

THIRSTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 10 December 2020.

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

185 Apologies for absence – Cllr T Jackson, County Councillor G Sanderson

186 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda – None

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

188 The minutes of the meeting 29 October 2020. The Clerk informed the Council that the salary figure for last month was correct but some of the figures were missing in the minutes. It was agreed to amend the minutes to reflect this and the minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed at a later date due to Covid-19.

189 Matters Arising therefrom:

- a) Road to Longhorsley to Burgham complaint – still pending. Clerk
- b) Ditch on the Burgham Park Road blocked – still pending. Clerk
- c) Pot holes by Birnie Farm, Wintrick Road, The Helm and Blackbrook Farm Road – all completed and no further potholes reported.
- d) Leak at riverside – Clerk still to review when next get heavy rain. Clerk
- e) Meeting between Councils to discuss parking proposals – this meeting has taken place and new proposals have been drawn up with NCC which propose double yellow lines on the inside of the bridge and allocated parking for 14 cars on the outside of the bridge. Double yellow lines would also be installed at the junction to Riverside at both sides of the road.
- f) Parking/traffic issues at Pumpkin Pie – this issue did seem to have improved however a resident encountered a parent turning in his gateway as he was leaving his property and is concerned about this especially as his entrance is on a bend. Already the double yellow lines are being parked on. Clerk to thank Pumpkin Pie for their initial communication with parents which seemed to work but to ask that she informs them that parking on the yellow lines is illegal and is causing issues for the residents accessing their properties. Clerk
- g) Insurance for speeding cameras – the cameras have been added to the policy with no increase this year but the policy will increase by about £60 next year.
- h) Mirror installation at West Thirston – further discussions have taken place about the installation of a mirror. One employee of NCC stated once could be installed however on speaking with NCC to request permission for one to be installed on NCC land this was refused. The no parking lines at the residents entrance have been extended so this might alleviate the issue – to be monitored.
- i) Rails on the steps down to The Peth – the rail at the bottom of the narrow steps is still loose and the ivy needs cutting back. Clerk to report to NCC again. Clerk

190 Report by County Councillor Sanderson

Update on the traffic calming - all almost completed now but may need to look again at lighting the Lawsons Garage build out.

I am working on trying to get a 30mph for East Thirston and making progress.

Let me know if you would like a follow up meeting in January/February with the planners.

Wintrick road potholes have been seen to.

Bridge work all done now.

The Councillors had noted that residents were concerned that the new traffic islands were not lit up – a generator of lights has been put up but as stated by CC Sanderson may need to look again at the lighting.

Councillors also stated that the lovely new road surface though the village makes the footpaths look bad. Clerk to raise with NCC. Clerk

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191 Report back from Meetings and Representations on behalf of TPC

Cllr Marshall attended the first Recreation Field Group meeting since June.

Various maintenance to the childrens' play area to be carried out. Group looked at the reserves held by the Parish Councils. The group are looking at what Longhorsley has done with their MUGA as resurfacing has taken place and storage for nets etc installed.

Looking at costings for resurfacing the pitch and replacing the boards around the MUGA.

Working Group will look at it and present to both PCs to ensure they are in agreement with works.

Clerk attended the NALC meeting re election 2021 – an agenda item under 194 below.

192 Potential Projects

a) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Nothing to report

b) Landscaping – Nothing to report

c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – The consultation period is over and minor amendments are being made to the text and maps. It then needs to go to NCC for them to assess if there are any changes required for the Environmental Report. It is hoped that NCC will have the plan before Christmas to undertake the Environmental Report – this takes about 1 week. Once this is done then the plan is formally presented to NCC; an examiner is appointed; a 6-week consultation goes out from NCC; the examiner reviews the responses; there will no doubt be some changes to make and then it goes to referendum in May. Once the plan has gone through the examination process it can be used as a material consideration in planning matters despite not having gone through referendum.

193 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 – No Objection

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 – concerns on location of greenkeepers shed.

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

20/03462/FUL - Badgers Holt Kennel Wood Eshott - Propose a loft conversion using the fully extent of the loft space for an additional bedroom and bathroom; proposed gable window be installed to the proposed bedroom outer wall with double inward opening doors; clear glass balustrade is proposed to create a juliette balcony – No Objections

20/03133/FUL – Thirston Mill - Construction of a menage; division of the existing field into paddocks with post and rail fencing; hard standing area for vehicle parking; construction of wooden stable block and storage shed – No objections

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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 – Communication is continuing between NCC and residents – remove from agenda until more to report. Clerk

Northumberland Arms – No retrospective application forthcoming for beer gardens.

