

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield on Thursday 15 December 2022.

**Present:** Cllrs S Allan, L Clarehugh, E Davison and D Green  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

**78 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Marshall

**79 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Clarehugh – Signage at Crematorium

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

**81 The minutes of the meeting 3 November 2022** were agreed and signed as a true record.

**82 Matters Arising therefrom:**

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

- a) Noticeboard at Eshott – Ordered, awaiting delivery to Cllr Green and then installation required.
- b) Paving slabs on steps down from The Peth (08/2022) – the works order has been raised for this work but gritting must take priority.
- c) Village tidy up – hedge cutting along pathways – this has been done.
- d) Path in West Thirston – repairs (08/2022) – Clerk to meet with NCC to discuss Clerk
- e) Path in West Thirston – Cyclists (08/2022) – Clerk to meet with NCC to discuss Clerk
- f) Dog Bin West Thirston – Clerk waiting on a response from NCC as to type of replacement and where it can be located.
- g) Signage for Crematorium – Highways has indicated signage in next years budget. CC Sanderson trying to get a timescale as if it will be at the end of the financial year NCC may be able to install signage in the meantime. A vicar was pulled up on the A1 by the police for driving too slowly as he was trying to locate the Crematorium.
- h) Road at Bywell Shooting Ground in need of repair (11/2022) Clerk
- i) Light issue in West and East Thirston – Light in West Thirston this is not working Clerk to chase Clerk up with NCC and at East Thirston light was permanently on and has now been repaired.

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

- a) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked (11/2019 & 04/2022)
- b) Street light request for East Thirston (12/2021) – surprisingly the Clerk received an email from NCC on the afternoon of Friday 2 December to state 3 lights were to be installed in East Thirston on Monday 6 December. There was mixed reaction to this from residents. Also the light that has been permanently on at East Thirston has now been fixed.
- c) Blocked drain and manhole cover at Wintrick (12/2021) – still outstanding Clerk to pursue with Clerk NCC.
- d) Road from A1 to Longhorsley has raised iron works and the edges of asphalt badly broken Clerk away both of which can cause damage to cars (01/2022)
- e) Pathway improvements at riverside (03/2022) – still outstanding Clerk to pursue with Clerk NCC.

**83 Report by County Councillor Sanderson –**

Locally, the 30 mph scheme is due to be installed after the holidays and although one or two residents weren't happy with the unexpected installation of 3 streetlights most have said they are pleased. I asked our officer to liaise with one of the residents about the light intensity. Shortly to begin also is the footpath extension from the bench to New Houses - this is being funded through my small schemes budget and has been requested for a number of years by local residents. We have struggled to keep every footpath non slippery over the past few days but it's been so cold that re-freezing has happened very quickly after salting. But we simply can't do every footpath everywhere although the Council do try. The Budget is on-going and I am hoping very much to avoid serious savings that will affect everyday services. We have begun our online consultation and we will be meeting Parish and Town Councils at the three meetings organised for January - this will be a two-way exchange of ideas and a chance to meet key officers face to face. Our new CEO is in place and starting in February and we are interviewing for a new top team of executive directors now that much of the work that started a year ago is settling in. I am pleased that things are much calmer now and notice is being given much more to our residents.

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I have submitted my views about the unsatisfactory proposal by the Boundary Commission to incorporate some of our area into Hexham and thus to split the parliamentary seat at the bridge. It probably won't make any difference but I felt it needed saying.

You will have noted recent publicity around the matters to do with the airfield.

May I wish you a very happy Christmas and peaceful 2023. Please remember I am always available to take up anything you would like me to so get in touch anytime.

## 84 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC –

Cemetery Joint Committee – Charges are being increased for those burials from outside the area.

Rob Murfin, NCC – An update was given on the Enforcement Notice for the Airfield and the next steps involved.

## 85 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way - None

b) Landscaping – Jubilee Tree and Memorial Tree – Jubilee tree has been planted and the plaque is in situ at the Memorial Tree.

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

1. Village gateways – two planters have been ordered and delivered to Eshott for installing.

The Clerk still needs confirmation from NCC about locations at West Thirston.

Clerk

2. Bus shelters – It was agreed this should be deferred to Spring when the weather is warmer but to think about ideas for the shelter at the top of the Peth. On first visit it looks like the growth up each side of the shelter to be cleared and then tubs could be added.

All

3. Picnic table – This has been purchased and has been delivered to Cllr Davison's for installation in the spring.

## 86 To report on any planning decisions:

**22/02998/PRUTPO** - Lonsdale House, Eshott - TPO Works - APPROVED

### 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 dwellinghouse

**22/04181/FUL** - Field House, Eshott - Single storey rear extension, front porch/portico, detached garage and summerhouse.

**22/04401/FUL** - Garden Cottage West Thirston - Alterations to existing bungalow to create additional accommodation within the existing roof void.

**22/04420/FUL** - Chase Lodge, Eshott - Single storey side utility extension linking onto existing rear extension.

**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 – it was noted that the beer garden is included on the plans but this does not yet have planning permission and this should be raised with NCC.

