

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

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

**In attendance:** Ali Gray of GSC Grays and 8 members of the public.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes	ACTION
<p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <p>There were no public questions. All public present attended to hear more about the proposed woodland creation at Lesbury House.</p> <p><b>Ali Gray - Proposed woodland creation at Lesbury House</b></p> <p>Ali Gray (AG) presented the proposal for the woodland scheme at Lesbury House and advised that Sarah Radcliffe, Woodland Officer who was unable to attend due to weather, was happy with the scheme. AG explained the reasoning behind the scheme was because a big oak had fallen down recently reducing privacy and exposing the house and also to take advantage of the funding available under the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Scheme. It was noted that the tight timeline meant that the project couldn't fall into the PC's NDP but JH pointed out that part of the NDP objectives was to make Lesbury an attractive place to live and that the proposed woodland planting would improve and enhance the natural environment. A resident asked what species would be planted, how far apart and what the timescale was. AG advised 20% scots pine and the rest native species like oak, beach, silver birch and shrubs. AG had noted concerns about the height of the trees in some areas and would accommodate those concerns, 1,600 plants per m<sup>2</sup> would be planted – which was standard. AG hoped to get the planting plan agreed by May 2018. A resident asked if the plan could be adapted; they lived in the Coppice and had major concerns about the planting plan and density and how it would impact on their light, outlook and value of their property. Whilst they respected that Lesbury House needed to regain their privacy could a compromise be made with the planting. AG agreed he could review the concerns with the residents concerned. A resident queried why the eastern edge tapered off. AG advised it was simply to meet the scheme criteria of creating 1 hectare of planting. A resident enquired who owned the shelter belt. AG replied his research into this so far had proved inconclusive but that he would look into this further. A resident advised that the overhanging branches from the shelter belt had already been lopped as branches had been overhanging into the gardens of the Coppice houses. A resident pointed out that the current situation with the shelter belt was that it provided shelter from the northern winds, was ok because it didn't cut out any light but needed management. A resident pointed out that there were 2 barn owl boxes in the vicinity of the proposed planting. AG noted this. AV enquired what consultation would take place. AG advised when putting together the detailed plan he would give consideration to the comments raised tonight. ET pointed out that more consultation would be required than AG's attendance at this PC meeting; that all residents should have the opportunity to know about the proposed scheme and have the opportunity to give their view; that not all residents would have seen the proposal as an agenda item or be aware of the proposals and that reliance on the January PC meeting to inform and consult was not sufficient. The PC had only known about the proposal for a week and that the opportunity for all residents to be notified was via the quarterly Parish Newsletter. DH advised this had just gone to print. DH enquired about the next steps. It was agreed that a small working party would be created comprising two residents from the Coppice who would collate views of residents and feed this into discussions with AG when re-working the planting proposal. SJH enquired about the costs and AG advised it would cost approx. £2 per tree, totalling a cost of approx. £7k-£8k with a grant of £6½k available. AV warned that the area was subject to strong winds and the trees could be windblown. AG</p>	

