

Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 24 September 2024

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

Present: Cllrs Norris (JN) (Chair), Church (MC), Hall (JuH), Knowles (DK), Tulip (PT) and County Cllr Martin Swinbank (MS).

In attendance: Elizabeth Taylor (Clerk) (ET) and 2 members of the public.

	Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes	ACTION
	<p>Public Questions:</p> <p>Parish Council Vacancy: David Reddington was in attendance as he was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.</p> <p>Hipsburn Christmas Tree Lights: Billy McKnight requested permission to purchase replacement lights and batteries at a cost of circa £27.50 for the Hipsburn Christmas Tree. This was approved and thanks extended for organising the Christmas Tree for Hipsburn.</p> <p>Steppey Lane Footbridge: Billy McKnight raised concern about the arches within the north and south of the bridge which are designed to allow flood water to pass under the bridge structure when the river bursts its banks at times of flooding. The concern is that adjacent landowners may have inadvertently increased the danger of damage to the bridge and flooding to their property by placing barriers under these arches which could impede water flow. ET advised that NCC had previously been alerted to this concern and a site visit conducted which had concluded the obstructions would not cause restrictions in water movement and no action was required to be taken. However, MS agreed to contact NCC again to request that with current works being undertaken to improve accessibility of the footbridge, that this is double-checked again at the same time.</p>	MS
1.	Apologies: Cllrs Humphrys (JH) (Vice Chair), Hodgson (AH) and County Cllr Gordon Castle (GC)	
2.	Minutes: 23 July 2024 minutes were signed as a true record.	
3.	Declarations of Interest: none	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Lesbury Tennis Club: MC advised a working group of 3 residents had been formed who were holding a meeting to review options and next steps.</p> <p>NCC Service Level Agreement: JN had drafted an email to send to the PCs in Longhoughton Parish and neighbouring parishes to enquire if they would endorse a NCC Service Level Agreement following the revision of the parish boundaries from 2025 onwards. Lesbury would going forwards only have 1 County Councillor representative who would be stretched over a large area with 7 Parish Councils to look after and the concern was that this was too much for 1 County Councillor to undertake and Lesbury would see a reduction in level of service.</p> <p>Online Banking: PT now online. PT to assist DK on how to do online banking.</p> <p>VMS Sign: It was noted that the sign is now working. No further news from NALC about the possibility of an SLA amongst PCs to facilitate maintenance of speed signs. MS mentioned that Swarco offered a SLA. ET to enquire about cost. Penny Royale had not yet cut down the foliage around the VMS sign on South View. A letter had been hand delivered to the resident advising that works would take place. MS confirmed he was still happy to do a site visit with Penny Royal to give instructions on how much foliage to be cut back. ET to contact Penny Royale again.</p> <p>Pondfield Sign: The 2nd "Dogs kept on a Lead" sign had been installed. The Gardening Group confirmed there's no issue with dogs in the Memorial Garden.</p> <p>Memorial Garden Gate: The cost to repair the gate into the Memorial Garden would be approx. £300 depending on the state when dismantled. To replace with a new gate of similar design and original build quality would be in excess of £600. ET to also commission the repair of the bottom panel of the kissing gate into Watty's Field.</p>	<p>JN</p> <p>PT/DK</p> <p>ET</p> <p>ET/MS</p> <p>ET</p>

