

# Lesbury Parish Council

**Meeting  
Tuesday 23 January 2024**

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

**Present:** Cllrs Norris (JN) (Chair), Hall (JuH), Hodgson (AH), Knowles (DK) and County Cllr Martin Swinbank (MS).

**In attendance:** Elizabeth Taylor (Clerk) (ET), Chris Greaves (item 1) and 10 members of the public.

<b>Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>Public Questions:</b>  <b>Coal Yard Closure:</b> Billy McKnight reported that the coal yard had been vacated by the Tenant and asked if the PC could contact Network Rail to enquire what their intentions were for the coal yard going forwards.  <b>H&amp;S Hazard - School Bus, South View:</b> Billy McKnight reported a health and safety hazard caused - parked cars on South View meant that the school bus was having to stop in the middle of the road to let on/off the school children. This was a serious accident waiting to happen. MS to report to NCC.</p>	<p><b>ET</b></p> <p><b>MS</b></p>
<p>1. <b>Chris Greaves – Coach Inn Update</b>            Chris Greaves, the new Tenant of the Coach Inn, was in attendance with his employee Tracey to give an update on The Coach Inn re-opening. Work is currently being undertaken by the Landlord (StarPubs/Heineken) to bring the building up to a level that means it is ok to open - new boiler, gas, alarms, etc. and a small amount of infrastructure eg new carpet. The Landlord has spent £130k to make the building compliant. The pub will re-open sometime between 14-16 February 2024. Tracey and her colleague Gemma will run the pub on behalf of Chris and there will be no accommodation offering as they will live in the staff accommodation above the pub. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heineken pub that Chris has run. It will open with wet sales only to start, opening Tuesday-Sunday from 12noon-close. Dogs are welcome. There are plans to provide entertainment and they are open to ideas eg pub quiz, live music, games nights, etc. It will become open 7 days per week at some point. Wet sales only as the kitchen needs extensive renovation. This will be part of a big refurbishment which will take place at the end of summer – during which the pub will close. The style of the pub will remain the same eg log burners, country pub. When it re-opens again, good quality, homemade fresh food will be served – Tracey/Gemma are qualified chefs. JuH advised there are lots of volunteers available to lend a helping hand if needed; the Post Office is now a volunteer community-run shop and they would also welcome the opportunity to work with the pub eg selling cakes, scones or other produce that the pub makes. JuH also enquired if some form of pop-up pub could be maintained whilst the pub is closed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time for the big refurbishment. Chris to review. Chris and Tracey were thanked for attending.</p>	
<p>2. <b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Humphrys (Vice Chair) (JH), Church (MC), Martin (AM), Tulip (PT) &amp; County Cllr Gordon Castle (GC)</p>	
<p>4. <b>Minutes:</b> 28 November 2023 minutes were signed as a true record.</p>	
<p>5. <b>Declarations of Interest:</b> none</p>	
<p>6. <b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b>  <b>Lesbury Tennis Club:</b> MC not in attendance - to be postponed to February.  <b>NCC Service Level Agreement:</b> JN/JH to progress. ET flagged Adrian Hinchliffe had suggested Alnmouth PC might also wish to be included in a terms of reference/service level agreement that could and should be expected.  <b>Damage to Wall:</b> JN reported wall repairs were complete.  <b>Village Hall Lease/Public Liability Responsibility:</b> JH not in attendance. To be postponed to February.  <b>Pondfield Damaged Gate:</b> ET reported Multiutilis had repaired the broken latch.</p>	<p><b>MC</b></p> <p><b>JN/JH</b></p> <p><b>JH</b></p>

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	<p><b>School Lane:</b> ET confirmed traffic cones had been purchased and passed to Roger Styring for distribution to the Village Hall/Bowling Club - both had agreed to take responsibility for cone management during events within their remit going forwards to try to resolve the issue. Robert Bland advised the cones weren't yet being used. JN suggested that visiting the respective organisation's committee meetings to make the request in-person.</p> <p><b>Cyclepath to Alnmouth:</b> AM not in attendance so no update on what action is being taken about the gates which need attention. AM had also queried the need for the large gate onto the cyclepath from Greenrigg to Alnwick and was going to raise this with Aln Valley Railway. To be postponed to February.</p>	<b>AM</b>
7.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>a) <b>2024-25 Precept:</b> It was agreed that the precept should remain at £17k per annum. Proposed JuH, 2<sup>nd</sup> JN. All agreed.</p> <p>b) <b>Speedwatch:</b> Kevin Franklin reported 2 speedwatch sessions had been undertaken: outside the school (a vehicle was recorded at 42mph in the 20mph zone) and one on Lesbury Main Street (no speeders recorded). Speedwatch signs had been requested of Northumbria Police. Northumbria Police had also agreed the PC's own speedgun could be used, provided Kevin is in attendance until the other volunteers are trained up to use that specific speedgun. Kevin also confirmed Northumbria Police had permitted the team to wear 2 of the high-vis jackets already owned so no new jackets needed to be purchased at this time. The PC thanked the Speedwatch volunteers.</p>	<b>ET</b>
8.	<p><b>County Councillors Gordon Castle and Martin Swinbank – NCC Update</b></p> <p><b>NCC Budget:</b> MS reported this was still open for consultation until 26/1/24 if the PC wished to make representation/comment. JuH to review/respond.</p> <p><b>Streetlight:</b> MS advised the new streetlight on the footpath from the Post Office to Steppey Lane bridge had now been activated.</p> <p><b>Steppey Lane Footbridge:</b> MS advised the planning application had still not been submitted. MS to chase and get an update for the PC.</p> <p><b>Bus Stop to Warkworth:</b> MS confirmed the inadequate and unsafe bus stop off the Hipsburn Roundabout towards Warkworth was in the NCC LTP for review.</p> <p><b>High Buston, A1068:</b> MS advised NCC were to install bollards to prevent vehicles parking on the grass verge on the road to High Buston. This was to encourage vehicles to use the car park just beyond the railway bridge instead.</p> <p><b>18/04528/OUT – Land North of Alnmouth Station:</b> There was uncertainty over whether this application would go to the February Planning Committee. Pam Allen reported that Tony Lowe, Principal Planning Officer confirmed the applicant is in further discussion with Network Rail regarding access to their site and that a decision regarding a Committee hearing date will not be taken until after these discussions are completed. Tony Lowe also confirmed it is still the intention that the application will go to Planning Committee.</p>	<b>JuH</b>  <b>MS</b>
9.	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p>Letter from Mr &amp; Mrs Shipley re 23/01506/FUL – demolition of existing bungalow and construction of 2-storey dwelling - Badachro, Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU. A letter had been received re the above application being revised and re-submitted with a request for PC input. The letter had been circulated to the Planning Sub-Committee for review and comment. JuH to finalise the response from the PC and send to ET for onward transmission. It was agreed the PC is unable to provide feedback when key pieces of information are missing but would provide a response to any planning application formally submitted. A copy</p>	<b>JuH/ET</b>

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	g) HMRC (January PAYE) - £92.94 (Account in credit by £4.26) - agreed h) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £48.00 - agreed i) Turtle Engineering (Defibrillator Pads) - £71.97 - agreed j) Sportsworld (Lesbury & Post Office Christmas Trees) - £192.00 - agreed k) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £64.00 - agreed l) Jane Norris (Memorial Garden Grass Cutting Thank You) - £19 - agreed	
12.	<b>Pond Field Play Area</b> MC/AM not in attendance. To be postponed to February. ET advised Sovereign Play had been in touch offering playground quotes with no obligation to purchase, which had been forwarded to MC/AM for review/consideration.	<b>AM/MC</b>
13.	<b>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</b> <b>VMS Sign on South View:</b> MS reported it isn't working and is displaying erroneous speeds. ET given permission to contact Swarco to request an engineer to visit and inspect/repair.	<b>ET</b>
14.	<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Next meeting is 7.30pm – Tuesday 27 February 2024 – Lesbury Village Hall	<b>ALL</b>

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_