

Longhorsley Parish Council Meeting 11th March, 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present Cllrs: N Douglas (Chairman)
K Bell
P Boyle
T Potts
J Parker
L McMillan

Clerk S Doyle

2 parishioners in attendance from 8.04pm - 8.10pm

CO10/1 **Apologies for Absence.** - Cllr. S Alcock

CO10/2 **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th February, 2026 (which had been previously circulated) were approved for content with an amendment to numbers noted in “Members of the public in attendance” and duly signed.

CO10/3 **Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda**

None tendered.

CO10/4 **Date of Next Meeting(s)** – It was agreed that the dates of the next Parish Council meetings will be 8th April 2026 and 13th May 2026. Parish Assembly will be held 20th May 2026.

CO10/5 **County Matters** – County Cllr Sanderson was not present at the meeting but sent the following report:

- Budget setting meeting held and achieved a balanced budget and apart from two members it was agreed unanimously across the political parties.
- Like almost all Councils, the Council tax will need to go up by 4.99%. That breaks down to 2% solely towards increasing the money for adult social care , and 2.99% for Council services.
- free town centre car parking will be kept , build new superschools and keep our Leisure offer as fresh and well liked as it is.

CO10/6 **Update on behalf of Northumbria Police** – Members received and noted the Police Report dated 3rd March 2026.

CO10/7 **Finance**

7.1 **Authorisation of Payments** – Members considered and approved the Authorisation of Payments list for February 2026, totalling £3,040.00

7.2 **Budget Monitoring** - Members approved the monitoring statements to the end of February, together with the account transactions for the year, petty cash documents and bank reconciliation to 28th February 2026.

7.3 **Final Accounts 25/26** - Members considered and have amendments to make to the Asset Register document.

CO10/8 Routine Items for Review

8.1a) Review of Planning Decisions –

Status: Permitted

Demolition of existing single storey rear addition and construction of new single storey rear addition.

The Retreat East Road Longhorsley Northumberland NE65 8SY

Ref. No: 25/04367/FUL · Received: Wed 03 Dec 2025 · Validated: Mon 08 Dec 2025

Status: Decided

Discharge of Conditions 8 (Contamination), 9 (Verification Report), 10 (Written Method Statement) and 11 (Landscaping) on approved application 24/01080/FUL

Show more description

Land South West Of Field Head House Longhorsley Northumberland

Ref. No: 25/04260/DISCON · Received: Wed 26 Nov 2025 · Validated: Thu 27 Nov 2025

Status: Refused

Erection of car port with room above, erection of a porch, rear extension and restoration of chimney

4 South Road Longhorsley Northumberland NE65 8UW

Ref. No: 25/03289/FUL · Received: Wed 17 Sep 2025 · Validated: Wed 17 Sep 2025

Status: Permitted

Discharge of Conditions 3 (Adoption and Maintenance of SuDS), 6 (Estate Street Phasing and Completion Plan), 7 (Details of proposed arrangements for future management and maintenance of the proposed streets), 9 (Surface Water Drainage), 10 (Refuse), 11 (Lighting), 12 (Bat and Bird boxes) and 13 (Landscape planting and maintenance) pursuant to planning permission 19/00790/REM.

Land South East Of The Shoulder Of Mutton South Road Longhorsley Northumberland

Ref. No: 25/02763/DISCON · Received: Tue 05 Aug 2025 · Validated: Tue 05 Aug 2025

8.1b) **Review of Planning Applications -**

None at the time of the meeting

8.1c) The following applications are to be kept on the Agenda in order to ensure that they are not forgotten - **None at this time.**

8.2 **Moor Management Committee**

- i. Dates for the first Moor meeting of 2026 is 1st April
- ii. 29 Sheep and 4 ponies visible on 11th March

8.3 **The Old Church Wood – Report by Cllr Alcock**

- i. The temporary closure notice for the public footpath will be arranged by Tim fish. 12 weeks notice is asked for so that the volume of these can be managed within the timescales. As yet there is no indication from Straughan's when the path work from the bus stop may be done. The opportunity to do it before bird nesting has been missed so this becomes an issue so it is possibly going to be September now for that part, unless a nesting bird survey of the area can be carried out prior to work starting. However, Blackbirds and wrens will already be prospecting for sites in the undergrowth there.
- ii. As part of the temporary closure process site notices will be put up and these would usually be at the start of the area that is being closed or diverted. In this instance signage at the bus stop, gate leaving the field and across at the Old Church should be adequate, but one over at Fieldhead wouldn't be a problem to put up also.
- iii. Notice will be given for the works around the field Tim will liaise with Diane to coordinate the works with the PCC around funerals and any other use they may have over that the church yard. Once there are some confirmed dates with Straughan's it will be easier to ensure there are no issues around access.
- iv. Communication with Northumberland Forest team about the possibility of getting a hedge scheme supplied through them for the autumn to plant up onto the bank of material from the path excavations will be taking place. It is planned for a discussion with the director from Community Archaeology to ask about the possibility of doing an excavation or two across the causeway part of the public footpath at some point that might help with a future surfacing possibility of the direct route through to the old church.

8.4 **Play Areas**

- i. No written report was received for the meeting.
- ii. Graffiti has been found in Church View playpark. This will be removed.

8.5 Allotments

- i. The National Association of Allotments membership is now active and they are checking the draft tenancy on our behalf and will revert with any suggestions or changes.

Adjournment 8.04 for Parishioner slot

2 Parishioners were in attendance to represent the Fete Committee. They wanted clarity on one item in the Memorandum of Understanding with regard to vehicular access to the common on fete day. Delivery access was confirmed along with the use of whispering generators. At this time music type and choice has not been decided upon by the fete committee.

8.5 Allotments cont.

- ii. Letters were sent on 29th January to the tenants of allotment 13 by first class recorded mail and to date no acknowledgement has been made of those letters. The PC legal team will make contact with allotment 13 legal team.
- iii. An acceptance of vacant allotment has been received by the Parish Council from applicant number 1 on the waiting list and we are yet to receive an acceptance from number 2 of the waiting list for the 2nd vacant allotment. Clerk to make Contact.
- iv. Members agreed to the purchase of signage which will give each allotment a visible number.

8.6 Village Maintenance Issues

- i. 3 quotes have been received and members have accepted a quote for the trench work, Cllr Boyle will contact the supplier and obtain a start date for works.
- ii. At the recent Town & Parish Conference, Cllr Boyle and the Clerk spoke with the representatives of the highway team and asked for information to allow contact to be made with the manufacturer and a request for a new battery be made. We understand the speed sign at the North end of the Village is manufactured by Swarco. Contact will be made.

8.7 Website

- i. Work to progress on the build of the new website. Cllrs Alcock and Parker along with the clerk will build the new website.
- ii. Members have approved a logo design that will be visible on the website and headed paper.

8.8 Longhorsley Tree

The Clerk was asked to write articles covering the recent graffiti found in Church View Playpark, works to the footpath at Old Church Wood, the date for the Annual Parish Assembly and a FixMyStreet article to say that things like waste bins, dog poo bins can be requested using this platform.

8.9 Donation Requests: - no requests received.

- 8.10 **Village Hall Committee - Report by Cllr Parker**
- i. No meeting has been held since the last one but the date of the next meeting is 25th March.
 - ii. Legal work is progressing well to purchase the freehold. The constitution of the Village Hall falls under the leasehold. A draft constitution is being written now and will be shared with the Village Hall Committee in preparation for the freehold purchase.

CO10/9 Items Carried Forward

9.1 **Housing Developments in the Village to include:**

a) **South Road Development**

- i. An email has been received from a concerned parishioner with regards to the site using land designated village green for storing building material build. The Parish council agreed that this area of land could be fenced off and utilised by the site and once the development is complete the land will be cleared and landscaped and registered by the parish council as Village Green.

- 9.2 **Neighbourhood Plan –** Cllr. Parker is making good progress with work on-going and has shared work to date with the Council. Cllr Boyle and the Clerk fed back some feedback from the recent Town & Parish Conference with regards to work to the Local Plan and items that needed to be narrated. Cllr Parker will be working with this information and ensuring it is incorporated to the Local Plan.

9.3 **Village Green**

a) **NCC Scheme & Management**

- i. On-Going

b) **Common Land**

- i. The onboarding process is finalised with the return of the signed Engagement letter. We are waiting for a meeting date.
- ii. The MOU for the Fete Committee has been signed and handed into the Parish Council at the meeting on 11th March 26.

- 9.4 **Welcome Letters** – none issued.

CO10/10 Other Agenda Items

10.1 **Parishioner Emails**

- a. An email was received with regards to a piece of play equipment in Church View being unsafe. All parks in the Village are inspected annually by ROSPA. The inspections are thorough and they cover play equipment, grounds and fences/boundary lines. No reports have been made to say that the item is unsafe. The design of the equipment is such that there is an opening to one side. Councillors have been to site to ensure that no defects are on the item that may have appeared since the last ROSPA inspection. This is not the case. There have been no other reports regarding this piece of equipment.

- b. Members agreed that a memorial bench could be sited on the village green in memoriam to Mr Mark Woods.

10.2 **Expansion of the Cemetery Entrance off the A697**

No update to report at this time.

10.3 **Flooding at Whitegates**

NCC are dealing with this and updates are awaited from them.

CO10/11 Other Items for Information –

- 11.1 Email from a parishioner regarding land ownership, the investigation returned that the land in question was in ownership under NCC, Parishioner has been notified.

CO10/12 Any Other Business (arising too late for inclusion on the agenda) –

- 12.1 Cllr Joe Morris is holding a surgery in the village on 24th April and asked if the Parish Council would like a slot. Cllr Douglas will reply to Cllr Morris asking if he would like to attend one of the planned Parish Council meetings instead.
- 12.2 The WI of Longhorsley is in the process of winding up. A bench and plaque will be purchased to commemorate the WI activity in the village. The WI will fund this.
- 12.3 We have received an email from the North East War Memorials Project, we will forward this to the Historical Society.
- 12.4 Email received from the RPA asking us to confirm some changes that they believe should be made to the register, aerial photography taken shows the land as it is so the Parish Council have written back to confirm the changes to be correct.
- 12.5 A complaint regarding the Haining gate has been raised with County Cllr. Sanderson who passed it to the Parish Council. It is with regards to people with mobility issues not being able to access the path. Cllr Boyle will respond to the Parishioner who raised the issue.
- 12.6 A recent meeting of the Wingates Windfarm Community Fund took place and applications were heard and approved. The meeting was not quorate to be able to vote on the application from the Parish Council as 1 member had to remove themselves from the vote. The next meeting is in June.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm