

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 29 October 2020.

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

169 Apologies for absence – Cllr E Davidson, County Councillor G Sanderson

170 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

171 Public Questions (max 5 mins per person) – None

172 The minutes of the meeting 10 September 2020 were agreed as a true record and were signed at a later date due to Covid-19.

173 Matters Arising therefrom:

- a) Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint – No further feedback from Mr King despite a request for an update. Clerk
- b) Steep Bank – slippery surface – this has been added to LTP.
- c) Repairs to drain close to Glenshotton – This has now been repaired.
- d) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked – Mr King as confirmed this is on the planned drainage works programme and will try to ascertain a date. Clerk
- e) Street lights outside Pumpkin Pie Nursery – these are now working again.
- f) Japanese Knotweed – Clerk has received a quote from Complete Weed Control for 5 years monitoring and treatment at £125 per year for 5 years. The Clerk has also forwarded the quote to the Northumberland Arms for their side of the bridge. NCC has been unable to quote due to treatment being beside a water course. It was agreed to proceed with Complete Weed Control. Clerk
- g) Pot holes by Birnie Farm, Wintrick Road and Blackbrook Farm Road – NCC are behind in the works schedule but they are on the list. The Clerk has also added the large hole at the top of The Helm. The ones by Thirston Mill have been dealt with due to the road resurfacing works. Clerk
- h) Leak at riverside – Clerk still to investigate. Clerk
- i) Meeting between Councils to discuss parking proposals – Clerk has contacted Felton PC Clerk for proposed dates – no response as yet. Clerk
- j) Parking/traffic issues at Pumpkin Pie – the Clerk contacted the residents who had raised concerns to see if the situation had improved before contacting NCC. No response to date. Cllrs felt the situation had improved but this maybe down to the resurfacing works so will continue to monitor. Clerk
- k) Remembrance Day Service Arrangements – These have now been finalised and there will be no public gathering at the War Memorial this year. Wreaths to be laid Friday onwards up to 11am on the Sunday. Church bells will ring at start and end of silence and will also ring out 40 times for the 40 fallen on the memorial. There as only been one person who was not happy with these arrangements as far as the Clerk is aware and felt there should still be socially distancing congregation at the War Memorial however as NCC are now providing support for road closures this year then this could not happen anyway due to Health and Safety Issues.

174 Report by County Councillor Sanderson

May I thank you again for the kind messages following my being elected Leader. You will be glad to know that this is keeping me fully occupied but so far things are going along fairly smoothly despite everything - so far.....

I have just done another call with Cabinet Office and Public Health officials who are warning that Tier 3 is heading towards us in the next few weeks. The fact that we joined in cooperation with our neighbouring councils has brought benefits in a number of ways including the reduction in cases that we have seen. However, case numbers are still high and the fear by Public Health officials is that this is beginning to put a strain on our local NHS.

I will continue to argue that we must stay in Tier 2 as long as we stay at current levels.

Covid has caused us serious issues across the County impacting upon the most vulnerable both directly and indirectly as well as upon all of us, our families and businesses.

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As a County Council we have continued to deliver the services and thanks to our staff for that but it has had a serious effect on finances so this year's budget will be tough.

I know that our staff were really pleased to have had a lot of positive comments about the resurfacing work and we will be back again in a few weeks to put in the signage and build outs.

Please keep in touch and let me know if I can help with anything

175 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Cemetery Committee Meeting – Covered in 173(k) above.

Recreation Field Meeting – no meeting has taken place but the play area is now open.

176 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Nothing to report

b) Landscaping – It was agreed that Cllr Lindley purchase a gift for the resident who has been watering the planters on the bridge.

c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – All consultation letters and emails have been sent out. Deadline for comments is 16 November. There have been a number of residents responded to state they are happy with the plan and thanks to the Working Group for all their efforts.

177 To report on any planning decisions:

20/00764/FUL - Pethfoot House, West Thirston - Repairs, maintenance, refurbishment, alteration and minor extension works – GRANTED

Planning applications pending:

19/03659/VARYCO – Eshott Airfield – make temporary hours of 7am to 11pm permanent – objections submitted.

20/01373/LBC - The Old Manse, West Thirston - Listed Building Consent to replace lean-to with single storey extension, plywood door and window with french doors and north elevation windows with like style wood framed double glazed 12 pain sash windows – No Objections

20/01327/FUL – Building NW of Blackbrook Farm - Conversion of redundant agricultural building to provide a single dwelling unit – No objections

20/01580/FUL - Thirston Court - Retrospective : 2 no. new dwellings (re 18/01327/AGTRES), alterations to site layout to incorporate changes to parking, access, bin, external storage, realignment of boundaries including change of use of Agricultural Land to Garden, Orchards ancillary to residential use and discharge of conditions relating to landscaping and contamination remediation. Amendment submitted – No Objections

20/02026/COU – Cottages at Burgham Park Golf Club – Change of use from holiday cottages to residential dwellings

20/02093/FUL – Burgham Park Golf Club - Replace greenkeepers shed, create six-hole golf course, re-locate driving range, create landscape bund, erect driving range shelter, extension and alteration of clubhouse and new car park layout

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

Concerns were raised that works have started at the golf course with trees being removed. The Clerk believes as there are no TPOs on these trees and they are not in a conservation area then the golf club is allowed to undertake works but will check with NCC.

