

Longhirst Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in Longhirst Village Hall, on Thursday, 8th January 2026

Present	Cllr Glen Fahy (Chair)	Cllr Andrew Robson (Vice Chair)	Cllr Bill Climson
	Cllr David Jordon	Cllr Janet Quinn	
			Barry Flux (Clerk)
In Attendance	Seven members of the public		

Public questions / speaking

Bus Stop / Village Entrance Maintenance

A resident asked for clarification regarding maintenance and improvement of the area near the bus stop, emphasising that the request was for enhancement rather than basic weeding. The Chair confirmed that:

- The Parish Council intends to consult the Village Hall gardener in the spring for appropriate, maintainable improvements.
- There is no fixed limit on improvements; proposals will be brought back to Council for approval once options are identified.

Parking and Road Safety

Concerns were raised regarding unsafe parking near junctions, making it difficult for residents to exit drives safely. The Chair confirmed that road safety and speeding would be addressed later in the agenda.

Churchyard Maintenance Grant

Questions were raised regarding the annual £700 contribution for churchyard maintenance. Discussion clarified that:

- £700 has been agreed as the annual contribution.
- Any request above this amount would require invoices for justification.
- Concerns had previously been raised due to maintenance not appearing to have been completed despite payment.
- Options discussed included employing contractors directly for maintenance.
- The Chair confirmed that the £700 payment would be released.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE – Cllr Ed Dungait

Cllr Dungait could not attend the meeting so his County Councillor update was delivered verbally by the chair, much of which outlined later discussion on road safety.

Signed

Date:

Agenda Item
<p>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Richard Tordoff and Cllr Julie Murray</p>
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Jordon declared an interest in item 5 owing to a contract he holds with Longhirst Parish Council</p>
<p>3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS The minutes from the meeting of 6th November 2025 were approved as a true record.</p>
<p>4. CLERK'S REPORT The Clerk presented the full financial report (REF: AC007) for 1 November – 31 December 2025. Balances as of 31 December 2025 were reported as:</p> <p>Community Account: £7,511.16</p> <p>Business Instant Account: £14,995.73</p> <p>Payments and financial updates were noted and approved.</p>
<p>5. BUDGET & PRECEPT The Clerk presented the proposed budget for 2026/27, prepared on the basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figures broadly reflected the previous year. • Staffing costs were updated to current levels. • Interest income was adjusted to reflect increased returns. • A contingency of £10,000 was noted. <p>The precept was proposed to remain at £8,000, unchanged from previous years. Resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Budget for 2026/27 be approved. • That the Parish Council set a precept of £8,000.
<p>6. PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge of Conditions 5 (Contamination), 8 (Gas Emissions) and 9 (Acoustics Scheme) on approved application 23/02290/F <p>Land South of 4 Station Cottages Station Cottages Longhirst Northumberland</p> <p>Ref. No: 25/04583/DISCON Received: Thu 18 Dec 2025 Validated: Fri 19 Dec 2025 Status: Registered</p> <p>Variation of conditions 2 (Materials) and 3 (Approved Plans) on approved application 23/02290/FUL following a design review. Internal changes are in order to utilise space better working with existing openings and structure</p> <p>Land South Of 4 Station Cottages Station Cottages Longhirst Northumberland</p> <p>Ref. No: 25/04585/VARYCO Received: Thu 18 Dec 2025 Validated: Fri 19 Dec 2025 Status: Registered</p>

Signed

Date:

The two above applications were discussed together as they related to the same property.

Resolved: That the Parish Council submit comments maintaining its previous objections and supporting the Building Control position.

- Listed Building Consent to create a uniform roof height to the rear offshoot extension to afford useable ceiling height to accommodate a kitchen and shower room

19 Longhirst Village Longhirst Northumberland NE61 3LT

Ref. No: 25/04466/LBC | Received: Thu 11 Dec 2025 | Validated: Thu 11 Dec 2025 | Status: Registered

This application had been considered previously under delegated authority due to deadlines. The Parish Council had supported the Planning Authority's refusal.

- Proposed conversion of existing agricultural building to create 1no. residential dwelling (Use Class C3), erection of a detached double garage, and the provision of parking, landscaping and associated development.

Land At North Of Middle Moor Farm Middle Moor Farm Drive Longhirst Northumberland

Application No. 25/04581/FUL

Resolved: That the Parish Council support this application.

7. GENERAL ITEMS

Noticeboards

Ongoing maintenance and placement of village noticeboards was briefly discussed; no actions requiring immediate attention were identified.

Police

Correspondence from police suggested there are no manoeuvres or training etc. for which blue light speeding police cars should be travelling through the village / parish for.

The parish council had requested that officers attend a future meeting.

Parish Councils Conference

An invitation to the conference was noted. It was noted that the conference clashed with next Parish Council meeting.

Signed

Date:

Road Safety / Speeding Update

The Chair provided a detailed update on meetings with the County Councillor and Highways officers. Key points included:

- Highways officers visited the village and observed significant speeding issues firsthand.
- Multiple potential traffic-calming measures were discussed, including chicanes, raised tables, and junction treatments.
- Highways agreed to commission an engineering reassessment of the village.

The Chair reported that:

A contribution of £5,000 from the Parish Council had been offered in principle, to be matched by £5,000 from the County Councillor's budget.

- Any Parish Council contribution must fund physical traffic-calming measures, not signage or road markings alone.

Resolved: That the Parish Council supports the principle of contributing up to £5,000, subject to receipt of the Highways engineers' report and a further formal decision.

TSS Garage, Whorral Bank (Outside Parish)

Parking issues on council-owned land caused by garage visitors were discussed. Double yellow lines had been installed, displacing parking to unsafe areas. The council agreed to correspond with the relevant authorities to raise concerns about pedestrian safety and verge damage.

Christmas Lights

The council supported plans to explore a Christmas lights project. Village Hall will coordinate arrangements and submit a plan and invoice for approval. Funding may be supplemented by community fundraising. Placement of lights will depend on electric points and safety considerations.

Article for Longhirst Leader

Council agreed to draft an update on budget, precepts, and current village projects for publication in the next edition of the Longhirst Leader.

8. AOB

A request was received for a bus shelter and bench for elderly residents along the road to Pegswood. The council agreed that a bench could potentially be installed, taking care not to obstruct private properties. A bus shelter may require planning permission and consultation with Arriva and Northumberland County Council. Costs and feasibility will be investigated via NCC and reported at the next meeting.

Pavement and kerbstone improvements were discussed in relation to traffic safety. Funding is limited, and physical works may require engineer approval.

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Date:

Damaged traffic bollards were noted; ownership and insurance claims will be investigated.

9. ITEMS FOR THE MARCH MEETING

- Update on traffic calming measures and engineer report.
- Feasibility and cost of bus shelter on road to Pegswood.
- Christmas lights plan and budget confirmation.
- Any updates regarding TSS Garage parking and verge repairs

It was agreed to message the clerk with any items for the next meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 5th March 2026, starting at 7:00 pm at Longhirst Colliery Hall.

DRAFT

Signed

Date: