

Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 25 June 2024

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

Present: Cllrs Norris (JN) (Chair), Humphrys (Vice Chair) (JH), Church (MC), Hall (JuH), Knowles (DK), Tulip (PT) and County Cllrs and Gordon Castle (GC) and Martin Swinbank (MS).

In attendance: Elizabeth Taylor (Clerk) (ET).

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		ACTION
Public Questions: There were no members of the public present.		
1.	Apologies: Cllr Hodgson (AH).	
2.	Minutes: 28 May 2024 minutes were signed as a true record.	
3.	Declarations of Interest: none	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Lesbury Footbridge: ET confirmed the PC’s response to planning application 24/01312/CCD was amended to request a “cyclists dismount” sign.</p> <p>Lesbury Tennis Club: MC advised no update.</p> <p>NCC Service Level Agreement: JN had now received a response from Cllr Isabel Hunter (Chair, Town & Parish Council) and Paul Jones, NCC Director of Environment & Transport who advised the SLA with the PCs would not change after 2025 and that each County Councillor has their own SLA set up with the PC’s they represent. The Boundary Commission amended the boundaries to spread the work more evenly so each County Councillor has the same number of residents to represent. The PC agreed that “no change” doesn’t accurately reflect Lesbury’s position post 2025 whereby the County Councillor representative will now be representing 7 not 3 PC’s and concern was expressed how the same level of good service currently received could be maintained when the County Councillor was required to cover more PC’s albeit the same number of people. It was agreed JN to respond to Cllr Isabel Hunter and Paul Jones and cc in the other affected PC’s.</p> <p>Cyclepath to Alnmouth: AM no longer on PC so cannot elaborate on the issue that concerned him. DK flagged the cyclepath was becoming overgrown again. ET confirmed this is maintained by Sustrans and to contact Iain Robson, AONB to request it is cut so it can be safely used by residents over the summer.</p> <p>Online Banking: ET/PT/DK’s applications are progressing.</p> <p>School Hedge: ET reported the overgrown hedge to NCC who advised it was the responsibility of the school. ET contacted the school to request it be cut back and these works have now been carried out.</p> <p>VMS Sign: ET advised the sign was still not working and that Swarco had confirmed via photo that the fuses are only accessible by the engineer. Swarco agreed on 31/5/24 to send out another engineer to establish why the VMS sign still wasn’t working and noted that the PC would not pay the invoice until the sign had been fixed. On 24/6/24 Swarco advised the sign possibly wasn’t working because either there’s not enough charge from the solar panel so the battery is dead or because the solar panel may have packed in. ET responded to advise the sign hadn’t been working since January when the foliage wouldn’t have impeded the sign’s functionality. ET also requested information on how long solar panels are normally expected to last and how much they are to replace. A further response from Swarco is awaited. In the meantime, Penny Royale had been instructed to give the foliage around the sign a hard cut back to give best sunlight exposure (as per the agreement with NCC/the householder to ensure the functionality of the highways sign is maintained). MS not aware of any other issues with Swarco and other PCs. It was suggested ET contact Richard McKenzie at NCC to escalate the issue with Swarco. MS also suggested that an SLA amongst PCs could be set up</p>	<p>JN</p> <p>ET</p> <p>ET</p>

