

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 16 September 2021.

Present: Cllrs S Allan, E Davidson, D Green, T Jackson and J Marshall
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin
One member of the public.

48 Apologies for Absence – County Councillor Sanderson

49 Cooption of Parish Councillor – Laura Clarehugh was coopted onto the Parish Council and relevant paperwork signed. Cllr Allan welcomed Laura to the Council.

50 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

51 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person)

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns about the low overflying of his property. He has had two conversations with the Operator of the Airfield who stated they are introducing a new circuit pattern which should improve the situation. However the Operator did state that no one has control over where the pilots fly. It was noted by the Parish Council that there is not a copy of this new circuit pattern included with the Draft Management Plan (DMP) lodged with NCC or freely available despite being referenced in the application. The resident went on to state that pilots are told to aim for the disused farm turning left not right however this is not in the DMP. It was also noted that there is no disused farm in the parish and aircraft owned and operated by the airfield as part of their flight training should be able to take responsibility for over flying

The resident would also prefer the flying hours to stay at 9am to 7pm.

52 The minutes of the meeting 5 August 2021 were agreed as a true record.

53 Matters Arising therefrom:

- Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint – still outstanding. Add to LTP and see if CC Sanderson can help in any way. Clerk
- Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked – still outstanding. See if CC Sanderson can help with this issue. Clerk
- Street light request for East Thirston – ongoing, Clerk is liaison with NCC to at least get the light that was removed reinstated. Clerk
- Replacement bus stop sign – NCC state this should have been in place by now, Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- Directional sign, left over the bridge – reported to NCC but no action as yet. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- Stage 2 Complaint to NCC – Clerk contacted Mrs Lally after the August meeting and again no response from NCC. Clerk to write again. Clerk
- Cutting back along footpaths and weedkilling - this has been undertaken by NCC.

54 Report by County Councillor Sanderson - none

55 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Recreation Field Committee – meeting is taking place tomorrow night. Cllr Marshall unable to attend and no other Councillor available to attend in his place.

Felton Cemetery Joint Committee – Meeting is next Thursday.

56 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – No issues to report
- b) Landscaping – No issues to report
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – The Plan has gone to referendum today. Hazel Lindley and the Clerk were present at the postal vote count this afternoon and will be attending the polling count after this meeting. There has been an issue with one business stating they had not been consulted on the plan. The Clerk can confirm the owner was consulted both as a business and a resident. A petition is going around businesses trying to put a

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stop to the plan. NCC stated that business do not actually have to be consulted on the plan but the Working Group felt it was important to consult with the businesses in the parish so all businesses had an opportunity to give feedback on the plan and all were issued with a questionnaire.

- d) Short term/medium term/long term projects – It was suggested that “welcome” signs be installed. Locations and Costs to be looked at. Perhaps a sign on the rockery stating “maintained by Thirston Parish Council”. Clerk and Cllr Allan to arrange a meeting with Skill Mill to see what works they could undertake within the parish.
- Clerk
Clerk/
Cllr Allan

57 To report on any planning decisions:

- 21/02455/FUL** - 7 Thirston Court West Moor Farm – Retrospective for shed – APPROVED
21/02587/FUL - The Dairy South High Moor Farm - Erection of oak frame sun room to front of property - APPROVED
21/01894/FELTPO - Land South Of Northumberland Arms The Peth - Fell two wild cherry trees (T1 and T2) and two Sycamore trees (T3 and T4) to ground level – APPROVED

Planning applications pending:

- 19/03659/VARYCO** – Eshott Airfield – make temporary hours of 7am to 11pm permanent – objections submitted. This application has been changed to propose the hours of 8am until 8pm. A Draft Management Plan has been submitted however key information is missing from this plan and the PC to request an extension to respond as until this information is available a fair judgement cannot be made. Clerk to write to NCC and Cllr Allan to speak to Rob Murfin. A response still has to be drawn up in relation to the revised hours as well as the Management Plan.
- Clerk
Cllr Allan
- 20/02026/COU** – Cottages at Burgham Park Golf Club – Change of use from holiday cottages to residential dwellings – No Objections
- All
- 20/02094/FUL** – Land NW of Burgham Park Golf Club - Remove green keepers compound and erection of 56 dwellings plus upgrade of access road, electric sub station, SUDs, domestic package treatment works and domestic gas storage
- 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
- 21/02354/FUL** - Chaswell House Burgham Park - Single and two storey extensions – no objections
- 21/02064/FUL** - Northumberland Country Zoo Animal house to include pool and on-show viewing area for the public – no objections
- 21/03184/FUL** - Bank House West Thirston - Removal of existing Lean-to conservatory and brickwork WC. New Rear extension – no objections
- 21/03098/FUL** - Ivy Cottage West Thirston - Erection of a timber single storey granny annex for ancillary use to the main dwelling – no objections
- 21/03090/FUL** - Northumberland Country Zoo - Extend cafe to add a large indoor soft play facility to create an all year round attraction – No objections.
- 21/03273/FELTPO** - Bennington Lodge Stable Drive - TPO application: T1-2 Lime and T3-9 Beech - Crown thin by 20%, crown reduce by 2.5 metres; T10 Lime - Crown raise by 2.5 metres on clients side of boundary