Bridge End – Two Felton Councillors raised the issue that there used to be an alley way for residents to access the rear of the Bridge End properties and this seems to have disappeared when building works undertaken. The Clerk stated that if this had been an issue then the residents would have raised their concerns but will look at the planning permissions given. Clerk

194 Requested Agenda Items:

- Election May 2021 – the Parish Council elections will be held in May 2021 and the PC will only be charged by NCC if there is a contested election. It has been advised that as paperwork will be available early 2021 and with not being able to meet in person to go through the paperwork that the Clerk holds a zoom meeting to go through completion of paperwork in plenty of time so proposers and seconders can be sought in good time.
- Draft Budget – The budget was approved and the precept set. Clerk to send relevant paperwork work NCC. Clerk

195 Correspondence:

- Email from NCC requesting the use of new contact details for Highways Team - info only
- Email from NCC re Northumberland Covid Community Champions - NCC want our network of Northumberland COVID Community Champions to empower our communities and to help us keep people safe, reassured and supported in these uncertain times. Looking for more volunteers and approaching the PCs – It was felt that the community support group that has been set up is best placed for this.
- Emails from A1 Highways with notification of Examination Process for dualling – No comments made.
- Email request for replacement bus shelter at the bottom of The Peth – a resident has stated the roof at the existing bus shelter needs repairing and at the same times has requested the PC to consider a replacement bus stop and put in proposals for one more in keeping and also higher. The Clerk to get quotes for repairs to the roof. For the usage the bus stop gets it was felt the costs of replacement could not be justified. Clerk to inform the resident repairs will be undertaken. Clerk
- Email response re Virtual Cemetery Committee Meeting issues – a response was received disagreeing with the Parish Councillors opinion on the video footage. It was agreed that this will be left to the Monitoring Officer at NCC to deal with and the Councillors views can be sought from NCC if required.
- Email complaint re drivers blocking road to Wintrick – a resident has reported issues with people dropping off their kids for car shares in the mornings blocking the road. There was a confrontation which was unpleasant so this was reported to the police. The police spoke to the drivers concerned and informed them that they should not block the highway. There has been a subsequent incident that was again reported to the police but no further information has been received by the Clerk.
- Email re thorns/hedge debris on roads – some residents have raised concerns about the thorns left on the road after hawthorn hedging is cut back causing car tyre punctures and have asked if the roads can be swept after cutting by farmers. The Clerk has asked NCC what the situation is with this as the road in question is NCC owned however no response to date. Clerk to chase this up so a response can be given to the resident. Clerk
- Email request for improved/more street lighting at East Thirston – There used to be three lights here and one was removed and not replaced and the two remaining are the old type and provide little light in the area. The Clerk spoke to CC Sanderson and he stated the PC can put a request into NCC. Clerk to ask NCC to review the lighting here. Clerk

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- Email re suggested traffic management at East Thirston – CC Sanderson has put proposals forward for a traffic management scheme for East Thirston, he has paid for the plans via his members scheme but would need NCC to pay for the works. This is ongoing.
- Email re new 20mph signage facing wrong direction – this was reported to NCC and has now been rectified.
- Email re Proposed changes to local planning by central government – The government was looking to change the local planning system to speed up the planning system for housing however following an announcement by Government this week it looks like there is going to be a change to this paper so PC to wait until a revised paper is released.
- Email from Anne-Marie Trevelyan in relation to Union Connectivity Review to give a view on transport links between England and Scotland. It was agreed that the questionnaire was not really relevant however an email to be sent to AMT stating the importance of the A1 being dualled as the traffic flow with the increase in tourism, especially this year with Covid, has been terrible and the A1 is struggling to cope with the level of activity.
- NALC and CAN update emails

Clerk

196 Finance

- (a) **Financial Summary** was reviewed with no issues and the current balance stands at £19,297.86.
- (b) **Payments** - The following list was put before members and was approved:

Approved at last meeting but not yet processed. Age Concern would not accept a BACS transfer so Clerk to write a personal cheque and claim back on expenses.

Clerk

Cheque	Age Concern	£25.00
IB105	Swarco – speed sign maintenance	£485.47

Payments this meeting:		
IB106	L Hamlin Salary and Expenses 28 hours at 14.90 (£417.20) 5 hours for Neighbourhood Plan at 14.90 (£74.50) 1 x Zoom Conferencing (£14.39) 1 x Home working allowance (£11.09) Auditors Wine (£9.00)	£526.18
IB107	John Hood Landscaping	£400.00
IB108	Hazel Lindley – gift to resident for watering tubs	£10.00

- (c) **Receipts** – None

197 Urgent Items - None

198 Items for next agenda - None

199 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. **Meetings with Mr Wilcock** – two meetings have taken place, one via zoom and one face to face with Cllrs Allan and Marshall. Cllr Marshall to draft up a response and circulate to Councillors before sending to Mr Wilcock.
- b. **Request for assistance to seek clarification from NCC on a specific matter that NCC is not responding to** – It was agreed that meetings do not result in any action from NCC. Clerk to relay this to CC Sanderson and state that the PC need to have sight and input into the Management Plan.

Cllr
Marshall

Clerk

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Date of Next meeting: 4 February 2021