanding issues being addressed by NCC for information

- a) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked (11/2019 & 04/2022) Clerk
- b) Blocked drain and manhole cover at Wintrick (12/2021) – still outstanding Clerk to pursue with NCC. Clerk
- c) Road from A1 to Longhorsley has raised iron works and the edges of asphalt badly broken away both of which can cause damage to cars (01/2022) Clerk
- d) Pathway improvements at riverside (03/2022) – still outstanding Clerk to pursue with NCC. Clerk

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

113 Report by County Councillor Sanderson –

We agreed our budget at the end of last month and council tax bills have consequently gone out. We kept the increase to around 1.8% plus the adult social care precept of 2%.

This hasn't been easy at a time of fuel and wage inflation around 9% but I was determined that we would not cut any frontline service which we rely upon, and to maintain special NCC offers like the first hour free in Country Parks and free town centre car parks.

Looking forward we are taking a very detailed look across the Council services to try to do jobs in the best possible way and to save money by creating efficiency. We won't ever get it perfect but this is something we need to do.

I hope you have seen the publicity for our Coronation Fund which is to help local groups celebrate the event.

The new Leisure Centre in Morpeth opens very soon and I am sure it will be a great improvement on the old one and the new free car park at Goosehill is almost full everyday so that has been very well accepted.

As always if I can help with anything please let me know and I will do my best to help.

114 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Licensing and Installation of Rev Richard Townend – Cllr Allan attended.

NCC meeting re Airfield – An update was given by NCC regarding the Airfield. It is the parish Councils understanding that a new application is being worked on.

115 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way - None

b) Landscaping – None

c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects –

1. Village gateways – awaiting a meeting with NCC on locations for West Thirston gateways
2. Bus shelters – Cllr Allan to set up a meeting on site to view shelters with Councillors who are interested in being involved.

116 To report on any planning decisions:

23/00132/FELTPO - Woodlands House The Pipistrelles Eshott – Tree Works - PERMITTED

Planning applications pending:

20/04177/FUL - Land North East of Felmoor Caravan Park - Extension to existing holiday comprising 139 no. pitches for holiday lodges plus ancillary features including water feature, play area and vintage vehicle museum – objections based on Neighbourhood Plan

21/04280/FUL - Paintballing Site Eshott Heugh - Hybrid planning application consisting of a detailed application for 30no holiday lodges, storage barn, parking and access and an outline application with access and all other matters reserved for the associated leisure building (Use Class E)

22/03759/FUL - South High Moor Farm - Proposed demolition and rebuild of existing dwelling and conversion of existing agricultural barn to dwelling house

22/04112/FUL - Northumberland Arms Construction of first floor rear extension to provide 1no. additional en-suite bedroom and store room, and ground floor rear extension to provide covered goods reception area

22/04113/LBC - Northumberland Arms Construction of first floor rear extension to provide 1no. additional en-suite bedroom and store room, and ground floor rear extension to provide covered goods reception area

23/00314/PRUTPO - Ferndale The Pipistrelles Eshott Morpeth – Tree Works

23/00547/REM - Land East Of Greycroft West Thirston - Reserved Matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 9mo. residential dwellings on refused application

19/05017/OUT (appeal reference APP/P2935/W/20/3254874) – comments submitted from the PC as this application differs greatly from the original plans and there are concerns about access, parking, uniformity of design/build.

23/00589/FUL - 7 Thirston Court West Moor Farm - Construction of Garage (Retrospective)

23/00601/S106A - Land East Of Greycroft West Thirston - Modification of S106 agreement dated 07-10-2020 on approved application 19/05017/OUT in order to change tenure of the 2 Affordable Homes from Rented Units to Discount Market Value Houses.

23/00711/FUL - Land North Of The Shaw – New entrance

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Issues:

Bockenfield Caravan Park – blue lights illuminating entrance

Eshott Airfield – viewing area and café

Eshott Airfield – Enforcement Notice

Felmoor Park – Tree removal and building works without planning

Felmoor Park – Entrance lighting and signage

APP/P2935/W/22/3303503 - Burgham Park (20/02094/FUL) – Appeal submitted to Planning

Inspectorate for the 48 residential houses to be built – the appeal has been allowed so the developers can go ahead with these houses

APP/P2935/W/22/3303390 – Burgham Park (20/02026/COU) – holiday cottages to residential

properties – Appeal submitted to Planning Inspectorate – Appeal dismissed so the owner cannot change to residential and these cottages must remain as holiday lets.

