

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 4 August 2022.

**Present:** Cllrs S Allan, L Clarehugh, and D Green.  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin  
Two members of public

**33 Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs E Davison, T Jackson and J Marshall.

**34 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda –**  
Cllr Allan – **22/01244/FUL** - Land East Of Wintrick Farm - Erection of a single new dwelling  
Cllr Clarehugh - **22/02399/VARYCO** – Woodland Burial Site, Bockenfield

**35 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) –**

As a resident, I have the following questions which I would like to be put to the CAA via TPC.

1. The CAA have stated the Chipmunks operating at Eshott aerodrome are not required to be SSAC (Safety Standards Acknowledge and Consent) registered with the CAA. Can the CAA explain why that is the case, as these are ex-military single engine piston aircraft currently being used for paid recreational flights?
2. ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) SARPS (Standards and Recommended Practices) apply to all aerodromes with public access, whether certificated or not. Can the CAA confirm whether or not ICAO SARPS apply to Eshott aerodrome, If not, can they explain why not?
3. British Air Racing are advertising an air race at Eshott aerodrome in September. Their Race rules do not comply with CAA ORS (Official Record Series) 4 1496 minimum heights and other CAA regulations which they have been made aware of by submission of an online report. What do the CAA intend doing about this.
4. Machine meets are now taking place monthly at Eshott involving large crowds adjacent to the grass runways. The aerodrome remains open to aircraft and Chipmunks and other aircraft are seen to be flying low overhead, both singly and in formation. Can the CAA confirm these aircraft are flying within CAA regulations relating to Displays and flying over events and crowd gatherings?

It was agreed the Clerk would contact the CAA with these questions and copy in NCC and relay their response to the resident.

Clerk

**36 The minutes of the meeting 16 June 2022** were agreed as a true record.

**37 Matters Arising therefrom:**

- 1) Matters arising there from (excluding outstanding actions in relation to NCC)**
- a) Noticeboard at Eshott – no response from two local joiners re quotes so Clerk is having to try to find other joiners.
  - b) Tree Officer re checking of trees within the parish – both trees have been checked out by NCC and deemed safe.
  - c) Response from CAA to email sent by PC - no response from CAA to email sent on 23 May raising the concerns about the British Air Racing or the Helicopter flight training. Since raising issues of the runway lengths being too short to comply with the safety requirement of the British Air Racing Association, their safety requirements for runways have been changed and shortened by 100m which now will allow compliance to use Eshott Airfield. Clerk to request a response when contacting re questions raised in item 35.
  - d) Scam Awareness session from Age UK – no response from Felton PC as yet. It was agreed not to pursue this further.
  - e) Meeting between Felton and Thirston PCs – no response from Felton PC as yet. It was agreed to wait a while until the new Chairman has settled in.
  - f) Bottle Bank – since having the camera and signs installed there have been no issues of flytipping.

Clerk

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- g) Green Lane Access by vehicles – NCC reviewed the lane and their response was *The 'stopping up' i.e. closing of any public highway would require an Order to be made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in which the County Council must apply to the Department for Transport for planning permission. This is not currently carried out by Highways Improvements as it is a Planning matter, however please note that it is extremely unlikely to be given permission for the Authority to give up responsibility of the road as traffic restrictions on Green Lanes i.e. 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles' signs have historically proven to be completely ineffective as they are routinely ignored and unenforced by the Police due to the difficulty in doing so, therefore we would not use the Local Transport Plan budget to implement such measures.* Since receiving this response there has been an incident of a van driver trying to use this lane wrote his van off. He was advised by a local to claim from NCC as they are responsible for this lane.
- h) Biodiversity and Climate Change Committee representation – no response from Felton PC as yet. Clerk to contact the members of this group direct to propose a member of TPC join this group. Clerk
- i) Potholes on Wintrick Road – these have been logged for action by NCC.
- j) Potholes on road to Blackbrook Farm – these have been logged for action by NCC.
- k) Email from West Tritlington & Chevington PC – The Clerk wrote to T&C PC to ask if there is currently something they are doing that TPC could be involved with – no response yet.
- l) Paving slabs on steps down from The Peth – Reported to NCC.