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	<p>to facilitate the maintenance of speed signs. ET advised she had specifically requested this back in 2018 with NCC and Stephen Rickett who was then Chief Officer of NALC. MS was suggested this was picked up again with Graeme Popay the new Chief Office at NALC as it may be progressed this time.</p> <p>Visit Northumberland: JuH progressing with the request to have Lesbury listed on the NCC Visit Northumberland website. JuH also reported that a new Lesbury Trail booklet had been written promoting walks/trails in our parish. Costs to print are being obtained from Shield & Morrison and CBS World. It was agreed the PC could pay the printing costs using the grant money allocated to the Heritage Grant.</p> <p>Coalyard Fence: PT yet to progress reporting the fallen iron railing boundary fence to the coal yard to the landowner The Arch Company.</p>	<p>ET</p> <p>PT</p>
5.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>a) Parish Council Vacancy: ET confirmed that as Andrew Martin had now missed 6 months' of meetings, he had fallen foul of the 6 month rule. The vacancy arising had been advertised with NCC and on the PC noticeboards. Due to work commitments, Andrew Martin was unlikely to reapply. It was noted that PT would be stepping down in November 2024 and that JN and JH would be stepping down in May 2025, leaving the PC with an imminent lack of Parish Councillors. An appeal for anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to be included again in the next newsletter and all the PC agreed to speak with neighbours to see if any new residents might be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and representing their local community.</p> <p>b) PC Fixed Asset Check: ET confirmed Multiutilis had completed the checks on all benches with no issues arising. JN agreed to check bus stops, MC grit bins and JuH litter/dog bins and to report back to the July PC meeting.</p> <p>c) PC Policies & Procedures: JH had reviewed the policies and procedures and with a few minor modifications to update them, all appeared to be in order. JH to send JN her suggested amends for circulation and further review.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JN/MC/JuH</p> <p>JN/JH/ALL</p>
6.	<p>County Councillors Gordon Castle and Martin Swinbank – NCC Update</p> <p>Alnmouth Train Station Parking Report: MS confirmed Robin McCartney, NCC Strategic Transport Officer had now completed the report on and should be contacted to request the NCC Officer to present the report at a future PC meeting. This report would then inform NCC as to the response to residents' requests/complaints about parking in and around the station/Curly Lane/South View. It was agreed to invite the NCC Officer to attend the July PC meeting.</p> <p>Northumberland Local Transport Plan (LTP): MS confirmed this had now been signed off and included £10k to be spent on a new bus stop at Hipsburn Roundabout Bus Stop to create a safer standing area. It also included £80k to be spent on improving the footpath on Lesbury Main Street.</p> <p>18/04528/OUT – MS advised this would now be decided at the August Strategic Planning Committee. The PC and any members of the public would need to register to speak. Info will be available on NCC's website from end of July.</p> <p>Rights of Way (RoW) Improvement Plan: MS advised a consultation was to take place on how RoW are to be looked after for the next 10+ years.</p> <p>Grass Cutting: MS/GC to hold a meeting with Bob Hodgson, Northern Manager Neighbourhood Services re issues experienced this year with grass cutting.</p> <p>Adult Social Care: MS advised NCC are undertaking a review of budget management of adult services to try to tackle the growing budgetary constraints of an increasing aging population and demand for service provision.</p>	<p>ET</p>
7.	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/01642/FUL – Erection of porch to front elevation - 3 Croftlands, Lesbury, 	

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	<p>NE66 3QW – no objection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/01621/FUL – Single story rear extension to kitchen and alterations to parking at front - 22 Lealands, Lesbury, NE66 3QN – no objection • 24/01753/FUL – Installation of solar panels to south facing roof slope (amended 19/6/24) – Lesbury Village Hall – no objection • 24/01754/LBC – Listed Building Consent for installation of solar panels to south facing roof slope (amended 19/6/24) – Lesbury Village Hall – no objection • 24/02056/FUL – Single storey rear extension - 16 South View, Lesbury, NE66 3PZ – application just received/being reviewed by Planning Sub-Committee. 	ET
8.	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>a) Jane Brunger – Report of damaged fencing on Public Footpath Lesbury to Foxton. ET had advised the resident had been advised this should be reported direct to the landowner N'land Estates with exact locations so they could either carry out repairs or instruct the farmer to do so. ET had also reported this to Philip Bradley, Countryside Officer as the fence requiring repair was on a public footpath. MS suggested ET should also contact Adam Musk who was the local Footpaths Officer. JuH also reported this footpath was repeatedly flooded and often impassible. JuH to report on FixMyStreet.</p> <p>b) Peter Hignett – Footpath – Lesbury Main Street from Lealands to Riverside – ET had replied to advise this footpath was due for repair by NCC in the next LTP (as reported in item 6 above).</p> <p>c) NCC Thriving Together Newsletter May #2 and June 2024 - noted</p> <p>d) NCC – Code of Conduct and Pledge from NALC – to be added to the PC policies and procedures under review.</p>	ET JuH ALL
9.	<p>Parish Financial Matters</p> <p>a) Clerk (Wages) - £447.37 - agreed</p> <p>b) HMRC (PAYE) - £104.40 - agreed</p> <p>c) Multiutillis (Bench Inspection/Baby Swing Fix) - £96.25 - agreed</p> <p>d) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £69.49 - agreed</p> <p>e) Lesbury in Bloom (Plants) - £148.10 - agreed</p>	
10.	<p>Pond Field Play Area</p> <p>MC advised no update available on the Playdale Engineer visit. ET advised RoSPA would carry out the Annual Inspection in June 2024, that Multiutillis had repaired the leg divider on the baby swing and that a report had been received that local residents were ignoring the sign to keep dogs on a lead in Pondfield Play Area. It was agreed to install a 2nd sign on the side gatepost into Pondfield. JuH also suggested a request to follow the sign instructions be included in the next newsletter.</p>	MC ET
11.	Any Other Matters for Discussion: None	
12.	NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm – Tuesday 23 July 2024 – Lesbury Village Hall	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.36pm.

Chairman: _____

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