

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held this evening at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Hunter (Chairman) (DH), Knowles (Vice-Chairman) (DK), Bradshaw (KB), Cossins (PC) and Humphrys (JH), Vass (AV), County Councillor Robbie Moore (RM) and Mrs Taylor (Parish Clerk) (ET).

**In attendance:** Steve Robson of Northumbria Water, Graham Siddle of Environment Agency, Elizabeth Sinnamon of Planning at Northumberland County Council and 6 members of the public.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes	ACTION
<p><b>Public Questions</b>                      There were no public questions. All public present attended to hear more about the sewerage and footpath flooding issues.</p> <p><b>Sewerage Problem at Lesbury Old Bridge</b>                      Steve Robson of Northumbria Water advised that the problem is due to the misconnection of a number of houses, some of which had been misconnected for a number of years. They had put in a temporary solution – they have mitigated the final man holes and have been sending up a tanker to suck out the chamber so no solids enter into the river whilst a permanent solution to the problem is established. This is costing £300-£600 per week and Northumbria Water are picking up this cost at the moment. Letters to all affected households have been sent and Northumbria Water are helping all these affected households resolve the problem; a letter has been sent identifying approved contractors to carry out the necessary works. The letter was issued in late October 2017 and all households have 3 months to re-connect their drainage. One householder is taking out legal action which is delaying the process whilst Northumbria Water’s legal team review the litigation. The timeframe to resolve this is hopefully April 2018. Steve Robson confirmed that Northumbria no longer wish to install a kiosk in the Memorial Garden and so application 17/02511/MISC was no longer required but that a pumping station may be required by one of the households. When asked, Steve Robson replied that this kiosk would need to be on the premises of the private household. Graham Siddle of the Environment Agency advised that this is having little impact on the quality of the water in the river and that since Northumbria Water had installed the temporary solution, this had been reduced further. The Environment Agency are satisfied that following samples, the water quality was not affected and that as solutions to the problem were being progressed they were happy that the required actions were being taken to resolve the issue. Elizabeth Sinnamon from Northumberland County Council agreed that there was a fault in the planning system whereby if any new developments were misconnected that these should be picked up by building regs/planning enforcement stages of the planning process and that she would look into this further. ET requested that Northumbria Water keep in touch with the PC which Steve Robson agreed to do.</p> <p><b>Flooded Footpath due to Drainage Works at Foxton Glade, Lesbury</b>                      Elizabeth Sinnamon of Northumberland County Council confirmed that by starting the development and not having had the scheme signed off, the developers were in breach of planning and that as a direct consequence Northumberland County Council had been in dialogue with the developer. The County Council were not in a position to discharge it just now as the water on the PROW was an issue that had to be resolved and that James Hitching, Drainage Officer at Northumberland County Council was investigating all the issues raised with him both by email and from the site meeting held on 19 January 2018. Elizabeth Sinnamon confirmed that whatever solution is proposed and installed, if it doesn’t work, after whatever period of time, then new alternative solutions would have to be found. Also, if any further development took place which increased the stress and demand on the solution, then that would have to be revisited to ensure it was still fit for purpose. ET</p>	

