

# THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held at The Nursery, Old URC Hall on Thursday 20 March 2019, postponed from Thursday 7 March due to access issues to the hall.

**Present:** Cllrs S Allan, D Green, H Lindley and J Marshall.  
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

**112 Apologies for absence** – Cllr E Davidson and County Councillor Sanderson

**113 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Green – Matters Arising – Light in Eshott Village.

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

**115 The minutes of the meeting 24 January 2019** were signed as a true record. For clarification under item 99, the Parish Council understand the police were called by the Airfield operators.

**116 Matters Arising therefrom:**

- a) Notice Board – update. The height of the actual notice part of the notice board has been reduced. The posts have remained at the same height. There is an issue with the public side of the board not closing properly but the Clerk thinks it is just the metal lock mechanism that has been bent out of position so will try to lever it to the right position. Clerk
- b) Felton Bridge Meeting – parking issues – Felton PC has suggested that the introduction of double yellow lines on the West Side of the bridge might help reduce problem parking. Felton PC has stated it might be worthwhile contacting NCC on this issue jointly if Thirston PC are in agreement as this could be introduced when the works take place on the Bridge. A Traffic Regulation Order would have to go through the system and this takes a number of months. The Councillors felt this was premature before getting the views of the residents most affected, ie Bridgend and Riverside. Clerk to relay to Felton PC that Thirston PC think residents most directly affected should be consulted. Clerk
- c) Speed strip request for West Thirston – Clerk is still waiting for these to be installed and has chased NCC on this matter. Clerk
- d) Bus stop sign replacement of – Still not replaced. Clerk to request a timescale on this and will contact Neil Easton on NCC on this. Clerk
- e) Auditor situation for 2019/20 – Clerk has visited previous auditor with thank you gift.
- f) Street light in Eshott Village – ongoing. NCC has stated the light needs to remain in situ but have stated they could look at part night lighting turning the light off at 0:00 hours and back on at 06:00am. However due to the increased height of the light it shines into bedrooms so the midnight night light would still not resolve the issue. A baffle is required, the light to be switched off at 10.30pm and ideally the lamp stand lowered as the problem has only been created as the light has been moved and replaced with a taller post. Clerk
- g) Street lights around the rockery – No response from NCC as to what action is to be taken about these lights. Clerk to pursue. Clerk
- h) Street light at top of The Peth – NCC came out very quickly and fitted a baffle which has been well received by the resident affected by the light shining into their house. The Clerk thanked NCC for the quick response and good result.
- i) Litter Pick Arrangements – NCC has confirmed the litter pick dates are fine and that equipment will be delivered to Cllr Lindley’s address and picked up from Eshott Village Green as per previous years. It was agreed to put a flyer into The Bridge newsletter if it can be arranged. Cllr Marshall to check who is distributing the newsletter this month. Cllr Marshall/  
Clerk
- j) Bottle Bank Area – NCC has not responded to the request to move the “no fly tipping” sign closer to the bins. Clerk has put notices on the green bins stating these are not for household rubbish and flytippers could be prosecuted. There has been another prosecution for flytipping in this area. That is now a total of three Felton residents who have had action taken against them. Clerk
- k) Wintrick Road Sign replacement – This is still to be replaced. The sign is still there so there is no issue with getting a new sign made. Clerk to pursue with NCC. Clerk

**117 Report by County Councillor**

CC Sanderson gave his apologies but did ask if the PC would like him to arrange a meeting

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with NCC re the Airfield as a follow up from the December meeting. CC Sanderson stated that the bridge works have been slightly delayed.

## 118 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Cemetery Meeting to be held on 21 March. Recreation Field meeting to be held on 25 March.

## 119 Potential Projects

- a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – outstanding issues raised with NCC re bridge concerns on FP4.
- b) Landscaping – Nothing to report. Clerk to contact the contractor to ask when he will do the first tidy up of the season, preferably before Easter. Clerk
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – The first installment of the grant has been approved and Planning Consultant is working on her report for a meeting in mid-March to decide which areas to take forward into the Plan. She is also aware that Eshott Residents have stated they would like to establish a settlement boundary for Eshott and it will be discussed as to potential other larger areas in the parish for settlement boundaries. A meeting has been arranged with the consultant for 29 March.

