

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting on: 14th March 2023
Meeting at: Longframlington Memorial Hall
Meeting Time: 7.30 p.m.
Present: Cllrs: Steven Bray (SB), Mark Fenwick (MF), Lesley Hall (LH), Vincent Milburn (VM), David Owen (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS)
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Jamie Whicker (JW)
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such. (Proposed SB, Seconded LH, All in Favour)
3. **Matters arising out of Minutes.** To receive updates on matters not appearing elsewhere on the agenda including:
 - a. Rothbury Woodland Creation. There had been no further official response regarding this proposal. It was agreed to write to the developer to ask for an update regarding this proposal. **Action: Clerk**
 - b. Proposal for fundraising for renovations and cutting to hedging around playing field. Discussed under item 7 & 11.
 - c. Archiving of Parish Council Records. Clerk had gone through hard copy records and removed all unnecessary documents. NCC Archives would prefer to receive online records wherever possible. This work was in progress and expected to take some time. Agreed. **Action: Clerk**
4. **Finance**
 - a. Notification of receipts since the last meeting. None.
 - b. Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

Date	Description	Amount	
06/03/2023	Garth Rhodes reimbursement	WEL Medical Defib Electrode pads	71.94

- c. Bank Reconciliation to 13th March 2022. Approved.

Balance per bank statements at 13th March 2023	2502.65
Less unpresented cheques	
Uncredited Deposits -	0.00
Balance	2502.65
Balance per cash book	2502.65

- d. Donations: to consider any new donation requests.
 - i. Outdoor Shelter - Friends of Rothbury First School. *DO declared an interest in this matter*. The Friends were currently looking for funding to erect a yurt in school grounds which would make the forest school work accessible all year round and in all weathers. The yurt would also provide an additional valuable shared community resource. It was agreed to donate £100 for this venture, to come out of the 2023/34 budget as all the 2022/23 money allocated for funding had been distributed. The request met the conditions that funding be used for activity which supported the local community. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Planning** – There were currently no requests for consultation that had not already been commented on.

Reference	Address	Type	BHPC Comment
22/04078/FUL	Land South West Of Wardshill Farm House	Application Registered	See previous minutes for comments
22/01568/LBC	Cockshot Farmhouse	Application Registered	See previous minutes for comments

6. Highways & Footpaths

- a. Footpaths Report JS reported that footpaths around the Parish were gradually getting cleared after the damage from Storm Arwen. The stile on footpath adjacent Embleton Terrace needed attention. JS had already reported this but would chase it up. **Action: JS**
- b. Issues raised/ to raise with Highways Department.
 - i. Response from NCC Highways. There had been no further response from Highways on matters previously drawn to their attention since the last meeting.
 - ii. The major roadworks on the A6334 between Weldon Bridge and Todstead was ongoing. There would be long periods of road closures and traffic management for the next 12 months.
 - iii. Repairs to Weldon Bridge on A697 continued with traffic management in force.
 - iv. Condition of the roads within the Parish. Members were very concerned generally about the condition of the roads in the parish particularly between Embleton Terrace via Lee Ford up to Lee Siding; Pauperhaugh to Lee Siding and bridge over Forestburn gate where the roads were becoming almost impassable.
 - v. Junction at New Houses on B6344. Serious concerns about the junction at New Houses on B6344 when the B6344 is closed. When the road was closed the last time, drivers coming from Longframlington were turning onto the B6344

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without stopping, making it very dangerous for drivers coming from Todstead and Brinkburn. The white lines/stop signs on the road had worn away and needed to be repainted prior to the B6344 road closure at Todstead.

- vi. Road Closure of C106, Longframlington – Newton –on-the Moor. Members expressed their exasperation at the length of the current road closure, making it very difficult to travel to and from Alnwick, especially when alternative routes had issues i.e. traffic management at Weldon Bridge and difficulties driving in icy conditions from new Moor House to Alnwick.
- vii. Hedging growth into carriageway at underpass section of A697 at Weldon Bridge. There had been several reports concerning the overgrown hedging all around the underpass and particularly the dangerous overhang of branches onto the road and the chevron that had been knocked over, on the slip road from A697 onto the B6344 going north.
- viii. Formal Reporting Procedures It was agreed to adopt a formal quarterly highway reporting procedure (similar to the one used by Whitton & Tossion Council), which after consideration by the PC, would be forwarded to Highways for action. Also, to request site inspections with Highways officers, when deemed necessary, and to clarify the correct reporting procedures of highways issues.
It was agreed that items 6.iv - viii above be brought to the attention of Highways. **Action: Clerk**

7. Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund

- a. Report from WWFCF meeting held on 6th March 2023. SB reported that the Fund currently held £70,000 and that £200,000 had been allocated since its inception. At the last meeting there had been 6 applications, none of which were approved, all of which required further detail before the committee could decide. The Fund were very keen to support environmental projects. This was very encouraging for the proposed activity emanating through the BHPC Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee.
- b. BT Super-Fast Broadband Project Final Report. This was an outstanding report that had now been submitted.
- c. Defibrillator Project Final Report This was an outstanding report that has now been submitted.
- d. Proposals for new projects
 - i. Grant application for renovations and cutting to hedging around playing field. JW had undertaken some investigation into this. However, it was now proposed that hedge laying rather than cut back methods be used, as this would be more environmentally friendly. As this was to be a proposed Climate Change & Biodiversity project, it was agreed to discuss this matter under Item 11 below.

8. Coquetdale Cluster Meeting

- a. Items to discuss from the last Cluster Meeting. The next meeting was not until 4th April 2023
- b. Items for next Cluster Meeting Agenda
 - i. The condition of the roads in the area
 - ii. Proposal for new gym and swimming pool in Rothbury

9. Cemetery & Joint Burial Committee Reports

- a. Longframlington Cemetery. The Longframlington Parish Council (LPC) was awaiting the formalisation by Land Registry of the transfer of land to LPC. Once this had taken place the consecration of the extension would be arranged. The cemetery extension had been cut back and was to be planted as a wildflower meadow (until the land was used for burials, which will be some years into the future) as one of its Climate Change & Biodiversity projects.
- b. Rothbury JCB. VM reported that the traffic island in the cemetery had been reduced in size to enhance manoeuvrability for vehicles. Negotiations were ongoing regarding the diversion of the stream to allow for further burial space. Reports of recent grounds maintenance work were very encouraging.

10. **Police Update**. Request for attendance and/or report had been made but there was none received. Agreed to write to ask that Police attend or send report to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

11. Climate Change & Biodiversity (CC&B). (See Appendix 1)

- a. Receive and Discuss the notes of the Inaugural Climate Change & Biodiversity meeting. The report was well received and supported by members
- b. Discuss & Approve Environmental Policy. The Policy was approved without amendments
- c. Discuss & Approve Climate Change Action Plan. It was agreed that the Committee would produce its plan at its first meeting on 28th March for approval at the May PC meeting. It was recommended that the initial projects be the development of the flower meadow/ area and the laying of the playground hedging. It was thought that the laying would be best done in the Autumn. Funding applications to WWFCF at its June/September meetings could be made for these along with a request for start-up seed-funding fund. **Action: MF/JS/JW/Clerk**
- d. Discuss & Approve Terms of Reference (TORs). The TORs were approved without amendments
- e. Discuss & Approve Steering Committee. The first meeting of the committee to take place at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th March in the Longframlington Memorial Hall. The following members of the committee were confirmed and agreed:
Parish Council Members: Cllrs Mark Fenwick, Jackie Scarpa, Jamie Whicker. The PC committee members to agree who will be Chair of the Committee. PC Chair to act as stand-in if a committee member was unable to attend a meeting.
Members of the Parish: Des Barker, Roger Powell, Sue Whicker, Patricia Welsh. Further co-options to the committee from residents and interested parties were allowed.
- f. Discuss & Approve Role of Clerk in supporting the Committee. It was agreed that the Clerk provide support to the committee and that he be allocated two additional paid hours of work per month. Hours to be monitored by the Clerk and reviewed after 12 months or earlier if these became excessive.
- g. Discuss the budget arrangements for the Committee. The Committee to produce its budget at its first meeting and bring forward its proposals to the PC meeting in May. The PC would need to incorporate a CC&B budget in its annual budget set in January each year. This may include an amount from within the Parish Precept, but a significant element would be expected to be raised through fundraising and grant applications. **Action: MF/JS/JW/Clerk**

