

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Pumpkin Pie, Old URC Hall on Thursday 11 April 2019.

**Present:** Cllrs D Green, H Lindley and J Marshall.

The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

**127 Co-option of Parish Councillor** – Mr Trevor Jackson was co-opted on the Parish Council. The Clerk completed the relevant paperwork and Cllr Lindley welcomed him to the Council.

**128 Apologies for absence** – Cllrs S Allan, E Davidson and County Councillor Sanderson

**129 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Green – Matters Arising – Light in Eshott Village.

**130 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person)** – None

**131 The minutes of the meeting 20 March 2019** were signed as a true record.

**132 Matters Arising therefrom:**

- a) Notice Board – update – The Clerk has repaired the top lock on the public side of the noticeboard.
- b) Felton Bridge Meeting – parking issues – The Clerk emailed Felton PC and CC Sanderson stating that Thirston PC felt a consultation of residents was required before looking at imposing double yellow lines on the bridge. CC Sanderson responded to state “I have promised to carry out a traffic management plan for Felton when the work is complete so I suggest it might be better to wait until then? This will include the bridge and just into Thirston. But happy if you want to raise it with residents and we can discuss? It was agreed to wait until the traffic management plan is carried out. Cllr Lindley reported that the drop in session informing residents of the works on the railings was successful with residents realising that there will be some disruption but are fine with this as they are keen for the work on the railings to be undertaken.
- c) Speed strip request for West Thirston – Clerk has requested an update from NCC as to when this is going to be installed however no response as yet. Clerk
- d) Bus stop sign replacement of – Clerk has just this week asked NCC why Felton has had all their bus stop furniture updating and why has this not happened for Thirston, especially as it is on the same bus route. The contact at NCC is out of the office until after the Easter break – Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- e) Street light in Eshott Village – NCC has confirmed that the height of the street light will be lowered by 1m and a shade will be added. This work will take place in two parts over the next few weeks. They can also do part night lighting. Light would go off at 11pm-12am and back on at 6am.
- f) Street lights around the rockery – NCC are still trying to “locate” these lights as they are not on their system so cannot arrange to look at them until they have full details. The Clerk has provided the numbers of these lights but they do not follow the usual identifying numbers and this has confused NCC as well. Clerk
- g) Bottle Bank Area – NCC are looking into moving the no fly tipping sign but as yet have not confirmed if they will do this. It was raised that the brambles on the verge opposite the bins should be cut back to alleviate the issue of litter blowing into this area as it is hard to retrieve in the brambles. Clerk to request NCC cut these back. Clerk
- h) Wintrick Road Sign replacement – another request has been sent in for this sign to be reinstated – a copy have been sent to the Head of Department. Clerk
- i) A1 highways and footpath request update – the Clerk has contacted Felton PC Clerk to try to arrange to set up a meeting with A1 Highways – Clerk will pursue as no response from Felton. Clerk
- j) FOI requests – the FOI requests were responded to. The Clerk checked if NCC wanted a copy and for future reference can the Parish Council consult with NCC over any information relating to NCC that is being divulged through FOI, in case there are grounds for exemption or a need to redact text that isn't directly relevant to the enquiry.

**133 Report by County Councillor**

CC Sanderson confirmed that Thirston will now be on the same verge cutting system as

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Felton, which means less cuts per year. He believes most residents are aware Thirston grass cutting regime followed the previous practice by Alnwick and Castle Morpeth Councils. So he trusts that this revised system will bring some comfort to those who felt that there was somehow an unfairness in the system.

It was raised that Felton PC should liaise with Thirston PC if they are going to raise issues that will have a detrimental impact on Thirston PC. This is not the first instance recently of Felton PC instigating something that affects Thirston PC directly which Thirston PC has no knowledge of until after the event.

## 134 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Cemetery Meeting held on 21 March – Cllr Davidson to report back at next meeting.

Recreation Field meeting was held on 25 March. Cllr Marshall reported that it was a good meeting. Ongoing work for the safe operation of the play area is being undertaken and it was felt that the bark chippings seemed to be right at present so no more required. The rec field is wet in more places now and it was felt this may be a drainage issue with the existing drains being blocked again. Work is progressing on the potential new building as local organisations have responded to what they would use and floor plans including community space are being drawn up. There is still a decision to be made as to whether this will be a portacabin or a permanent structure – looking at the costs of this. Any building will need significant fundraising and the question is who will do this and who will be responsible for the new building and the field as a whole. The group is exploring the possibility of setting up a trust with Felton PC giving a long term lease for this. This would open up more grant opportunities.

## 135 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – The bridge on Footpath 4 is the one that has been repaired. Clerk brought a map to ascertain where the bridge requiring repair is as this work has been at crossed purposes. Clerk to check with Cllr Davidson as to which bridge he had been referring to. Also speak to the WI, as they have recently undertaken a walk along this route, to see if they had an issues. Clerk  
Clerk
- b) Landscaping – Contractor to undertake initial tidy up in the next 10 days.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – The consultant has provided her first report with recommendations of policies and also a list of actions for the working group to undertake, ie contacting local businesses. The working group is meeting up next week to progress this. Settlement boundaries are being discussed and it was felt Burgham may look to proposing one. Eshott residents wish to have one around Eshott. Also looking at green space that may need protecting and the green in Eshott and the trees up the side of The Peth have been identified.

## 135 Planning:

a. To report on any planning decisions: None

### b. Planning applications pending:

- 17/02923/VARYCO - Burgham Park Golf Club - Vary Cond 13 - remove holiday restriction – objections submitted – to be decided by the Local Area Council
- 18/03534/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - retro - retention of ground butt
- 18/03562/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - Form mound, widen paths, erect 16 shelters
- 18/03736/FUL - Felmoor Park, East of A1 - 24 lodges, 10 caravans, miniature golf – Site visit undertaken – no objections
- 19/00643/FUL - Woodland Burial Site, Bockenfield - Single Storey building for crematorium with parking – no objections, site visit undertaken.

### c. Planning Issues

New Beer Garden – Northumberland Arms – NCC has confirmed they will chase up the application for the beer garden. Clerk

## 136 Services

- Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – NCC has confirmed that a whole new cover is required and they have reported this for repair. Clerk

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- Pot Holes – Eshott to the A1 pot holes have been filled in.

**137 Requested Agenda Items:**

- Year end Accounts – The PC has income and expenditure of less than £25k so they meet the exemption criteria. It was agreed to approve exempt status and the relevant paperwork was signed. The accounts have been circulated for review before submitting to the internal auditor in case there are an issues.
- Donation for room use – Sick Children’s Trust – it as agreed to donate £80 to the Charity which is the charity that Pumpkin Pie as nominated, in lieu of payment for the use of the nursery for meetings.
- Felton and Thirston Fair presence – it was agreed that as there was nothing specific to display then the PC would not be having a table at the fair.

Clerk

**138 Correspondence:**

- Email from Mr McGovern asking to be included in consultation list for Neighbourhood Plan – it was agreed that there was no requirement to include this company in the consultation.
- Email from Director of eljay research re residents survey – Clerk to circulate the email for Councillors to read the Stocksfield survey. It was however felt that such a survey could probably be undertaken by the Parish Council at less cost if required.
- Letter re “fly the red ensign for Merchant Navy Day” – for information as Thirston does not have a flag pole to fly such a flag.
- Donation request from Northumberland Pride – it was agreed no donation to be made as this is not on the donation list.
- Letter from NCC re Event Recovery Costs – for information only as TPC does not hold events
- Email from resident raising concerns about overflying and the airfield not complying with data held on Sky Demon App which details approaches, where not to fly over and lists complaints. It was agreed to forward this information to NCC.
- Copy of emails from resident to CAA re safety concerns in relation to old aircraft being flown from airfield
- Copy of email from resident to NCC in relation to Felton and Thirston Youth Club being delisted as community asset

Clerk

Clerk

**Emails Forwarded:**

Email from Northumbria Police re engaging with community regarding possible Brexit impacts  
 NALC Newsletters  
 Northumberland and Newcastle Councillor survey – forwarded for completion by Councillors  
 CAN Invite to Spring Conference – 16 May, Breamish Hall, Powburn

**To Circulate:** None

**139 Finance**

- (a) Financial Summary was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £11,510.30
- (b) Payments - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB58	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses less NI (to 11 April 2019)	£101.08
IB59	HMRC for year end employers & employees National Insurance	£38.55
IB60	Ludman Planning Ltd for Neighbourhood Plan (grant received)	£2,225.00
0008	Sick Childrens Trust donation for use of nursery for meetings	£80.00

No response received from Felton PC re the query in relation to the War Memorial Invoice – defer until a response is received.

The Japanese Knotweed contract has now finished. It was agreed to monitor the situation before entering a new contract.

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(c) Receipts –

VAT claim has been submitted on line for £135.31 but not yet received.

### 140 Urgent Items:

- Litter Pick – there was an issue of the litter picker equipment not being delivered by NCC. The Clerk has contacted NCC and they have apologised for their mistake. Luckily Felton's equipment had not been collected so that was used however there were not enough gloves. Good turn out at both West Thirston (17) and Eshott (13) and thanks will be put in the next edition of The Bridge. Clerk
- The bus stop up by the recycle bins is in a filthy state. Internal cleaning is the responsibility of NCC so the Clerk will request the bus stops are cleaned. Clerk
- Road from Longhorsley to Burgham where it was resurfaced, all the grit has come off, it was not a good job to start with and the Clerk to raise with NCC and request this be looked into. Clerk

### 141 Items for next agenda:

Year end accounts approval.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm

Date of Next meeting: Thursday 23 May 2019 following Annual Parish Meeting