## 120 Planning:

### a. To report on any planning decisions:

- 18/04172/TREECA - 5 Bridgend, West Thirston - Tree pruning, tidying up, no felling – APPROVED
- 18/04386/LBC - Kirkhill, West Thirston - Replace sash windows - APPROVED
- 19/00131/FELTPO - Angus Lodge, Eshott - Thin and 3m crown reduction to two lime trees - APPROVED

### b. Planning applications pending:

- 17/02923/VARYCO - Burgham Park Golf Club - Vary Cond 13 - remove holiday restriction – objections submitted – to be decided by the Local Area Council
- 18/03534/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - retro - retention of ground butt
- 18/03562/FUL - Bywell Shooting Range - Form mound, widen paths, erect 16 shelters
- 18/03736/FUL - Felmoor Park, East of A1 - 24 lodges, 10 caravans, miniature golf – Site visit undertaken – no objections
- 19/00173/PREAPP – pre-app to build two storey house and garage, Foxhimmels – there is location map and photos on line.

### c. Planning Issues

- Canine Centre acoustic barrier update – Following the response from NCC stating the condition had been discharged the PC wrote again to NCC which triggered a Stage 1 Complaint. This has been investigated and NCC state *it is clear that the condition should not have been discharged as it has prevented NCC from taking action and the wording of discharge of condition applications are currently being reviewed to prevent this from happening in future.* This was the response received when the PC escalated the issue. If the PC is dissatisfied with this response the complaint can go to Stage 2. It was agreed that there was no point in progressing this further as no action would be taken by NCC re the barrier.
- Update on trees behind Northumberland Arms – NCC has responded stating that the condition for the replanting of trees has been discharged however the consent is subject to the condition that two replacement trees are planted and the applicant has until 14 June 2020 to do this. Clerk to make a note of this date. Clerk
- New Beer Garden – Northumberland Arms – No retrospective planning application has been submitted to date. Clerk to pursue with NCC. Clerk
- An Eshott resident has raised concerns about the number of tree applications being submitted for Eshott. They are looking for reassurance that works are necessary and executed in line with the approval. They are mindful that there is a requirement for legitimate tree maintenance but need to ensure that submitted plans are for requirement maintenance.

## 121 Services

- Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – still outstanding, Clerk to pursue with NCC especially as litter pick is coming up and it could be a health and safety issue for anyone Clerk

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litter picking along this area.

- Pot Holes – West Thirston on the bend still need to be done. *[These were repaired the day after the meeting]*. Glenshotton has been done, Eshott to the A1 the hole by the gate is still there.

Clerk

## 122 Requested Agenda Items:

- Welcome Booklet – The Clerk has made an amendment to the Welcome Booklet in relation to Thirston PC meeting venue and returned to Felton PC. Felton PC has asked if Thirston Parish Council wish for Thirston residents to receive a copy of the booklet and if so Felton PC will charge for printing. Previous versions of the booklet have been provided to Thirston Parish residents and no charge was made to the PC as this was printed by The Bridge Team as a service to the communities and delivered with the Bridge Newsletter. Waiting on clarification on the change in situation from Felton PC.
- Felton Bridge update – NCC has confirmed there is a delay in the start time for works on the bridge. Classes occurring in achieving heritage requirements and managing the Council's liability during the contract have slowed the procurement process.

