

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via zoom on Thursday 22 September 2022.

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

47 One Minutes Silence in Memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The book of condolence is ready to be taken to NCC for archive. Interestingly there were 70 entries, one for every year of her reign.

48 Apologies for Absence – Cllr L Clarehugh

49 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda –

Cllr Allan – **22/01244/FUL** - Land East Of Wintrick Farm - Erection of a single new dwelling

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

51 The minutes of the meeting 4 August 2022 were agreed as a true record.

52 Matters Arising therefrom:

1) Matters arising there from (excluding outstanding actions in relation to NCC)

- a) Noticeboard at Eshott – a notice board was agreed upon and the Clerk is to submit an application for a grant from Ventient Sisters/North Steads Windfarm Fund Applications as it has been indicated that this would be an appropriate application to fit their criteria. Clerk
- b) Response from CAA to email sent by PC – an email response was received and the Clerk spoke with the CAA today but needs to draw together the information along with responding to a question raised by the CAA and will report back to the Parish Council in due course. The Clerk also received a personal email from the airfield re British Air racing circuit to be sent to all residents.
- c) Biodiversity and Climate Change Committee representation – it has been agreed that Cllr Clarehugh can be co-opted onto this group however no invitation has been received in relation to the next meeting.
- d) Potholes on Wintrick Road – these have been repaired.
- e) Potholes on road to Blackbrook Farm – the Clerk chased these up as should have been repaired at the same time as Wintrick Road. NCC has promised to do them in the next few weeks. Clerk
- f) Email from West Tritlington & Chevington PC – no response to enquiry as to what they are working on. It was agreed to remove from agenda unless a response received. It maybe that a link up re biodiversity could be a project.
- g) Paving slabs on steps down from The Peth – Still not repaired. Clerk
- h) Felton Surgery – Felton PC has signed the transfer of land. The surgery is now part of the Lindisfarne Group and they appear keen to progress this. Assura has still not come back with any costs. The Horner sisters are looking to extend the lease on the existing Felton Surgery premises but this has not progressed. Alternatively the Felton Surgery will close until the new surgery is ready but this is not felt to be the right way forward. The clock is ticking on the S106 agreement and an extension is being sought but this has to be formally requested. Clerk
- i) Village Tidy up Issues – cutting back along pathways still required. Clerk to pursue with NCC.
- j) Path in West Thirston – no repairs undertaken as yet and the light is also out here so even more of an issue for safety. Clerk
- k) Path in West Thirston – Cyclists – no response has been received from NCC as to how to put in measures to stop this activity. Clerk to chase up. Clerk

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 – NCC has stated that to install two lights would be £5,800 and one light would be £4,800. NCC does not have the budget for this and are looking for a contribution towards this. NCC only appear to have £1,800 available. Clerk
- c) Blocked drain and manhole cover at Wintrick – still no action taken. NCC can contact Cllr Allan direct if unsure of location.

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

- d) Kerb stone on the left hand bend into West Thirston off the A1 need resiting
- e) 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
- f) Pathway improvements at riverside

Clerk

It was agreed to put dates of when originally reported on the minutes.

53 Report by County Councillor Sanderson

NCC handled the death of the Queen really well. CC Sanderson attended a number of services. A public consultation is taking place for a memorial(s) and it will be down to the residents to decide what and where.

There are concerns about possible housing of refugees – Northumberland have about 300 at present but this will go up to 600 in the Spring and housing is required. NCC offer 6 months which is up for most existing refugees, also those residents who are providing accommodation not all of this has worked successfully.

Budget is being hit by cost of inflation – ie fuel for school transport.

Likely wage settlement will be £8.5m not the £3.5m thought. NCC are keen not to cut front line services. Where possible voluntary redundancies are being sought but it may be that some compulsory redundancies may be required as don't want to be forced to increase council tax more than is absolutely unavoidable..

Nothing has progressed re devolution. There is a new person in place and a new deal on the table with the other local authorities. Hopefully things will progress October/November time and then it can go to public consultation. The same amount of money is involved in the new deal however NCC won't, for example, pay into the metro system.

CC Sanderson has also been involved in correspondence and phone calls in relation to recent aircraft activity.

Cllr Allan asked if now Anne-Marie Trevelyan in Transport Secretary will the A1 be signed off. CC Sanderson confirmed he has written to AMT and the new PM re the A1 and he has a meeting with AMT soon.

Clerk asked if there is anything CC Sanderson can do in relation to the lights at East Thirston. CC Sanderson said to write formerly to see if there is anything he can contribute from his Members Scheme however he already has potential expense allocated for Thirston Parish.

Clerk

54 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC –

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

A meeting was held and NCC are making progress in relation to the airfield and the PC will be updated in due course.

55 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – The shrubbery alongside the river has been cleared back.

b) Landscaping – The tree originally for the Queens Jubilee was delivered on the day of the Queens death so it was agreed to plant this as a memorial to the Queen in the rockery. Thanks go to Northumberland Woodland Burial for donating the Emerald Queen Acer. A plaque will be installed in due course once wording agreed. Cllrs Davison and Marshall agreed to water the tree until the leave fall.

Clerk

The WI has donated a tree for the Jubilee and this will be planted in the Field of Hope. Clerk to liaise with WI on planting and location.

Clerk

c) Short term / Medium term / Long term projects – The Clerk is still waiting for clarification on installation of village gateways. Cllr Clarehugh provided an example of the gateway and the Councillors agreed that this would be suitable to use. Clerk to find out who supplies these and at what cost.

Clerk

Cllr Marshall suggested the following projects:

Bus Stops – especially the one just off the A1 and the one at top of Peth. Both could do with prettying up a bit. Residents might which to adopt one or make them more attractive ie flower

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

baskets (but would need watering)

Picnic Table – table along the river path by High Park Farm is now falling to pieces – a new seat or bench to be installed. Clerk to look at costs.

Clerk

56 To report on any planning decisions:

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

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 - APPROVED

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

22/02041/FELTPO – The Limes, Eshott – tree works - PERMITTED

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

22/02399/VARYCO – Woodland Burial Site, Bockenfield – changes to windows, increase in size of plant room, addition of porchway and reduction in height of chimney - APPROVED

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)

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

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

22/02998/PRUTPO - Lonsdale House, Eshott - TPO Works

Planning Issues:

Bockenfield Caravan Park – blue lights illuminating entrance – still outstanding and now noticeable with the late nights drawing in

Eshott Airfield – viewing area and café and planning condition breaches – still outstanding

Felmoor Park – The new signage originally installed at the side of the road has been moved further back from the A1. Clerk awaiting confirmation that NCC are happy with this new location.

Burgham Park – Appeal submitted to Planning Inspectorate – the PC has submitted an updated objection to this application.

57 Requested Agenda Items:

- Felton CAN bulletin – Felton CAN are looking for a financial contribution from the PC for some of the projects they are planning to implement – Clerk to invite them to come to the next meeting to talk to the PC.
- Bottle Bank Update – CCTV cameras were put in place by NCC and a number of people have been prosecuted, some of them local. A pile of cardboard boxes were recently left with the delivery address still on so this information was forwarded to NCC and a fridge freezer has been left.
- Green Lane Update – this road has now been closed off to vehicle access for at least 6 months. When asked if this was for repairs NCC could not answer. They are looking at options. They are reviewing the Bridleway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) Policy at the moment, they can only closing it using a stopping up order which is not normally an option and TTRO is only on for 6 months hence the reason to review but will keep the PC updated.
- WI Jubilee Tree Location – to be at the Field of Hope but need to identify specific location.
- 2023 Meeting Dates – 2 Feb, 16 Mar, 27 Apr, 15 Jun, 3 Aug, 21 Sept, 2 Nov, 14 Dec

58 Correspondence:

- NCC Free tree giveaway – for information
- NCC request to check PC details on NCC website – the Clerk has checked the details and the only change was to update Cllr Allan's DOI which was issued to NCC some months ago. This

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

has now been addressed.

- Ventient Sisters/ North Steads Windfarm Fund Applications – see noticeboard above.
- Fusion for Business – energy funding opportunities – information for businesses in the parish or parish assets for energy funding opportunities. Clerk to put link on website.
- Email from SAAA Re opting out of central external auditor appointment arrangements – it was agreed not to opt out.
- Email from Newton on the Moor & Swarland PC re cemetery and other matters – the only matter relating to Thirston PC is the cemetery but as a PC a decision has been made to continue with the existing set up of the Felton Cemetery Joint Committee.
- Email from resident re Dog Bin – a resident has requested a dog bin be moved from outside her house. The Clerk has sent this request to NCC but has not received notification that this has been moved. Clerk to pursue, the bin is well used and a replacement might be required as the condition of existing bin is not great.
- Email re Felton Allotments – an email from Thirston residents who have allotments at Felton raising a number of issues. The Clerk responded to state this is the responsibility of Felton Parish Council,
- Email from resident re flytipping accusation – this has now been resolved.
- Copy email re helicopter landing at Felmoor Park Caravan Park – NCC has confirmed that this is fine as on the helicopter owners own land.
- Emails in relation to Eshott Airfield breaching flying hours on a number of occasions – numerous emails in relation to flying outside hours, some times well outside the hours, ie 6.33am and 8.30pm.
- Emails in relation to Eshott Airfield breaching weight limit on a number of occasions – there have been a number of MOD aircraft using the airfield, not just individual aircraft but on one occasion 4 sitting on the runway at the same time with rotors running and another day approximately 12 aircraft coming in over the space on one morning with one helicopter hovering over the properties for about 10 minutes waiting to come into refuel with noise levels over 95 dB.
- Copy email re FOI to NCC re British Air Racing discussions between NCC and CAA – for information.
- NALC News

59 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £16,889.05 TPC funds and £4,968.60 FCJC Funds totaling £21,857.65. 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:		
IB148	Payment to Lisa Hamlin 35 hours at £16.10 (£563.50) 2 x Zoom Conferencing (£28.78) 2 x Home Working Allowance (£22.18)	£614.46
IB149	Simon Allan - flowers for the Queen	£13.97

- (c) **Income** – NCC Parish Precept £4,750.00

60 Urgent Items

Laptop – It was agreed the Clerk could purchase a new laptop as the existing one is very slow and old.

61 Items for next agenda –

Draft Budget

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46pm

Date of Next meeting: 3 November 2022