

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting on: 17th May 2022
Meeting at: Longframlington Memorial Hall
Meeting Time: 7.30 p.m.
Present: Cllrs: Steven Bray (SB), David Owen- Chair (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS) Jamie Whicker (JW).
 Lesley Hall (LH), Vincent Milburn (VM)
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

The meeting opened at 7.32 p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Mark Fenwick (MF)
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meetings held Tuesday 15th March 2022 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such.
3. **Matters arising out of Minutes.** To receive updates on the following matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
 - a. Repairs to telephone/defibrillator booth. JW said the repairs to the booth were now complete. He and Mike French had spent some 4 ½ hrs undertaking sensitive re-engineering solutions to make good the kiosk. Members were very grateful to both Mike and Jamie for all their work, and it was agreed that an appropriate gift of thanks be purchased for Mike. **Action: DO**
4. **Correspondence** – All significant items included in the Agenda.
5. **Finance**

- a. Notification of receipts since the last meeting. Approved.

06/04/2022	NCC 63843/4835429	Precept first half	2545.00
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- b. Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

01/04/2022	Garth Rhodes	Salary & Expenses (Jan-Mar)	500.30
01/04/2022	HMRC	PAYE (Jan-Mar)	121.20
26/04/2022	NorthumberlandALC	Subscription and Annual Website Fee	155.27
10/05/2022	Rothbury Parish Council (RJBC)	RJBC1st22 JBC First Half	256.50
		Total	1033.27

- c. Requests for donations. None

- d. Bank Reconciliation to 17th May 2022. Approved.

Balance per bank statements at 2nd May 2022			4432.65
Less unrepresented cheques			
10/05/2022	RJBC1st22 JBC First Half	256.50	
			256.50
Uncredited Deposits -			0.00
Balance			4176.15
Balance per cash book			4176.15

- e. Approval of Accounts to March 2022 – pre- Annual Return including JBC proportional accounts for Brinkburn & Longframlington. Approved.

Annual Allocation of Income and Expenditure 2021 to 2022		
Opening Bank/Cash On Hand	1358.01	
Precept	4200.00	
Total Precepted Income		5558.01
Other income		
Interest	0.00	
Donations etc.	0.00	
Empty	0.00	
Capital Receipts	0.00	
NCC Cemeteries Double Charge	15.00	
General	0.00	
VAT	0.00	
Total Other income		15.00
Total All Income		5573.01
Expenditure		
Admin Salary (NET)	1407.70	

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

PAYE	351.80	
Total Administration Expenditure		1759.50
Village Amenities Expenditure		
Admin expenses	45.00	
Admin General	206.55	
Insurance	175.07	
Maint/ance	35.97	
Playground	865.00	
JBC	443.00	
Capital Spend	0.00	
Total Village Amenities Expenditure		1770.59
Grant Expenditure		
Grants given	0.00	
S.137	0.00	
Total Grants Payable		0.00
Total Expenditure		3530.09
Total Council Income less Expenditure		2042.92
Total Income		5573.01
Total Expenditure		3530.09
		2042.92

- f. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2021/22
- To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor. None.
 - To agree the 2021/22 Statement of Control. Approved.
 - To approve 2021/22 – Certificate of Exemption. Approved. Proposed JS, Seconded SB, All in Favour.
 - To approve Sections 1 - Annual Governance Statement. Proposed JS, Seconded JW, All in Favour.
 - To approve Section 2 - Accounting Statement; Explanation of Variances; and Final End of Year Bank Reconciliation to be submitted with AGAR. Proposed LH, Seconded JW, All in Favour.
 - To agree the period for the Exercise of Public Rights. Agreed.
- g. VAT Claim 2021-22. There was no VAT paid on any purchases in 2021/22 so no VAT Claim was made.
- h. Annual Insurance. Awaiting information on this from NCC.
6. **Planning** – To note and discuss any planning issues since previous meeting.

Reference	Address	Status	PC Comments
22/00834/FUL	Land West Of Wardshill Farm House Longframlington	Application Registered	<u>Previously Listed</u> . This is a very large building on a very prominent site. It would appear that there are sufficient buildings sited at the Lee farm to provide the storage and rearing facilities for this farm without additional buildings. If additional buildings are required, a more suitable site could be found. <u>Agreed to withdraw objection above</u> in the light of new information received but to recommend the building to be cladded/painted in a sensitive manner to blend with the surrounding environment.
21/03166/FUL	Building North East Of Wardshill Farm House Longframlington	Application Registered	See previous minutes for comments.

Members were reminded of the importance of making a response regarding all planning applications, even where this was simply a 'No Comment'.

