

Lesbury Parish Council

**Meeting
Tuesday 23 July 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), Hodgson (AH), Knowles (DK), Tulip (PT) and County Cllr Martin Swinbank (MS).

In attendance: Elizabeth Taylor (Clerk) (ET) and 6 members of the public.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes	ACTION
<p>Public Questions: 18/04528/OUT – It was noted that this application would be heard at Strategic Planning Committee on 6/8/24. Kev Franklin confirmed Jenny Ludman would be representing the residents of Hillside in their objection at this committee meeting. JH confirmed that the PC had agreed and budgeted for Jenny Ludman to also represent the PC at the meeting to defend the PC's NDP against the planning application.</p>	
<p>1. Robin McCartney (RM), NCC Highways re Alnmouth Station/Hipsburn Parking RM confirmed both he and the NCC Civil Enforcement Officer had monitored the parking habits on both Curly Lane and South View since the Northern Rail parking charges came into force in January 2024 at the request of the PC and MS. It was concluded that there is no discernible change in parking habit nor indication of any significant impact although it was recognised that the section of road at the top of South View just before the station may be busier than it has been previously. This is a length of 10 spaces at the pinch point on South view, that is frequently full to capacity during the day with more available spaces during the evening periods. A camera was therefore installed from Sat 25 May through to Mon 27 May. This shows that this section of road is used equally by residents and individuals using the train station, with 50-60% availability of spaces during the evenings, filling up to capacity during the days and returning to 50-60% availability in the evenings. This volume of cars does cause some issues with buses if there are vehicles traveling up South View but no more than the issues that were there previously. On Curly Lane there is a section of unrestricted road in the centre near the private parking area, that can seem busier on some occasions more than others. This is not consistent and however is always significantly busier with little capacity in the evenings. The Northern Line Car park appears now to be 80% utilised compared to before parking charges were introduced, although there has also been a spike in ticket sales from the NCC carpark that at present could be linked to the introduction of charges. In summary therefore, there appears to be no discernible impact from the introduction of charges on Curly Lane or South View and any change in parking habits has balanced out between the two car parks. There is insufficient evidence to support any parking restriction intervention at this time, and if any were considered would displace these vehicles further down South View or into Curly Lane. RM confirmed NCC no longer implemented resident parking schemes as experience has shown that they cause more problems than they fix and the evidence is that there is not enough of a problem to consider such a scheme. It was noted that an FOI request for details of the data held on the NCC car park would be needed for NCC to consider releasing any data and that NCC did not hold any data on the Network Rail car park. RM then answered questions: Would the current planning application for 60 houses impact on the parking? NCC Highways will ensure planning policy is adhered to for any application of this kind. Why a time limit of 72 hours on the NCC car park? This is standard across Northumberland. NCC car parks are not intended for long-stay use. Will NCC consider using the vacated coal yard for parking? JH advised when the PC contacted the coal yard owners, The Arch Company, they advised the lease is still active. NCC had considered it as a possible area for parking but were mindful</p>	

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	<p>that it is used for maintenance access to the railway line but also that there wasn't an easy, safe pedestrian access from it to the train station. MS confirmed the availability of the coal yard space had been raised with NCC strategic transport.</p> <p>How far off in the future could there be a problem with parking? RM advised this depended a number of different factors such as the outcome of the planning application for 60 houses, capacity on both car parks. The indication was that there has been a slight increase in the number of people parking in the NCC car park compared to the last 2-3 years and that is more than just the displacement of cars from when Northern Rail introduced charging. RM also advised that the cost to introduce an extra bus into the route between the train station and Alnwick would cost an extra £170k which wasn't cost effective but in an effort to help with the parking issue, NCC were to introduce additional weekend and late/early bus services as part of the bus service improvement plan. What were RM's views on a new roundabout at the bottom of Curly Lane? RM advised a transport assessment report would be required which would be analysed by the road safety audit team and they would make comments on the report as part of the planning process. There were no further questions and JN thanked RM for attending the PC meeting.</p>	
2.	Apologies: . County Cllr Gordon Castle (GC)	
3.	Minutes: 25 June 2024 minutes were signed as a true record.	
4.	Declarations of Interest: none	
5.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Lesbury Tennis Club: MC advised no update.</p> <p>NCC Service Level Agreement: JN yet to progress this item.</p> <p>Cyclepath to Alnmouth: ET confirmed Iain Robson at AONB had been contacted to request both this and the cyclepath to Warkworth is cut so it can be safely used by residents over the summer. MS confirmed both had now been cut.</p> <p>Online Banking: ET/JH now online. PT/DK's applications are progressing.</p> <p>VMS Sign: ET advised the sign was still not working and that Swarco is now not responding to further requests for the sign to be repaired. ET advised Richard McKenzie at NCC had not responded to the request to escalate the issue with Swarco. ET also confirmed Graeme Popay at NALC had been approached and he had agreed to review the possibility of an SLA amongst PCs to facilitate the maintenance of speed signs. MS offered to contact Richard McKenzie to enquire if there is anyway NCC could move both these matters forward.</p> <p>Parish Walks Booklet: JuH confirmed the new Lesbury Trail booklet promoting walks/trails in our parish had been printed and tested. Invoice to follow.</p> <p>Coalyard Fence: PT confirmed the name of the coal yard landowner – The Arch Company – had been passed to the complainant and they would contact direct to report the fallen iron railing boundary fence.</p> <p>Pondfield Sign: AH agreed to organise a 2nd "Dogs to be kept on a Lead" sign for the side gatepost into Pondfield. ET to get Multiutilis to fit when ready. JN reported she had received a similar complaint about dogs being off the lead in the Memorial Garden. JH to check with the Gardening Group to see if dogs/dog fouling was an issue and report back. JH reported the gate into the Memorial Garden needed repair. ET to organise the repair with Multiutilis.</p> <p>PC Vacancies: ET confirmed the PC can co-opt the 2 vacancies. It was noted 3 residents had made enquiries but had not yet formally applied. ET had also written a short article to promote the vacancies to be included in the next newsletter.</p> <p>Public Footpath Lesbury to Foxton: ET confirmed the damaged fence had been reported direct to N'land Estates. ET had also flagged with Adam Musk, local Footpaths Officer. Adam Musk advised fencing to keep livestock in (or dogs out) is</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PT/DK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AH/ET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ET</p>