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- h. **Keep Britain Tidy Campaign (17th March – 2nd April) and Litter Picking.** The PC had been asked to take part in this year's Keep Britain Tidy Campaign: Great British Spring Clean. There was to be a further litter pick starting 25th March. It was agreed to record the parish's recent and forthcoming litter picking activity with The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign. **Action: Clerk**
- 12. Emergency Resilience Planning including updates on:**
- a. **Longframlington Emergency Action Planning.** All items for the emergency grab bag had now been acquired. The Longframlington Memorial Hall were successful with their bid to Northern Powergrid for the installation of photo voltaic panels and batteries which had now been installed and were able to be operated independent of the grid, whenever there was a power outage. They were investigating external connectivity so that a power generator could be connected during long periods without power. Members asked the Clerk to thank Longframlington Parish Council and its residents for allowing BHPC to be part of the LEAP and for all their efforts in bringing this to fruition.
- b. **Rothbury Emergency Action Planning.** No further information on this at this time.
- 13. Proposal for Hesleyhurst Parish to join the Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan (CNP).** The Council unanimously agreed that it wanted to join the Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan. Members requested further information on the CNP and an update on progress towards its development. They also required an indication of the amount of work/involvement required of the PC and its members in the preparation of the Plan. As a small parish our human resources were fairly stretched, as the Council already had a significant number of other commitments that took up members' time. **Action: Clerk**
- 14. Proposal for new Gym and Swimming Pool in Rothbury.** There was a proposal to build a gym and swimming pool in Rothbury to replace the provision at Thomlinson Middle. Cllr Bridgett had asked that individuals and organisations write to the Leader of the Council in support of this proposal. It was very disappointing that repairs to the pool at Thomlinson Middle School had not been undertaken and the pool left to deteriorate so that it was no longer viable. There appeared to be very little information on the new proposal. It was agreed to request that this matter be added to the Coquetdale Cluster Meeting to ascertain the views of other councils and further discussion on this item to be deferred until the next meeting. **Action: JS**
- 15. Request for Grit Bins leading up to Hope Farm.** JW had received a request for grit bins leading up to Hope farm, funded by the WWFCF. This was not something the WWFCF would fund. Residents should make a request to NCC for grit bins. The link for them to request a bin was: https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Grit_Bin **Action: Clerk/JW**
- 16. Request for Dog Bin at Weldon to be moved to track opposite cottages at Weldon Bridge.** The position of the site for the bin was on the recommendation of NCC. They would not empty bins that were not directly on the highway. Moving the bin to the suggested position could cause concern to other residents and local businesses. It was agreed not to support this request at this time. **Action: Clerk/JW**
- 17. King's Coronation.** Many councils across the country were planning to celebrate the event during the weekend of the coronation. There was little enthusiasm for this idea and members agreed no further action.
- 18. New ID requirements for electors to vote.** From May 2023 voters in England would need to show photo ID when they voted in person at elections in England. This would apply to all future local elections: referendums, recall petitions and Police and Crime Commissioner elections from May 2023 and all UK Parliamentary General Elections from October 2023. These new requirements would not affect electors who voted by post. Electors who currently did not have an accepted form of photo ID could apply for a Voter Authority Certificate free of charge. It was noted that the Council should provide relevant information as and when the next election in the Parish took place.
- 19. Any Other Business** None.
- 20. Items for Next Meeting**
- a. [Proposal for new Gym and Swimming Pool in Rothbury](#)
- b. [Annual Statement of Accounts & Internal Audit](#)
- c. [Annual Governance and Accountability Return](#)
- 21. Date of and Venue for**
- a. **Annual Parish Council Meeting.** Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Longframlington Memorial Hall
- b. **Next Parish Council Meeting.** Tuesday 9th May 2023 directly following the Parish Council Meeting

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