

Longhorsley Parish Council Annual Meeting 13th May, 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: N Douglas
 K Bell
 J Parker
 L McMillan
 T Potts

Clerk S Doyle

2 police representatives 7pm - 7.15pm
3 members of public were present
Paul Mooney - Chair of Village Hall Committee

C1/01	<u>Election of chairman</u>
	In the absence of the Vice Chair the Clerk asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Douglas proposed Cllr Boyle and this was seconded by Cllrs Parker and McMillan. With no other nominations being received, Cllr Boyle was duly elected to the position of Chairman.
CO1/2	<u>Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman</u>
	Cllr Boyle completed and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, which was made before the Clerk, Samantha Doyle.
CO1/3	<u>Election of Vice-Chairman</u>
	The Clerk asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr Douglas proposed Cllr Bell and this was seconded by Cllr Potts. With no other nominations being received, Cllr Bell was duly elected to the position of Vice-Chair.
CO1/4	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>
	Cllrs S Alcock, P Boyle and County Cllr Sanderson.
CO1/5	<u>Minutes</u>
	Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April, 2026 (which had been previously circulated) were approved, and signed.
CO1/6	<u>Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda</u>
	No interests were submitted. The Clerk reminded all councillors to review their declaration forms on the NCC website to ensure that they are up to date.

CO1/7		<u>Date of Next Meeting(s)</u>
		It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings would be:10th June and 8th July, 2026, with the Annual Parish Assembly on 20th May.
CO1/8		<u>County Matters</u>
		County Councillor Sanderson was not in attendance
CO1/9		<u>Update on behalf of Northumbria Police</u>
		Police reported that there has been an increase in rural crime, namely fuel, quads and agricultural equipment. The reports we receive and the verbal update this evening can not be more specific. The Police have asked for the name and contact details of the CCTV company that is used so that should they need access they can do so without delay directly to the supplier.
CO1/10		<u>Finance</u>
	10.1	<u>Authorisation of Payments</u>
		Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for May 2026, totalling £3,010.00.
	10.2	<u>Review of Standing Orders</u>
		Members reviewed and suggested a statement to be added with regards to Village Green. Members will adopt the standing orders at the June meeting.
	10.3	<u>Review of Financial Regulations</u>
		Members reviewed and endorsed the Financial Regulations as dated 13th May 2026.
	10.4	<u>Review of the Insurance Policy</u>
		Members considered the Insurance Policy Renewal document as provided by Hiscox and made alterations to the sums insured to align with the asset register values.
	10.5	<u>Bank Signatories</u>
		The Clerk confirmed the current signatories as Cllrs Alcock, Bell and Douglas.
CO1/11		<u>Routine Items for Review</u>
	11.1a)	<u>Review of Planning Decisions</u>
		Status: Decided Trees in a Conservation Area Application: T1 Acer pseudoplatanus - Reduce lower overhang to neighbouring property, raise over highway (Shown in photo) and thin canopy 10%; T2 Acer pseudoplatanus - Remove 1 lower limb (shown in photo) and thin canopy 10%

	<p>St Helens Vicarage Drummonds Close Longhorsley Northumberland NE65 8UU Ref. No: 26/01098/TREECA · Received: Thu 26 Mar 2026 · Validated: Thu 26 Mar 2026</p> <p>Status: Withdrawn Extension, alteration and subdivision of 2no. existing residential properties (house and attached bungalow/cottage) to create 3no. dwellings with associated parking/garaging facilities and external amenity areas Low Hedley Wood Longhorsley Morpeth Northumberland NE65 8RE Ref. No: 25/04217/FUL · Received: Mon 24 Nov 2025 · Validated: Fri 20 Mar 2026</p>
11.1b)	Review of Planning Applications
	<p>26/01402/AGRGDO Notification of Prior Approval for steel portal frame agricultural building for general storage, with profiled metal cladding and fibre cement roof incorporating roof lights Smallburn Farms Smallburn Drive Longhorsley Northumberland NE65 8QJ Received 21/4/26 and validated 21/4/26</p> <p>26/01484/FUL Part demolition of existing single storey music room and front covered porch and flat roof to garage. New entrance porch and extension to music room with new pitched roof to replace the flat roof over the existing garage. New Window replacements to entire house except existing conservatory. The Paddock West Road Longhorsley Northumberland NE65 8UY Received 27/4/26 and validated 5/5/26</p>
11.1c)	The following applications are to be kept on the Agenda in order to ensure that they are not forgotten
	None at this time.
11.2	Moor Management Committee
	i 29 Sheep and 4 ponies visible
	ii Inspection of boundary/perimeter fencing to be carried out
11.3	The Old Church Wood – Report by Cllr Alcock
	i Due to nesting season, work is likely to start on the path late summer
11.4	Play Areas
	i No written report was received for the meeting
11.5	Allotments
	i The draft tenancy amendments have been sent to the National Allotment Society, once