117 Requested Agenda Items:

- **Green Lane (U6002)** between Blackbrook Farm and the Zoo – the 6-month temporary closure of this green lane has now ended. The only options available are for a sign to go up stating “irregular surface”, fill in the ruts or leave as is. It was felt a sign go up to state irregular surface would be best as if ruts filled in it would make it easier to use. Also the land owners have reported on a number of occasions damaged to their fences by users of the lane and are waiting for NCC to undertake repairs. The Clerk has passed this onto Mr King of NCC to see what can be done. Clerk
- Replacement electricity substation – mess and steps. Complaints have been received about the substation and the debris that has been left there and the fact that the steps are not on the same side as the entrance. Clerk was waiting to see if any action was being taken as this had been reported but to date nothing has been done so will report to Northern Powergrid for action to be taken. Clerk to speak to NCC about the metal railing and Powergrid to see what is happening in relation to steps and entrance. Clerk

118 Correspondence:

- NCC - Northumberland County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order – extension notice for information
- NCC – Devolution Consultation invitation – No one attended
- NCC - Coronation Community Fund email - Can get up to £500 to spend on celebrations but have to be held on a specific day - not something Thirston PC are able to do but might be something going on in Felton who would be eligible for funding. Deadline has now passed for this funding.
- NCC - Wheels for All Northeast inclusive cycling workshops - for information
- NCC - Invitation to the NCC Filming Friendly Seminar - 10 March – no one attended
- NCC – Great British Spring Clean – NCC has started to lend out equipment again for litter picking following stopping this service due to covid. Spring clean taking place from 17 March to 2 April. Felton CAN has been doing litterpicking in West Thirston. The residents at Burgham Park picked up a full van load of rubbish from the stretch just from the A1 to Burgham Entrance. Burgham residents have asked if they can have “no litter” signs along the road but these are not supported by NCC.
- Letter from Mayor Jamie Driscoll, explaining NTCA’s decision not to raise a precept on the 2023 Council Tax – for information
- The Circuit – Notification that defib has potentially been used – this was checked and found not to have been used. The Circuit database was updated to state this.
- Email for information on tree planting taking place in the parish by Felton CAN – the PC was informed of this incase any questions were raised. The PC received a number of complaints and concerns were raised by some landowners about the proximity of the trees to hedges. Mr King of NCC met with the Felton CAN team to discuss the planting of the trees as there were also concerns from Highways on safety of trees being planted by the roadside, for both those planting and for the trees long term. An agreement was made further planting in a number of places but only upon granted permission from the farmers, update to the PC and copies of insurance public liability policy and method statement for tree management. Felton CAN have an agreement with a local landowner and over 2,000 trees have been planted.

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

- Email from Northwoods requesting woodland owners to complete a survey for exchanging best practice and potential support – sent to Woodland Burial Ground
- Email Age Concern making PC aware of their services and inviting a meeting or attending a local fair to spread the word. Clerk to suggest they attend the Felton and Thirston Fair. Clerk
- Royal Horticultural Society/Northumbria in Bloom - "It's Your Neighbourhood Awards" 2023 – the Clerk has forwarded information to “The Plot” team to see if they would be interested in being put forward for this.
- Copy email re Eshott aerodrome cafe business without planning consent and airfields proposed major public events – being dealt with by NCC.
- Copy email re issue with airfield and landowner and threatening behaviour - this has been reported to the police.
- Copy email with copy letter re plane flying too low over land – for information.
- Emails re breaches by airfield – lighting, flying hours, storage containers – these have been reported to NCC.
- Copy email re noise issue from container without planning permission on airfield – this has been reported to NCC.
- Copy email re airfield not complying with conditions in relation to planting trees – this has been reported to NCC.
- NALC News

119 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £10,508.38 TPC funds and £4,968.60 FCJC Funds totaling £15,476.98. The balance was reconciled with the bank statement and agreed by the Councillors
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB161	Payment to Lisa Hamlin 40 hours at £16.10 (£644.00) 2 x Zoom Conferencing (£29.98) 2 x Home Working Allowance (£22.18)	£696.16
IB162	Payment for Eshott board installation	£72.00
IB163	Felton Parish Council Insurance recharge for war memorial (£47.56) Recreation Field Contribution (£500.00) Felton Cemetery – parish contribution (£640.07)	£1,187.63

- (c) **Income** – HMRC VAT refund £925.40

120 Urgent Items –

Felton Fair – asking if want to have a presence – it was agreed not to have a stand
Pot holes in Wintrick

121 Items for next agenda –

Felton Fair Donation
Year End Accounts

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm
Date of Next meeting: 4 May 2023