Clerk

### Planning Issues:

**Bockenfield Caravan Park** – blue lights illuminating entrance – The blue lights at Bockenfield park fall outside the remit of Enforcement as they're not 'development' in planning terms and not illuminating an advert. Artificial light nuisances are dealt with under the Environmental Protection Act, Enforcement will ask the Environmental Health team what stage the investigation is at and update the PC once in a position to do so

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**Eshott Airfield** – viewing area and café – Airfield are disputing the need for planning permission, citing Schedule 2, Part 8, Class F of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, which relates to '*development at an airport*'. Aside from the fact the site is not an '*airport*' and therefore this legislation is not applicable to them, the legislation also states development is not permitted where "*the alteration or reconstruction of a building other than an operational building, where its design or external appearance would be materially affected.*" and would therefore fail to meet the criteria of being Permitted Development.

**Eshott Airfield** - planning condition breaches – enforcement notice has been issued by NCC taking effect on 9 January unless the airfield appeals.

**Felmoor Park** – Tree removal and building works without planning – NCCs main concerns with the site are the internal changes to the site and addition of caravan pitches. Wyldecrest claim their Caravan Licence permits these works, which NCC has responded outlining that other permissions and consents can also be required, such as planning permission. NCC may have to instigate more formal action to move this along.

**Felmoor Park** – Entrance lighting and signage – NCC are in dispute with Wyldecrest Parks and it's currently with their Estates Director, the complaint includes the signage/'white lighting'. Wyldecrest claim the signage to be within the measurements of 'deemed consent' (therefore not requiring an application) however, it's quite clearly in excess of what can be displayed without consent. It is up to the Highways Officer if he considers it acceptable from a highway safety perspective.

**APP/P2935/W/22/3303503 - Burgham Park** – Appeal submitted to Planning Inspectorate – no date has been given for a decision on this appeal as yet.

## 87 Requested Agenda Items:

- Draft Budget – the budget was agreed and the Clerk to submit precept request to NCC. Clerk
- Boundary Commission Review – residents have submitted objections to the proposals as has County Councillor Sanderson. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for Anne-Marie Trevelyan who has stated she sees no issues with the changes. AMT was more interested in the name change as opposed to losing part of her area. Clerk to write to AMT stating how disappointed the PC are with her response. Clerk
- Warm Hub – Toasty Tuesdays – this has been going for two weeks now with low take up but this should build in time. It was agreed the Parish Council would give a donation if requested but would not continue being involved in meetings or volunteering to help at the venues.

## 88 Correspondence:

- NCC - Licensing Consultation on review of Gambling Policy Statement of Principles and Street Trading policy 2022 – no changes to be submitted
- NCC - Town Parish and Community Council Conference booking form – Cllr Marshall has offered to attend as has the Clerk. If Cllr Marshall does not wish to go Cllr Clarehugh will attend. Clerk
- NCC – Electoral Register request – The Clerk has received the updated register however the new format is not user friendly and has highlighted this with NCC. Instead of properties being grouped by postcode they are being grouped by street name, ie 6 houses in Bockenfield all separate, caravan parks all separate etc.
- NCC – Enforcement Strategy Consultation – this has been reviewed with no issues.
- Notification of external auditor appointment for the 2022-23 financial year for the 5 year period until 2026-27 - Mazars LLP, Newcastle – for information
- Great North Air Ambulance Donation Request – it was agreed to donate £50 as per the budget Clerk
- Email re removal of bin at East Thirston bridge – two complaints have been received about the removal of this bin as it was felt that this was well used and rubbish might accumulate here. To be monitored.
- Email re speed of traffic outside Pumpkin Pie - a resident is concerned about speeding traffic outside the nursery and that there may well be an accident and can signage not be put up at the entrances to the village to alert drivers to the nursery. The Parish Council has approached NCC in the past for signage and this was refused.
- Email re speeding measures scheme in East Thirston – reassurances were requested by a resident that no island or electronic signs would be part of this scheme as per the original plans.

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- Donation from Felton and Thirston Fair Committee – following a donation request towards the replacement picnic bench the Fair Committee kindly donated £300 and a letter of thanks has been sent.
- Castle Morpeth Works Programme January 2023 agenda item – the RAF were going to speak to Council about use of Eshott Airfield – this was removed from the agenda.
- Copies of emails in relation to MOD using Eshott Airfield 18 & 19 November – for information
- Copy of email in relation to Profits from Military fuel sales – for information
- Emails complaining about ongoing daily helicopter training at airfield – circulated to Councillors
- NALC News

## 89 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £15,236.15 TPC funds and £4,968.60 FCJC Funds totaling £20,204.75. 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:		
IB153	Payment to Lisa Hamlin 30 hours at £16.10 (£483.00) Reimbursement of wreath (30.00) Reimbursement of tubs for Eshott (335.97) 1 x Zoom Conferencing (£14.39) 1 x Home Working Allowance (£11.09)	£874.45
IB154	Complete weed control (JKW treatment)	£150.00
IB155	NBB Recycled Furniture (picnic bench)	£720.00
IB156	Noticeboard Company (Eshott noticeboard)	£2,266.80
IB157	John Hood Landscaping	£360.00
IB158	Great North Air Ambulance	£50.00

- (c) **Income** – £300 donation from Felton and Thirston Fair

## 90 Urgent Items –

Gritting of Bockenfield layby request – this has been undertaken and a request has been put into NCC for this to be included on the gritting route due to it being access to the crematorium and airfield which are both generating traffic.

Date for interviews for New Councillor – to be arrange for second week in January. Clerk to circulated dates to check availability.

Clerk

- ## 91 Items for next agenda –
- Co-option of New Councillor

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm  
Date of Next meeting: 2 February 2023