Clerk

APP/P2935/W/20/3254874 – Appeal by Northumberland Estates in relation to housing application at Land East of Greycroft (19/05017/OUT) – no date as to when this application will be decided. There are a number of objections on the NCC website.

Planning Issues:

The Old Farm Byer, East Thirston – Progress is being made in that NCC and the residents are now liaising with each other.

Northumberland Arms – No retrospective application forthcoming for beer gardens.

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179 Requested Agenda Items:

- Draft Budget – the budget was discussed and some amendments made. Clerk to circulate new draft budget for approval at the December meeting. Clerk
- Meeting dates for 2021 – 4 Feb, 25 Mar, 13 May, 24 June, 5 Aug, 16 Sept, 28 Oct, 9 Dec.
- LTP – requests submitted to NCC are for non-slippery surface on the pathway and for resurfacing of layby used by West Thirston residents outside Thirston House.
- Maintenance Contract for Speed signs – the contract for maintenance to be handed over to the Parish Council as of 28 October 2020. There are two options – repairs only at £405.92 or maintenance and repairs £485.47. Neither contract includes replacement batteries or solar panel so these would have to be budgets for separately but if the higher option is taken the company will install batteries or panels within this contract. It was agreed to take out the maintenance and repairs contract. The Clerk also stated that these signs would have to be added to the insurance and will arrange this cover. Clerk

180 Correspondence:

- 2 x email in relation to parking proposals in preparation for a meeting of the two parishes
- Email – inclusion in email to all parishes re Complaint against Host of FJCC zoom meeting 1st October 2020 – the Councillors agreed that there was no issue to answer to and this to be relayed to Felton Parish Council. Clerk
- Email from resident raising questions following consultation on Neighbourhood Plan – the Clerk responded to the issues raised which were updates about speeding scheme, deadlines for NCC Local Plan and a request to have the layby beside Thirston House resurfaced. Clerk to added this to the LTP.
- Email re Covid-19 preventative behaviour and symptoms study – Uni of Southampton – information about the study to be put in The Bridge newsletter. Clerk
- Age UK – funding to offer more support and assistance to those over 50 and donation request. Poster to be put in noticeboard and donation to be made via BACS. Clerk
- Email re railing on steps at The Peth and ivy and debris issues – NCC has confirmed they will repair the loose railing and but back the ivy around the handrail.
- Emails and phone calls in relation to road works/closures around West & East Thirston – the Clerk reassured residents that they would still have access from their houses. NCC sent out a letter advising residents of this and timescales. It was agreed the resurfacing looks good and NCC workmen were very flexible with allowing residents access.
- Phone call re advice on mirror opposite entrance to houses behind nursery – the Clerk confirmed with the resident that she had spoken with NCC about installing a mirror and NCC stated they would not allow a mirror to be installed.
- Email of complaint re Helicopters doing circuits over Thirston Parish – for information.
- FOI request for any correspondence with NCC re airfield noise – Clerk responded within the deadline for this request.
- GNAA donation request – it was agreed to make the donation as per the budget
- NALC summary of website hits Clerk
- NALC and CAN update emails including new pay scales for Clerks
- CPRE Autumn Newsletter

181 Finance

(a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £20,008.17.

(b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Payments this meeting:		
IB100	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 28 hours at 14.90 (£417.20) 10 hours for Neighbourhood Plan at 14.90 (£149.00) Postage for Neighbourhood Plan (15.60) 2 x Zoom Conferencing (£28.78) 2 x Home working allowance (£22.18) McAfee renewal (69.99)	£702.75

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IB101	Viking Direct (ink for Neighbourhood Plan printing)	£102.56
IB102	British Royal Legion	£30.00
IB103	Great North Air Ambulance	£50.00
IB104	Morpeth Food Bank	£25.00
IB105	Age Concern	£25.00
IB106	Swarco – speed sign maintenance	£485.47

(c) **Receipts** – None

182 Urgent Items

Tree fallen on footpath towards Thirston New Houses. This has been reported to NCC and they are due to remove this week.

183 Items for next agenda

Finalise budget

184 Resolution to exclude public and press

The Parish Council passed a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude public and press due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, which includes discussion of personal data.

- a. **Virtual meeting has been arranged with Mr Wilcock for Monday 1 November.**
- b. **Request for assistance to seek clarification from NCC on a specific matter that NCC is not responding to** – It was agreed to speak to CC Sanderson to arrange a virtual meeting with him to raise the key concerns of the Parish Council

Clerk

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.16pm

Date of Next meeting: 17 December 2020