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	<p>requested that Northumberland County Council keep in touch with the PC which Elizabeth Sinnamon agreed to do. Steve Robson, Graham Siddle and Elizabeth Sinnamon were thanked for their help and support so far in trying to resolve both issues.</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> and County Councillor Gordon Castle (GC)</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes:</b> of the meeting of 28 November 2017 were signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b>  <b>Bus Shelters Lighting:</b> RM to chase again.  <b>Street Lighting:</b> A new streetlight for South View was registered and would be installed with the rolling programme of replacement LED streetlights. RM to continue to chase replacement of the broken streetlights at the bottom of Curly Lane and to also review the additional lighting required on Curly Lane (additional streetlighting required on the A1068 near Hipsburn Steadings to be considered under the NCC review of traffic management)  <b>Post Office Car Park Repairs:</b> ET had received a response from Andrew Robson who was aware of the works but no timeline had been given. DK also reported a forgotten sign behind the grit bin from the development works and AV reported a forgotten portaloo. ET to contact Andrew Robson again.  <b>Noticeboards:</b> DH advised he was progressing this.  <b>Road Repair at Bilton:</b> RM confirmed he had reported this for road resurfacing works.  <b>Sycamore Tree in Entrance Garden to Lealands:</b> ET advised following Penny Royale's Inspection Report &amp; Photos re Sycamore Tree in Entrance Garden to Lealands a quote from Penny Royale to undertake the works had been requested but not yet received. ET asked the PC if they wished her to pursue, but the PC decided that works to make the tree safe after the storm had been carried out and that these works were not a priority.  <b>A1068 hedge and 30mph sign:</b> RM advised he was yet to progress the lightbulb being replaced and sign cleaned.  <b>Orchard Project:</b> AV advised discussions with NDP hadn't taken place yet and this project was still under the NDP.  All other matters arising were in hand and being dealt with or listed on the agenda.</p>	<p>RM  RM  ET  DH RM  RM</p>
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>  a) <b>Alnmouth Station Parking:</b> RM advised a county wide review of car parking in the major towns was being undertaken by NCC and that a similar review (either in-house or carried out externally) would be undertaken to provide an understanding of the issues and provide recommendations for solutions. The points made at the previous meeting were reiterated: it was noted that the problem was universally recognised as stemming from the numerous housing developments in Alnwick, Amble, Longhoughton, Embleton all of which promoted the area as having a great, fast commute by train to Newcastle/Edinburgh, etc. It was also noted that the train station car park is already at capacity and with all these new housing developments and increasing numbers of commuters, the problem is getting worse. It was noted that some commuters are parking anti-socially causing distress to residents and also preventing the bus operators from accessing their usual routes by blocking Curly Lane and South View. It was noted that if the buses couldn't gain access then neither could the emergency services. It was also noted that the residents strongly objected to having to pay for residents parking to solve the problem and that whatever options were considered, there would have to be a holistic approach taking</p>	

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	<p>into account any knock-on effect for the whole of Hipsburn and surrounding area and that whatever solutions were finally agreed after consultation, they had to rolled out in unison. It was noted that whatever happened at Berwick and Morpeth train stations also had an impact on Alnmouth. JH flagged that the train station parking was one of the major local concerns of residents reported to the NDP. JH advised there was a public meeting for the NDP to be held on 21 February and could the two County Councillors attend and take questions and hear concerns about the train station parking at that meeting. RM advised it was a full Council meeting that night so the date wasn't suitable. RM and JH to liaise on an alternative date for the public meeting for the NDP so that both County Councillors could attend. RM also agreed to get a timescale on the report and content scale of the report and feedback to the PC. RM noted the urgency of the problem and that the PC requested a public meeting to discuss the options and solutions with local residents.</p> <p>b) <b>Hipsburn Steadings/Roundabout Traffic Management Review:</b> ET had circulated a report by Richard McKenzie, Highways, NCC. It was agreed ET to invite Richard McKiezie to the February PC meeting to discuss the proposal further. ET to forward the report to Pam Allen to circulate to Hipsburn Steading residents.</p> <p>c) <b>Hipsburn Roundabout Finger Post:</b> ET had circulated a quote for £3,341 + VAT to restore the fingerpost. The project was agreed to in principle, based on condition that a grant can be obtained to finance the cost of the works and that David Gosling would work with DH in identifying and applying for that grant opportunity.</p> <p>d) <b>VMS Sign</b> – RM confirmed the option of using his members funding to install a VMS sign on Lesbury Road. The PC would take over responsibility for maintenance and repair after installation. The sign would be covered initially by NCC insurance but then the PC would be informed when it needed to take over this responsibility. DH re-flagged the November correspondence from NALC whereby NALC were investigating possible NCC VMS maintenance agreements, which ET had advised the PC were interested in. The PC thanked RM for his investment and agreed the best location would be half way heading down Lesbury Road from Alnwick towards Hipsburn Roundabout. A sign the same as the one on South View was agreed as this would keep maintenance more straightforward. RM to action and progress.</p> <p>e) <b>Parish Councillor Vacancy:</b> ET confirmed Sir John Hall had applied for one of the vacant positions. NCC had confirmed the PC could co-opt. Co-opting Sir John Hall was proposed by KB and 2<sup>nd</sup> by DH.</p>	<p><b>JH/RM</b></p> <p><b>ET</b></p> <p><b>DH</b></p> <p><b>RM</b></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p>a) 17/04124/VARYCO – Vary condition 2 (entrance lobby and 1st floor study) – Land SE Alnbrig, Alnwick Road, Lesbury – no objections</p> <p>b) 17/04553/OUT – Outline permission for new dwelling and 17/04552/OUT – Outline permission convert garage into holiday home – Burn Cottage, Longhoughton Road, NE66 3AT – some members of the PC had concerns about AONB, drainage, the development of more holiday lets which was contrary to the results of the recent Parish survey. This was to be fed back to NCC.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b></p> <p>a) NCC – North Northumberland Local Area Meeting – 25 Jan – Northumberland Hall – 3pm - noted</p> <p>b) NCC – Streetlighting LED Upgrades - noted</p> <p>c) NALC – Enews – 4 &amp; 12 Dec 2017 &amp; 9 Jan 2018 - noted</p> <p>d) NALC – General Data Protection Briefing Note One - noted</p> <p>e) NCC – Car Park Study - noted</p> <p>f) NALC – North of Tyne Devolution – noted</p> <p>g) NCC – Planning Training Sessions – noted</p>	

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8.	<p><b>Parish Financial Matters</b></p> <p>a) 2018-19 Budget and Precept – as agreed at November meeting, the precept provisionally set at £16,000 per annum (an increase of £1k) had been considered by the PC over Christmas. It was unanimously agreed it was a necessary increase in light of NDP budgeting and other financial requirements being placed on the PC. This had been proposed by KB, 2<sup>nd</sup> AV at the November meeting and was carried as a final decision.</p> <p>b) Lesbury Village Hall (Half-Yearly Bill – 5 x PC meetings. JH advised the NDP group had 10 x meetings) - £270.00 - agreed</p> <p>c) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £51.75 -agreed</p> <p>d) Aurora (Newsletter) - £125 - agreed</p> <p>e) Grant Requests (Bailiffgate Museum, NTC, CAN, GNAA) – to be postponed until February meeting due to lack of time.</p> <p>f) DAG – (Dementia Programme) £2,000 – agreed.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Northumbria in Bloom Update</b> No updates.</p>	
10.	<p><b>NDP Update</b> A copy of the minutes had been circulated (ET to forward to PC and KB) – which were duly noted. There had been a fantastic 55% return on the housing needs assessment (271 out of 492 households responded) which gives the NDP a good mandate. CAN to analyse the results further but the highlights being that 80% of all respondents are in favour of a small development of affordable homes with a local connection priority and that 33 respondents indicated some form of housing need; the main reasons for housing need were that existing accommodation is too large (13 households) and that no suitable homes are available locally (10 households). JH to liaise with the County Councillors to ensure that the public NDP meeting can be attended by them to facilitate discussion on train station parking and other NCC related issues.</p>	JH
11.	<p><b>Dementia Project Update</b> DH advised the funding was coming to a close and that the programme and schedule should be all tied up by the end of January. Any underspend would be allocated by DH and the PC for the purchase of noticeboards, etc.</p>	DH
12.	<p><b>Speedwatch Update/SpeedSign</b> DK reported no further information from Northumbria Police re Speedwatch training.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Pond Field Update</b> DK reported all was in order. ET advised the quote from Playdale to remove the old swings, dispose and replace with new swings came in at £4,875.30. RM confirmed he would still support the purchase of new equipment with £2½k of his member funding, ET advised there was £759.09 ring fenced money for Pond Field leaving the PC to fund the remaining £1,616.41. This was unanimously supported by the PC. ET to progress the order. DH to seek grant funding to help meet this cost and also to purchase another piece of toddler equipment.</p>	RM ET DH
14.	<p><b>Any Other Matters for Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RM confirmed he would be starting Member Surgeries from 6.15pm-7.15pm preceding each PC meeting in Lesbury Village Hall. DH and ET to include information on the PC website/noticeboards and in the newsletter respectively.</li> </ul>	DH
15.	<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Tuesday 27 February 2018 - 7.30pm- Lesbury Village Hall</p>	ALL

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

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