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

- a) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked
- b) Street light request for East Thirston
- c) Replacement bus stop sign – This has now been replaced
- d) Blocked drain and manhole cover at Wintrick
- e) Kerb stone on the left hand bend into West Thirston off the A1 need resiting
- f) Road from A1 to Longhorsley has raised iron works and the edges of asphalt badly broken away both of which can cause damage to cars
- g) Pathway improvements at riverside
- h) Boundary Commission changes - concerns raised with NCC

## **38 Report by County Councillor Sanderson**

I have been kept fully in the loop re the airfield and I know that Rob has briefed you on the matters in hand. Please keep me copied into anything around this if you would.

Key issues at present are the Homes for Ukraine programme - 255 families are currently in Northumberland with some pressure on school places especially at Kevi and Alnwick meaning that transport for some is an issue.

There is another interesting dilemma around refugees wanting to work with adults or children here receiving CRB checks to allow them to do this given the Ukrainian government is so tied up with other things and are not giving this information.

The Council has submitted 2 Levelling Up bids for projects in Ashington and Hexham area. We are looking to increase the mileage rates for home care providers and we are seeing a greater demand for home care.

We begin our first pilot of Food Waste Collection soon as well as continuing the Glass Collection Pilot.

Without doubt the biggest test facing residents and the Council is the effect of inflation and increased costs. We are going to have to find some very major savings this coming budget unless we receive a large increase in Government grant which may mean savings of £12 million each year for the next three years.

We are working on budget plans now to hopefully identify where we can save without cutting services.

In the meantime please get in touch as usual if I can help with anything.

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

Meeting with Mr Murfin (NCC Planning), Cllr Allan and the Clerk

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NCC has been liaising with the CAA and have met on 4 occasions to talk through the planning issues in relation to the airfield. The CAA have been advising the airfield on how they reasonably balance local and commercial/operational concerns.

The 6-month window for the Airfield to appeal any conditions imposed on the 19/03659/VARYCO has passed.

If the Airfield does not cease activities which are not provided for under the extant planning permission(s), NCC may instigate formal enforcement action. The Airfield has the opportunity to submit an application to cover any breach they wish, but NCC can still consider formal enforcement action.

During negotiations the airfield expressed the intent to submit a planning application by a certain date. NCC indicated they were considering serving a Planning Contravention Notice if no application was forthcoming.

A Planning Contravention Notice was issued which gave the Airfield 21 days in which to respond. The notice covered breaches including alleged out of hours flying, weight limits, lack of Management Plan and building of structures.

The information provided by the Airfield did not fully address these issues.

The Airfield also submitted an application to increase the weight limit restrictions to exceed 5700kg however the application had technical omissions and the Airfield has subsequently withdrawn this application.

NCC considers that it has given the Airfield several chances to resolve planning issues at the site. It is assumed that formal Enforcement Notice will be issued by NCC shortly.

NCC confirm they have written to the MOD to confirm its position that the Airfield do not have permission for the routine use of heavier military or emergency aircraft. NB training of MOD or emergency service personnel is regarded as a routine rather than an "emergency situation". The CAA also agreed that this is what Condition 1 means after taking legal advice on the wording. The Airfield dispute this interpretation.

## 40 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Nothing to report
- b) Landscaping – jubilee tree location to be identified and a get together be arranged in September meeting. It was felt best to plant in October when the tree would require less watering. NCC to be approached to see if TPC can adopt verges for wilding and ask who did the work at the Fairmoor Roundabout as this looks really good and advice could be sought as the best way to do the work. All  
Clerk
- c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects – Clerk still to look into village gateways, waiting to hear from NCC as to what can/can't be done. Cllr Allan to take pictures of those he has seen recently that might be suitable. Clerk  
Cllr Allan

## CC Sanderson joined the Meeting to ask if there were any questions for him

Clarification was sought as to what the Food Waste Collection involved and CC Sanderson stated he would forward on information.