58 Requested Agenda Items:

- **Local Transport Plan Programme 2022-23** – All footpaths in Thirston – considerable wear and tear and complaints being received by residents who are using the footpaths more since Covid. It has already been reported to NCC that one resident fell on uneven surface of footpath alongside the farm. Also road between Burgham and Longhorsley as per item 53 above.
 - **Noticeboard at Eshott – replacement of** – it was agreed the Clerk to seek quotes. Cllr Green has also asked a local resident to provide a quote.
 - **Japanese Knotweed along Riverside** – The Clerk is trying to ascertain who would be responsible for this.
 - **West Thirston street light hit by car** – this was reported to NCC and they have made the lamppost safe, if still a bit wonky.
- Clerk
Clerk
Clerk

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- **Contribution to Felton for Recreation Field and Play Area** – Felton PC has agreed to purchase a toddler swing (£4,017 plus vat) and bark (£2273 plus vat) and Thirston due to contribute 28% of this per electoral historical electoral register numbers which amounts to £1,258.00. There will also be a full revamp of the play area which will cost in the region of £50k. Discussion took place about how Thirston PC should be contributing to the play area. Cllr Allan to meet with Chairman of Felton PC to discuss what is fair and equitable in terms of Thirston’s contributions. Clerk to arrange. Clerk
- **New noticeboard for Felton Cemetery** – a new noticeboard is required for the Cemetery. Felton PC has a quote of £619 and based on the percentage via electoral register numbers Thirston PC is required to contribute £140.60. As there is a considerable working balance in the Cemetery funds the PC felt this noticeboard should be purchased from these funds and not separately invoiced. Clerk to inform Felton Clerk. Clerk
- **What increased role can the Parish Council take** – Cllr Jackson feels that the framework for PCs is archaic and leave the PCs will little power. He believes the legislation should be looked at. Clerk to speak to Stephen Rickett at NALC to seek his opinion if this is thoughts of other PCs and whether a survey would be of any benefit. Clerk

59 Correspondence:

- NCC – Invitation to have Council Leader or a cabinet member attend PC meeting – it was suggested we request the Chairman of the Planning Committee attend the next meeting. Clerk
- NCC - Transport North East Stakeholder Forum invitation – for information, no one wished to join the Forum.
- NCC – Climate Emergency Declaration Questions requiring a response – It was agreed to go back to inform NCC of the Felton CAN group and how the PC support these volunteers. Clerk
- NCC – Free Tree Giveaway notification
- Highways England – notification of road closure and diversions – for information
- Highways England – phone call for extension of road closure and diversions – Clerk put this on facebook page to inform residents as only 48 hours notice given.
- Facebook Post re future road closures in relation to the A1 dualling – a request has been made to see if temporary speed cameras can be installed at Felton and Thirston entrances when main work start on A1 dualling. The Clerk contacted Felton PC who support this suggestion, CC Thorne who responded stating he does not think this will be possible, CC Sanderson said he would look into this. It was agreed that there is the potential for long term disruption and this needs to be addressed well in advance of works commencing.
- Highways England - Resurfacing of A1 between Newton on the Moor and West Cawledge – date change - 20 September to 25 October – Clerk added to website for information
- Email from Cllr Green informing the PC of speed strips in Eshott Village, also on The Peth – Clerk to find out results from NCC and what action, if any, is going to be taken. Clerk
- Phone call from resident in relation to footpaths in West Thirston – covered above in item 58 – LTP.
- Emails from NALC - circulated
- Clerks and Councils Direct

60 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £17,649.57.
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB123	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 24 hours at £15.50 (£372.00) 6 hours for Neighbourhood Plan at £15.50 (£93.00) Ink Cartridges (69.99) 1 x zoom (£14.39) 1 x home working allowance (£11.09)	£560.47

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(c) **Income** – NCC Precept Payment £4,575.00

61 Urgent Items – The question was raised as to when we are going to have face to face meetings. It was agreed to hold the next meeting virtually until we can see if the covid numbers stabilise or reduce and review at the October meeting whether a December meeting can take place face to face if a venue can be secured. Clerk

62 Items for next agenda – None

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm
Date of Next meeting: 28 October 2021