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

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	noted the request for a public meeting once the plans had been revised for further consultation with the working group and comments/concerns raised having been noted.	
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Bradshaw (KB) and County Councillor Gordon Castle (GC)	
2.	<b>Hipsburn Steadings/Roundabout Traffic Management Review</b> Due to the adverse weather, Richard McKenzie was unable to attend the meeting and would attend the March PC meeting instead.	
3.	<b>Minutes:</b> of the meeting of 23 January 2017 were amended such that the apologies given by Cllr Norris were recorded. Otherwise they were signed as a true record.	
4.	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None.	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Bus Shelters Lighting:</b> RM advised should be done by end February.</p> <p><b>Street Lighting:</b> RM advised replacement of the broken streetlights at the bottom of Curly Lane should be done by end of February.</p> <p><b>Post Office Car Park Repairs:</b> ET confirmed that she had reported to Barry Spall about the forgotten road sign and portaloo and also that promised repairs to the damaged/loosened curb stone bricks had still not started.</p> <p><b>Noticeboards:</b> DH advised he was progressing this.</p> <p><b>Road Repair at Bilton:</b> RM advised road resurfacing works had been affected by the bad weather.</p> <p><b>A1068 30mph sign:</b> RM advised he had raised a job request to replace the lightbulb and clean the sign.</p> <p><b>Hipsburn Roundabout Fingerpost:</b> DH advised he had been corresponding with Signpost Restoration Ltd who was looking at funding options.</p> <p>All other matters arising were in hand and being dealt with or listed on the agenda.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>RM</p> <p>RM</p> <p>RM</p> <p>DH</p>
6.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>a) <b>Residents Meeting – 28 February 2018 – 7pm Lesbury Village Hall re Alnmouth Station Parking:</b> JH confirmed this was a single issue public meeting and that all residents were welcome to attend to give their views on a solution to the problem which could then be passed to NCC for consideration and feedback into the report and investigation being undertaken.</p> <p>b) <b>Update on Sewerage Problems at Lesbury Old Bridge:</b> Northumbria Water had updated the PC that they are still dealing with the solicitors and the interested party to remove the large misconnection with a meeting anticipated early March time to finalise details etc. Northumbria Water have written to 2 other properties who are also misconnected in the village, 1 of those has responded and intends to carry out further work; the other has not yet responded which will be followed up with another letter. Northumbria Water are still attending site to carry out the mitigation works. Northumbria Water will continue to update the PC.</p> <p><b>Update on Lesbury Old Bridge and Outfall Scheme/Footpath Issues on River Aln:</b> NCC had updated that have received further plans from the developer and NCC consulted with Ecology and LLFA which prompts the requirement for further information and clarification to address concerns. So, progress is being made although not sufficient yet for NCC to be able to discharge the pre-commencement conditions. NCC will continue to update the PC. PC submitted a proposed solution to the problem – to develop a “cundy”. RM to pass the suggestion to NCC for review and reply.</p> <p>c) <b>June PC Meeting date amended to 3 July 2018.</b> Noted.</p>	<p>RM</p>
7.	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p>a) 18/00230/VARYCO – Vary condition 2 &amp; 3 and amend materials to plots 1 &amp; 2 – Land SE Alnbrig, Alnwick Road, Lesbury – no objections.</p>	

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8.	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Northumberland Estates- Longhoughton Quarry Eastern Extension – Summary of Proposal and Public Presentation. The PC was concerned about the potential increase in quarry traffic through Lesbury and also the increasing size of the quarry lorries. It was noted that whilst the lorries may be travelling at the 30mph speed limit, due to the size of the lorries and lack of/narrowness of the footpaths in the village, it was felt that the request for the village to have a 20mph speed limit be re-emphasised. Date and time of the meeting to be set.</li> <li>b) GSC Grays – Proposed CS Woodland Creation – Lesbury House – see public questions above.</li> <li>c) Highways England – Scheduled Closure of A1 in Northumberland Highways England – Scheduled Closure of A1 in Northumberland – WP confirmed that Highways England will be resurfacing 4 miles of the A1 between Wandylaw and Warenford. Work starts on 02/03/18 and will take 2 weeks to complete. The A1 will be permanently closed in both directions whilst work takes place. There is a public meeting on 24/02/18 to appeal against the closure at 11am at The Blue Bell Inn, Belford.</li> <li>d) NCC – North N’land Local Area Meeting – 22/3/18 - noted</li> <li>e) NCC – Local Plan Update - noted</li> <li>f) NCC – Planning Training - noted</li> <li>g) NCC – VCS Consultation - noted</li> <li>h) NCC – Post 16 Transport Consultation - noted</li> <li>i) Peter Dorward – 20mph Speed Limit Request for Lesbury – noted. This had already been requested previously by the PC. RM advised it had been raised with Highways and that a formal consultation would be required if it were to be considered for implementation.</li> <li>j) Gordon Allan – Sally Allan Fund – Being Active Matters – Grant funding had been received by this charity to run mental health projects and had been offered to the PC. ET had passed to DH for DAG..</li> <li>k) Tim Bendix – Bridge End Road Condition – RM advised he had raised a job request with Highways.</li> <li>l) AONB Report – Adrian Hinchcliffe – noted</li> </ul>	RM
9.	<p><b>Parish Financial Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Harrod Horticulture (Raised Bed – DAG) - £230.95 - agreed</li> <li>b) Lesbury Tennis Club (Transfer of Restricted Funds to Lesbury Sports Project to cover architect’s preliminary plans) - £399.60. SJH advised he had paid the architect fees personally as the invoice had to be settled and that he wished for his reimbursement of the fees to be passed to NIB instead.</li> <li>c) Paul Taylor (Annual Landscape Maintenance) - £1,050.50 - agreed</li> <li>d) Grant Requests - £100 to CAN, GNAA and CAB. DH to investigate grant opportunities to help the PC contribute towards other groups eg NIB, Lesbury Sports Project, Village Information Boards, Alnwick Playhouse and Bailiffgate Museum.</li> <li>e) DAG (A4A Programme of Activity) - £1,000 – DH wanted to get more detail on the programme spending before further funds were released to DAG.</li> </ul>	DH
10.	<p><b>Northumbria in Bloom Update</b> Next NIB meeting 8/3/18 to discuss plans for the year.</p>	
11.	<p><b>NDP Update</b> A copy of the minutes of 21/2/18 had been circulated <u>Jenny Ludman, Ludman Planning</u> - will help NDP write the plan and policies. NCC define ‘a small development’ is defined as around 5 houses for AONB and rural areas and 10 for other parts of the county.</p>	

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	<p><u>Review of report on housing needs survey</u> – clear, helpful report giving a recognisable picture of the needs of the Parish. NDP agreed and adopted the document as a helpful evidence base to support the NDP policy on housing.</p> <p><u>Planning for community event 28/2/18</u> - car parking at the station is the main focus of the meeting. The meeting is contributing to consultation at county level for the station development. Local people to have an opportunity to speak about possible solutions and their ideas will be summarised and passed on to NCC.</p> <p><u>Planning for community event in March /April 2018</u> - focus on housing. Consulting on what residents want for the community; suggest x% growth over 10-15 years. Mix of housing to meet the needs expressed in the audit. Consideration to also be given to infrastructure to support development. Residents to be given the opportunity to comment on where they would want/not want development and show where possible locations for play areas, trees, an orchard, shop(s) and other facilities.</p> <p><u>Young People Survey</u> - survey of young people in the Parish finalised and report to be presented at next NDP meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting - 21 March 2018 at 7pm in Lesbury Village Hall</p>	JH
12.	<p><b>Dementia Project Update</b> DH advised the project funding was coming to a close and tied up by the end of February. Any underspend would be allocated by DH and the PC for the purchase of noticeboards, etc.</p>	DH
13.	<p><b>Speedwatch Update/SpeedSign</b> RM advised he had taken up the challenge from DK to obtain further information from Northumbria Police re Speedwatch training and that hopefully some dates will be announced soon.</p>	RM
14.	<p><b>Pond Field Update</b> DK reported all was in order. ET advised Playdale had been in touch to revise the quote as quote had been based on a standard swing area whereas ours is larger than normal. The suggestion was therefore to retain and use the current wetpour surfacing and patch in the fixings which would mean a saving of £600 from the original quote. This was the option agreed with as the only other option would cost an additional £938. The quote is therefore now £4,275.30. With RM's £2½k member funding, and the £759.09 ring fenced money for Pond Field, leaves the PC now funding the remaining £1,016.21.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Any Other Matters for Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIn Valley Railway invited the PC to attend the Branch End 50 Event on 5/6/7 May 2018 10.30am-4.30pm. Parish Councillors to RSVP direct to AIn Valley Railway.</li> </ul>	
16.	<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Tuesday 27 March 2018 - 7.30pm- Lesbury Village Hall</p>	ALL

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

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