## As there were no other issues to raise CC Sanderson left the meeting

## 41 To report on any planning decisions:

**22/00708/FUL** – 7 Thirston Court West Moor Farm – Construction of garage and garden shed - APPROVED

**22/01662/TREECA** – Thirston House - tree works - APPROVED

**22/01708/FUL** - Charleswood House Eshott - Proposed side extension creating double garage, store room and rooms in roof space above; single storey flat roof orangery to rear of property; new flat roof porch to front of property; summerhouse in garden; solar panels to west roof elevation; Internal alterations - APPROVED

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## 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)

**22/00368/FUL** - 2 Eshott Heugh Farm Retrospective permission for a biomass boiler at the Zoo

**22/00875/LBC** – Bockenfield Manor - LBC request to use alternative material of block paving or concrete for edging of driveway. Timber edged board with retaining peg on driveway was suggested but quickly deteriorated

**22/01605/FUL** - Croft House West Thirston - Single storey front porch and bedroom over the garage extension.

**22/01244/FUL** - Land East Of Wintrick Farm - Proposal Erection of a single new dwelling including garage, hardstanding and landscaping (Self Build)

**22/02094/FUL** - West Moor House Cottage - New driveway to North West side of site

**22/02343/FUL** – 7 Thirston Court, West Moor – Resubmission of construction of garage and shed.

**22/0201/FELTPO** – The Limes, Eshott – tree works

**22/02399/VARYCO** – Woodland Burial Site, Bockenfield – changes to windows, increasing size off plant room, addition of porchway and reduction in height of chimney.

## Planning Issues:

Bockenfield Caravan Park – blue lights illuminating entrance – still outstanding

Eshott Airfield – viewing area and café and planning condition breaches – in hand see above  
Felmoor Park – Tree removal and building works without planning – this has been reported and NCC Tree Officer stated that if trees are being removed this is a police matter. The Clerk also reported the erection of a new sign, which is imminent, and it looks like it will be large, query as to whether it is the parks land they are putting the sign and asking if it should have planning permission.

Burgham Park – Appeal submitted to Planning Inspectorate – A the PI only considers new information in relation to an appeal it was agreed that as there is no further information to add then the PC will not make a formal submission on this appeal.

## 42 Requested Agenda Items:

Update on Doctors Surgery

Felton Surgery has recently merged with Widdrington Surgery, the current premises are not fit for purpose, however GP consultations are still taking place in Felton several times a week. Assura has been appointed as the developer for a new surgery however it is uncertain whether a contract between Assura and Felton Surgery has actually been signed. Previous plans for the surgery drawn up by Assura have been deemed unviable due to increased costs following the Covid-19 pandemic and so alternative plans are being investigated.

Felton Surgery is contracted with NHS Care Commissioning Group (CCG) to provide GP services in the area. It is therefore up to the CCG to look into the situation regarding the Section 106 agreement where funds were paid by Bellway to NCC to build a new surgery. There is an expiry date attached to this agreement and if the money is not spent then it can be used for affordable housing (not necessarily in the area). It is imperative that this agreement is extended and the money is not lost.

It was agreed to ask CC Sanderson if he is involved in this in any respect as despite it being led by Felton PC so under the remit of CC Thorne there are a number of residents in Thirston Parish who use this facility. Clerk to ascertain CC Sanderson stance on this.

Clerk

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### 43 Correspondence:

- Email from resident with list of village tidy up issues – ivy growing over steps at Peth; path between garage and farm narrowing; new path towards Thirston New Houses getting overgrown; footpath at top of Peth getting overgrown – these have all been reported to NCC. Clerk
- Email in relation to Accommodation for Ukrainian Refugees – A resident has forwarded an email from Country Land and Business Association (CLA) who have made links with an organisation called the Sunflower Sisters who are co-ordinating matches across the UK and have families who would like accommodation in our area. If anyone is able to offer accommodation please could they inform CLA and let them know the type of accommodation available and how many people it could comfortably accommodate. Clerk to put an item in the next bridge newsletter. Cllr Clarehugh also stated that there seemed to be a problem with accommodation as a family who were in a household are now in the caravan park. One member of the family is working there and concerned that if she is moved too far from the park she will have to give up her job as has no transport. Clerk
- Email from DePaul International – update following Ukraine donation - *Sunday marked a milestone we hoped we'd never reach – 150 days of war in Ukraine. So, we wanted to share a short update on the work your donations have made possible and let you know just how much we appreciate it. As a global homelessness charity, launching a full-scale humanitarian aid response was not something we'd ever done before, but thanks to the incredible generosity of people like you, we are now providing desperately needed food to more than 16,000 people a day. As one of the few charities operating within Ukraine itself, we have been incredibly fortunate to also receive funding from the UK Disasters Emergency Committee via our friends at CAFOD.*
- Email re defibrillator pads – safety alert re new pads – this has been investigated and the pads recently purchased are fine.
- Email from Blyth Bespoke Fabrication re noticeboards etc – for information, unfortunately only do galvanized steel notice boards.
- Felton CAN Bulletin – Update on work that has been undertaken in relation to nature and climate and looking to see what the PC are involved in and also financial support for specific projects. It was agreed to defer this to the September meeting when all Councillors in attendance. Defer
- Email request from student – The purpose of Parish Councils – questionnaire to be completed by the Clerk. Clerk
- Emails in relation to Eshott Airfield breaching flying hours on a number of occasions – This is being dealt with by NCC as per item 39 above.
- Emails in relation to 1 Chinook refuelling after hours – This is being dealt with by NCC as per item 39 above.
- Emails in relation to 3 Chinooks at Eshott Airfield – these 3 chinooks came in for refuelling and caused crop damage and also hovered over burial ground land whilst waiting to be able to come into airfield. This is being dealt with by NCC as per item 39 above.
- Emails in relation to Chipmunk flights low flying over Bockenfield – there have been a number of emails received in relation to the Chipmunks flying at less than 500 ft over Bockenfield and Burgham especially at the recent Machines meet event. There were a number of air flying displays which were overflying properties and concerns were raised that these air displays did not have CAA approval as per the CAP 403: Flying Displays and Special Events: Safety and Administrative Requirements and Guidance (Edition 18) and that they displays broke a number of the rules set out in CAP403. This will be covered in the email to CAA with the public questions. Clerk
- Email in relation to MODs written response on access to Airfield – The letter from MOD was sent to NCC and this has been dealt with as per item 39 above.
- Email – copy of – in relation to concerns of British Air Racing Event – See Item 37c above
- NALC News

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**44 Finance**

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £12,859.49 TPC funds and £4,968.60 FCJC Funds totaling £17,828.09. This 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:		
IB147	Payment to Lisa Hamlin 35 hours at £16.10 (£563.50) Reimbursement for plants in tubs (£25.00) Reimbursement for printer cartridges (£80.98) 2 x Zoom Conferencing (£28.78) 2 x Home Working Allowance (£22.18)	£720.44

(c) **Income** – None

(d) Confirmation from Auditors re receipt of exempt audit status

**45 Urgent Items**

Steep Path in West Thirston – bad state of repair and wooden post sticking up in middle of pathway – trip hazard

Clerk

Step Path in West Thirston – reports again of cyclists using this – danger to pedestrians

Clerk

**46 Items for next agenda –**

Dates for 2023 meetings

Felton CAN Bulletin

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33pm  
 Date of Next meeting: 22 September 2022