		approved this will be rolled out to allotment holders.
	ii	No further update to allotment 13.
	iii	No vacant allotment at the moment. The waiting list has been updated and has 3 people on it.
11.6		Village Maintenance Issues
	i	Trench is complete for CCTV cabling and goes to the bottom end of the Muga and behind Church View play area. Atom alarms to be contacted and purchase of 2 metal posts for cameras to be mounted on.
	ii	A response is awaited from Swarco with regards to a new battery for the North end of the village speed sign.
11.7		Website
		The new website is still being worked on and will populate with updates as and when they are added on.
11.8		Longhorsley Tree
		The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the works to the footpath at Old Church Wood, the new website address as there appears to be confusion due to the old website still being found on the internet. An update on how to report a crime online, fix my street and the cabling completion for the CCTV extension.
11.9		Donation Requests
		Members agreed a donation of £60 re: Citizens Advice Northumberland.
11.10		Village Hall Committee - Report by Mr P Mooney, Chair of Village Hall Committee
		Mr Mooney reported that a sub committee has been formed to deal with the rebuild of the Village Hall. Volunteers have come forward and bring with them a strong and varied skill set. At the time of the meeting there was no update with relation to the signing of the freehold. This is needed before any applications can be put forward to funders. The time frame for rebuilding has been estimated at 5 years plus. It has been agreed by the sub committee that it is not commercially viable to renovate the hall. The parish council voiced that there would be a loss of income during the rebuild stage. There are 2 options for the rebuild which are to keep the same size as the current hall or make it slightly smaller. Estimated rebuild costs are £450-500k. In the meantime it is important to remember that the hall as it is is fully insured and the insurers are aware of the survey reports highlighting the building issues.
		Parishioner slot 8.05pm
	i	Gary Richie, a member of PCC discussed the state of the piece of land used as a road around St Helen's Church. The potholes are vast and numerous. Other parishioners confirmed that walking down the land is increasingly dangerous, especially those with

		less mobility or using walking aids. The Parish Council can not resurface this strip of land legally as it is a piece of Village Green. The last time it was resurfaced was by some volunteers who topped it with Hogging. For the strip of land to become a road the process would involve the secretary of state and a piece of land is to be returned to the Parish in a swap. It was agreed that Cllr Douglas would take some photos of the holes and the clerk would forward them to County Cllr Sanderson to see what he could suggest.
	ii	Anne Thomas wanted to express her thanks for the recent Historical Society event, it was thoroughly enjoyable.
		End of Parishioner slot 8.30pm
CO1/12		<u>Items Carried Forward</u>
	12.1	Housing Developments in the Village to include:
		a) South Road Development
	i.	Legal work is ongoing regarding an easement between Northern Power grid and Ascent. The land is currently not registered along the northern edge and there are cables with no wayleaves or easements.
	12.2	Neighbourhood Plan
		A supplementary meeting was suggested for all Councillors to look and work on the Local plan.
	12.3	Village Green
	a.	NCC Scheme & Management
	i.	On-going
	b.	Common Land
		The Parish Council sought legal advice from Ward Hadaway who are specialists in village green legislation, meetings and discussions took place on whether matting is permitted on VG. Ward Hadaway produced a document outlining the legal requirements of matting which is available to view via the PC clerk. In short, the PC have not acted unlawfully in permitting matting on village green they own.
	12.4	Welcome Letters
		60 Church View
CO1/13		<u>Other Agenda Items</u>

	13.1	Parishioner Emails
	a.	Haining Gate - A solution is being sourced for a gate that pushes open either way and that is easy to open for those in mobility scooters, parents with prams/pushchairs and those who are not so able.
	13.2	Expansion of the Cemetery Entrance off the A697
		No update to report at this time.
	13.3	Flooding at Whitegates
		NCC are dealing with this and updates are awaited from them.
CO1/14		Other Items for Information
CO1/15		Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda)
	15.1	Members Agreed to order 2 Northumbrian flags (heavy duty) and 1 Union Jack (heavy duty)
	15.2	The bench for the WI is to be ordered and placed in Old Church Wood. Members agreed to order a bench to be placed on the East Road opposite Normandy Terrace. Clerk to liaise with Kevin Woods regarding installation and fixing.
	15.3	Members discussed the St Thomas Canterbury procession on 13th June from the church to the village green, the Village green is for the enjoyment of all parishioners so there are no objections from members.
		The meeting closed at 9.10pm