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	the responsibility of the landowner to sort out and ultimately has nothing to do with NCC even if there is a public right of way through the fields. It is up to the owner of a dog to ensure that it is kept under close control. If this means being keeping the dog on a lead that is what would be required.	
5.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>a) PC Fixed Asset Check: ET confirmed Multiutillis had completed the checks on all benches with no issues arising. JN yet to check bus stops and MC yet to check grit bins. JuH confirmed all litter/dog bins in good order. The fixed asset register to be updated to record the dog bin at the shop car park had been removed and replaced with the bin from outside the old Post Office.</p> <p>b) 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. These amendments had been circulated to the PC and all agreed with the suggestions. ET to update the policies and procedures accordingly and re-circulate for ratification at the September PC meeting. It was agreed that JuH and DK would form the Staffing Committee and JN and JH would form the Appeal Committee.</p>	<p>JN/MC</p> <p>ET</p>
6.	<p>County Councillors Gordon Castle and Martin Swinbank – NCC Update</p> <p>Grass Cutting: MS/GC had met with Bob Hodgson, Neighbourhood Services about issues experienced this year with grass cutting. It was noted that both the triangle from Lesbury to Foxton and the bank by the Lesbury roundabout had now been cut.</p> <p>Northumberland Local Transport Plan 2025-26: MS flagged that the request for the PCs top 3 priorities would be required by 27 September. ET advised no notification on this had been received yet from NCC but would be circulated immediately. PC to considered for the September meeting what their priorities would be. MC suggested these should be long-term priorities given the timelines.</p> <p>North Northumberland Local Area Committee: next meeting was on 25/7/24 at 6pm at Rothbury. This committee was to establish a coastal erosion community group. Interested members to get in touch with NCC.</p>	<p>ET</p> <p>ALL</p>
7.	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/02200/FUL – Sunroom alterations to remove glass roof and replace with solid roof - Sunnyside, Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU – no objection. • 24002044/FUL – Demolition of existing summerhouse and playhouse within garden, construction of garden outbuilding comprising gym, shower/WC and garden room. Amended following refusal of application 24/00449/FUL - Cald, 5 Croftlands, Lesbury, NE66 3QW – objection as the construction of a summer house and gym as it includes the provision of toilet, shower and kitchen facilities. These facilities exceed the brief for a summer house. 	
8.	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>a) NALC ENews July 2024 - noted</p> <p>b) NCC – Polling District and Polling Places Statutory Review – noted and no issue with Lesbury Village Hall as continued location for Polling Station</p> <p>c) N'land Coast National Landscape Partnership (AONB) – Minutes 18/6/24 - noted</p>	
9.	<p>Parish Financial Matters</p> <p>a) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £178.08 - agreed</p> <p>b) Clerk (July & August Wages) - £894.74 - agreed</p> <p>c) HMRC (July & August PAYE) - £208.80 - agreed</p> <p>d) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £48 - agreed</p> <p>e) Clerk (Stamps) - £9.35 – agreed</p>	
10.	<p>Pond Field Play Area</p> <p>MC confirmed Playdale only accepted payment by BACS therefore the PC online banking needed to be up and running before an engineer visit could be organised.</p>	MC

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	The June 2024 report from RoSPA Playsafety Ltd annual inspection had been received and circulated. It was noted that there were no issues raised that required immediate urgent attention. All amber issues were minor and would continue to be monitored. It was agreed that ET would contact RoSPA for a quote for the cost of a Resistance Wood Drill Test for the swing seat as recommended in the report.	ET
11.	<p>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JH circulated an NCC Planning Handbook which could be useful when reviewing planning applications. To be circulated amongst the Planning Sub-Committee first for review. • DK praised the organisers of the Village Fete for another excellent event. • MC flagged the car parking issues at the Open Garden event. JH confirmed this would be reviewed by organisers – the event had proved to be more popular than anticipated. A future park'n'ride scheme was being considered. • PT flagged concern about the quantity and extent of weeds growing on the old mill wall, which is a listed ancient monument. ET to contact Martin Duddy at NCC to enquire if this is part of NCC's remit to maintain and, if so, to organise to have the weeds carefully removed to help preserve this ancient monument. • JN had received a request for a cyclepath to run along the A1068 from Lesbury to Alnwick. MS advised this was unlikely as there was already a cyclepath at Greenrigg to Alnwick. 	PT/DK/ JuH ET
12.	NEXT MEETING: No meeting in August. 7.30pm – Tuesday 24 September 2024 – Lesbury Village Hall	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.48pm.

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