Action: ALL

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

7. Highways

a. Highways and Footpaths Report

- i) Footpath NE of Embleton Terrace to East Raw. JS had been in touch with Tony Derbyshire (TD), NCC Footpaths Officer about the shooting area on this part of a right of way. TD confirmed that shooting was not allowed where people were rightfully allowed to cross land, and was to take this up with the landowner.
- ii) Sign Post - Path via Sunnyside to Chirm Well Cottage, SE of Embleton Terrace on road to Longhorsley. No further information at this time.
- iii) Repairs to Bridge at Maglin Burn. Crossing the stream was now enabled at this point.

JS said that it was important that footpaths and rights of way further afield were inspected and it would be helpful to get other people with in the community to help with this.

b. Report on any issues raised/ to raise with Highways Department

- i) Survey of Todstead residents regarding traffic calming at Todstead/Villa Lane: The following report was received from LH:
'Most of the residents here continue to ask me about what can be done about the volume of traffic now using villa lane as a rat run, with the bulk of the traffic speeding. We regularly have near misses with speeding cars and delivery vans, and it's beginning to get rather stressful for some of the older residents that need to walk onto the road to access cars and do maintenance to their verges outside their property. I have in the past written to Trevor Thorne to address this and will bring the letter I sent to him with me, to the meeting next week. I did buy two signs over 10 years ago to try and help slow the traffic, because of the number of small children we had here at Todstead. The traffic is now much worse. The road is in a terrible state, but I feel that if it's improved it will only encourage more vehicles and greater speed! I think the only solution would be a couple of speed bumps done with the repair on the road at the same time to save money. I don't think signage would help, as the ones that are here haven't done much. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Cllr Thorne on this matter and advise him that LH would be in contact to arrange a site visit. **Action: Clerk/LH**
- ii) The road under the bridge at Weldon before it joins the A697 had some trees/ hedges encroaching onto the road that needed cutting back for safety reasons. Clerk to report to Highways (Report from LH). **Action: Clerk**
- iii) Update on the works at Todstead. Response from Paul Jones Service Director - Local Services: 'I can confirm that traffic management has been in place to move traffic to the less vulnerable side of the road at Todstead whilst the B6341 has been closed to enable our Highways teams to undertake parapet repairs to Debdon Lake Bridge ... The lights were coordinated with our programme of routine monitoring activity at the Todstead site to mitigate disruption to road users. Traffic lights are required to permit the monthly monitoring of the Todstead site and equipment installed during the ground investigation works earlier in the year. Monitoring will continue until the actual engineering works to address the landslip take place, as this will ensure that the road is safe to use and that we have the greatest understanding of the failure mechanisms taking place. Preparations for the major engineering scheme to stabilise Todstead Landslip are ongoing, the design of the engineering solution is scheduled to be completed by mid-May and in parallel with this we are in dialogue with both Natural England and the Environment Agency to secure the necessary permits and consents. Additionally, liaison with adjacent landowners and statutory undertakers is also being progressed. Once the design is complete, the fine detail of the permitting requirements are agreed, service diversions and land take/access requirements confirmed, the works will be put out to tender with a view of commencing later this year as planned.' No further action was agreed at this time.

8. **Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund**. The final report regarding the grant for the defibrillator was still outstanding and would be completed once the defibrillator training had been completed – see item 12.

9. **Coquedale Cluster Meeting**

- a. Report from last meeting – The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated. Key issues included:
 - Borderlands Place Programme - Anne Lawson provided update on Borderlands Place Programme. There was to be a 10-year regeneration project to improve the lives of young people with Rothbury being one of the targeted areas.
 - Report from Glenn Sanderson, Leader of Northumberland County Council:
 - County Council budget had been produced, with no cuts being made to frontline services.
 - Staff had worked hard during the Covid Pandemic and Storm Arwen and were now involved with the Ukrainian refugee crises. County Council enquiry ongoing relating to Storm Arwen. There would be an improvement in preparations for any future emergencies.
 - A lot of time and energy being spent improving skills for non-academic young people. New windfarm technological centre to be based at Blyth. Whiskey distillery to open in Wooler; a new village at Alnwick Gardens; the Maltings at Berwick to be transformed, along with Berwick Barracks.
 - NCC to work with partners of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, with significant funding available to Northumberland. Devolution and working together in a bigger Combined Authority being considered, involving the seven Local Authorities of Durham, Sunderland, Gateshead, South/North Tyneside, Newcastle, and Northumberland. NCC to join only if this would be right for Northumberland.
 - Inner quality summit arranged with professionals who work in child poverty, food poverty and areas that will suffer with the impending cost of living crises, with action plan being pulled together.
 - Additional funding secured for country parks, which had been important during the Covid pandemic, along with additional funding for improvements to public W/C's and improved W/C signage for visitors.
 - £2.2m funding earmarked for U and C class roads; a large amount of funding agreed towards affordable housing to provide new accommodation, working with partners.
 - Climate change Action Plan very much a priority, with a £50K Community Fund for local communities to bid into for Climate Change action work, including tree planting.
 - A Platinum Jubilee Fund with £70K available to local communities to mark the event.