Clerk

## 123 Correspondence:

- NCC – Highways Services in Winter Leaflets
- HealthWatch Northumberland – Annual Survey Poster – put in the noticeboard.
- Northumberland & Newcastle Society: Call to Action re Areas identified for wind turbine development in Local Plan – a number of emails have been received along with advice on how to respond to the Local Plan's proposals for wind turbine sites. A response has been sent in line with the N&NS recommendation.
- Email from resident in relation to The Plot/Recreation Lane – this is in relation to the building of the 3 bedroom bungalow on the old Youth Club site.
- Email from Mr Buck (16.02.19) re Clerks error in posting of facebook link instead PC Minutes on website. The Clerk rectified the mistake and apologized to Mr Buck which was accepted.
- Email from Eshott Airfield (18.02.19) re Clerks error in posting of facebook link instead of Minutes on website. The Clerk responded stating it was done in error and that an apology has been sent to Mr Buck. It was also made clear, at the Airfield's request, that Councillors were aware of the Clerk's interest in her personal capacity as a neighbour of the airfield. That is the nature of local issues in a small parish but does not impact on their approach.
- Email from Swarland Resident in relation to Eshott Airfield & Bywell Shooting Ground – complaint received in relation to the overflying from Eshott Airfield and incessant gunshots from the shooting ground. The resident feels there has been no peace and quiet or privacy for a long time now. The resident has put forward a formal complaint to NCC and raised the concerns about lack of consultation with residents of Swarland and the surrounding affected areas when planning consent given.
- Email from Swarland Resident in relation to Eshott Airfield – This resident has once again put a complaint into NCC and had to chase up a response in relation to noise and lack of consultation on the change of planning approval. He forwarded the response to Thirston PC with the comment that it was the expected polite, professional and predictably non-committal response.
- Email confirmation from Northumberland Estates that the appeal for the housing development has been submitted to Planning Inspectorate – for information at this point as no information as come from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of this appeal as yet.
- Emails of evidence of use of footpaths across A1 and support for footpath group proposals. Clerk to liaise with Felton PC Clerk and email groups within the village to try to get more evidence on usage. Also arrange a meeting with A1 Highways to discuss the matter and ascertain what options are available.

Clerk

Clerk

**Emails Forwarded:** NALC Newsletters

**To Circulate:** Clerks and Councils Direct

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## 124 Finance

- (a) Financial Summary was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £14,028.29. However a cheque for £270.00 issued in November has not been cashed. The Clerk has tried to email the company but the email bounced back. *[The cheque has been presented since the meeting].*
- (b) Payments - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB54	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses (24/01/19-07/03/19)	£338.36
	L Hamlin Neighbourhood Plan (Oct 2017 – Feb 2019)	£390.07
	L Hamlin Salary to end of March	£153.78
IB55	John Hood Landscaping for Rockery	£280.00
IB56	Felton Parish Council Recreation Field Recharges	
	Annual Charges	£1048.28
	Play bark charges	£322.00
	FPC – War Memorial Recharges	£225.60
IB57	Mr D Green for chairs and table	£60.00

It was agreed to defer the War Memorial Recharges as these charges have previously been covered by the annual Cemetery contribution. There is no reference in the Cemetery Meetings of this changing and no budget has been put in place for this expenditure. Clerk to contact Felton PC Clerk informing her of this.

Clerk

- (c) Receipts –  
 Groundworks Neighbourhood Plan Grant £2,250.00  
 Northumberland County Council Cemetery Double Charge £75.00 (not included in financial summary)
- VAT claim has been submitted on line for £135.31 but not yet received.

## 125 Urgent Items:

- 9 FOI requests from Eshott Airfield and associated Companies at the Airfield. Advice has been sought from NALC and ICO. No commentary is required as requested by Mr Pike, no briefing notes (if they exist) need to be given. In relation to emails of complaints due to data protection these should not be forwarded however the Clerk can provide the spreadsheet with date, complaint and area from complaint but no names and also a list of emails but not the actual emails if it can identify an individual. A response will be sent by the deadline of 30 March.
- Letter of complaint against TPC from Eshott Airfield – A response letter has been sent to the airfield operators.
- Felton and Thirston Fair booking form – Cllrs need to think about what we could do – possibly what the PC does and who the PC are.

Clerk

All

## 126 Items for next agenda:

- Approval of Year End Accounts
- Donation for room use

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm  
 Date of Next meeting: Thursday 11 April 2019