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

- Significant spending in Leisure Centre's planned, and new car parks to be built in Amble, Berwick, and Morpeth. Town centre parking charges currently nil.
 - New schools to be built in Seaton Valley, Amble and Berwick.
 - **£10m agreed to be spent on the Todstead road, which is to be repaired properly.**
 - **B.T. appeared to have put on hold their digital roll out, due to the need to fund an alternative emergency service which would operate when power was out.**
 - GS to find out if there was a Duty of Care for vulnerable people to have access to communications in their own homes during times of crises.
 - Cluster Group's future. Coquetdale Cluster considered useful. Agreed to invite Sue Bolam, Northumberland National Park Authority representative, and invite to meeting/request update on NNPA matters. Clerk to contact Alwinton and Harbottle Parish Council's to ask if they would consider joining the Cluster Group.
 - Roads/Traffic/Local Transport Plan. Resurfacing works carried out between Simonside and Tosson, however ditches had been dug out causing issues for vehicles, and which could be easily rectified by placing gravel and installing French drains. The road(s) had not been originally designed for the volume of traffic.
 - Planning. Widescale concern regarding the Rothbury CO-OP relocation to Townfoot, with major traffic concerns envisaged, particularly at school start and finish times.
 - Priorities from individual Parish Councils. Rothbury bike track opening to be held 23/24 April 2022. Traffic calming measures to be provided by County Council, and financed by Rothbury Parish Council.
- b. Items for next Cluster Meeting Agenda. Members were asked to consider and bring items for the October cluster meeting to the next meeting in September.
- 10. Cemetery & Joint Burial Committee Reports**
- a. Longframlington Cemetery. To enable the completion of the transfer of land ownership to Longframlington Parish Council a Transfer of Whole Registered Title had to be agreed. DO signed the document on behalf of BHPC, witnessed by VM. Longfram PC would need to make a payment of £1.00 to BHPC to make the transfer more secure. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Rothbury JBC. VM had been unable to attend the last meeting due to work commitments.
- 11. Police Update.** None
- 12. Communication with Residents.** Arrangements were well underway for the social event which was to take place over the Jubilee weekend 2nd to 5th June. Arrangements for loan of the marquee from the Simonside Country Fair (SCF) had been agreed. The SCF organisers were to arrange insurance cover and invoice BHPC. The Stephen Carey Fund had agreed to deliver the defibrillator training on Thursday 2nd June at 1.00 p.m. and would be in contact with SB regarding final arrangements. The marquee would then be used for socialising over the rest of the weekend. The events were to be publicised by What's App and possibly Facebook, poster on the Parish noticeboard and word of mouth.
- 13. Rothbury Woodland Creation Project.** Members discussed the proposed development by Northumberland Estates (working with Scottish Woodlands) for three woodland sites near Rothbury at Garleigh, the Lee and Morrelhirst. An extension until Monday 23rd May for the submission of BHPC comments had been obtained. There was unanimous opposition from members and lots of opposition from residents. There were serious concerns about:
- a. the loss of open spaces and landmarks;
 - b. the information provided being very sketchy on types of woodland to be planted with apparent lip service being given to deciduous and local species of woodland;
 - c. the impact on the environment and endangered species of flora and fauna;
 - d. the impact on residents, particularly on their wellbeing;
 - e. the Parish having done its fair share regarding tree planting and additional plantations were not welcomed.
- It was agreed that DO would draft the PCs response to be sent to BHPC members for comment prior to the final submission by 23rd May. **Action: DO/Clerk**
- 14. Lee Farm Woodland.** In the absence of MF this matter was not discussed.
- 15. BHPC's position on Donations.** At the last meeting this matter was agreed to be deferred until the September meeting.
- 16. Funding of BHPC's 25% contribution to VAS Children Playing Signs.** At the last meeting this matter was agreed to be deferred until the September meeting
- 17. Emergency Resilience Planning.** Longframlington PC had invited the NCC Emergency Resilience Planning team to its next meeting in June. Following this it would develop the first stages of its Emergency Plan. JW had attended Rothbury Emergency Planning meetings; the work in progress was very impressive. Due to shortness of time the recruitment of volunteers from B&H was not discussed.
- 18. Any Other Business.** None
- 19. Items for Next Meeting.** None that would not appear as Matters arising from the Minutes.
- 20. Date of and Venue for Next Meetings.** The following dates were agreed. All meetings to be held in Longframlington Memorial Hall:
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| Tuesday | 13th September 2022 | at 7.30 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 10 January 2023 | at 7.30 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 14th March 2023 | at 7.30 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 9th May 2023 | at 7.30 p.m. |

Meeting closed at 9.26 p.m.

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