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

	<p>NCC Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2025/26: MS flagged the deadline for submitting the PC's top 3 priorities was end of September. ET advised the PC had not yet received any correspondence from NCC with the formal invitation to submit priorities or the results from the previous years' submission. ET to follow-up with Richard McKenzie at NCC. In the meantime, possibilities were discussed which included a resurfacing the footpath from the station up to Bilton and installing a curb; resurfacing the footpath from Lealands to the Village Hall; extending the footpath on one side of the road up Longhoughton Road (so residents don't have to zig zag across the street to walk on the footpath; installation of coloured tarmac at all the gateway entrances to the village (especially on Longhoughton Road now that the 30mph sign on the Gateway Sign has been removed by NCC); removal of the hedge and widening/improvement of the footpath from Steppey Lane to the School.</p> <p>Grass Cutting Bilton: PT flagged that the grass had been missed again off the grass cutting route. PT to report on Fix My Street.</p> <p>Old Mill Wall: ET confirmed Martin Duddy at NCC had agreed to undertake careful weeding of the old mill wall. No works had started and the PC to keep under review.</p> <p>Fixed Assets: MC had undertaken a review of the grit bins and JN had undertaken a review of the bus stops. A replacement bin may be required at Alnwick bound bus stop on the A1068. ET to contact NCC to enquire. JN reported that not all the bus stops had timetables and some had just QR codes. ET to contact Neil Easton to request proper timetables at all bus stops.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ET</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>a) PC Policies & Procedures: The amendments agreed at the July meeting had been made and re-circulated to the PC. These were reviewed and it was agreed to re-adopt the policies with the minor amends. Proposed JuH, 2nd DK. All agreed. Et to update the policies on the PC website.</p> <p>b) N'land Coast National Landscape - Lesbury Conservation Area Character Appraisal Review: No further comments or amends were suggested further to those suggested by JH. It was noted that Steppey Lane Footbridge wouldn't be finished in time for a photo of the new accessible bridge to be included. ET to notify N'land Coast National Landscape accordingly.</p> <p>c) Longhoughton Road – Gateway Signs – missing 30mph sign – MC had reported on 16/9/24 that the 30mph repeater sign on the Gateway Signs on Longhoughton Road had been removed. It was clarified by NCC that 30mph repeater signs should not have been erected on the gateway structures in the first place and were therefore removed. For legal reasons, NCC is not allowed under the regulations to erect any repeater signs in areas covered with street lighting. It was also noted that Michael McMonagle had contacted JN and JH with notification of their removal on 21/8/24 with an apology that that when the PC had contacted NCC to request permission for the Gateway Sign (its size, location and design), he hadn't he hadn't picked up that it would fail the regulations and the 30mph sign would need to be removed. It was agreed the empty space needs filling and MC suggested a logo of the bridge as per the Village Shop signage. JuH to make enquiries about cost to produce a round sign. ET to contact NCC to ensure that would pass Highways requirements. JN also flagged the Parish Council Code and reminded everyone of the need to be polite and respectful.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ET</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>County Councillors Gordon Castle and Martin Swinbank – NCC Update</p> <p>NCC LTP 2024-25: MS flagged that works on Steppey Lane Footbridge had commenced and the footpaths in Lesbury Village had been resurfaced. These requests had been made by the PC and completed as part of the LTP.</p>	

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	<p>18/04528/OUT - Land North of Alnmouth Station: MS advised the applicant has 6 months to appeal the decision to refuse planning permission for this application.</p> <p>Alnwick Banking Hub: MS confirmed works were still progressing and negotiations on the lease of a building were taking place.</p> <p>Bus Meets Train: MS advised improved bus services between Alnwick and Alnmouth Station would be introduced from April 2025 to include evening and weekend services.</p> <p>Hipsburn Roundabout Bus Stop: MS to follow-up with NCC on progress of the new bus stop on Hipsburn Roundabout going out to Warkworth/Amble.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/02834/FUL – Rendering/cladding works, new window/door openings, new garage doors, paving/balustrades, fascia boards and portico - Bingley, 42 South View, Lesbury, NE66 3PZ – no objections • 24/02630/FUL – Double storey extension and front porch - 10 Lesbury Road, Lesbury, NE66 3ND – no objections 	
8.	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NCC Annual Town & Parish Council Autumn Conference – 3/10/24 - noted b) NCC North N'land Local Area Committee Meeting – 26/9/24 - noted c) NCC Extra Grass Cuts 2024-2025 – the 3 extra grass cuts at a cost of £462.61 were once again agreed. It was noted this was already budgeted for. d) Mark Brunton, Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Club – Patio Project Update – it was noted works were due to commence and the PC agreed to release the £1,500 grant money for the project. e) NCC – ProW Improvement Plan Consultation - noted f) NCC – Local Nature Recovery Survey - noted g) Neil Easton, Public Transport Mgr, NCC – Bus Service Improvement Plan - noted h) Denise Metcalfe – Spitalford Cemetery – noted. i) Brian Eastham – Road Sweeping – Orchard Terrace, Lesbury – It was noted that NCC would now include Orchard Terrace on the road sweeping route. j) Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner – Policing & Crime Priorities - noted k) NALC Enews August 2024 - noted l) Thriving Together Newsletter July 2024 #1 & #2, August 2024 #1 & #2 and September 2024 #1 - noted m) Healthwatch Northumberland – Newsletter and Annual Event - noted n) NHS Healthcare Foundation Trust – Parish Councillor Project Database – noted o) Kathryn Chalis, Alnmouth Station – it was noted that Friends of Alnmouth Station were awarded, for the 3rd consecutive year, Gold and best Bus/Metro/Railway Station at the 2024 Northumbria in Bloom presentation. Congratulations to the team, their work is much appreciated. 	ET
9.	<p>Parish Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NCC (Half Yearly Precept) - £8,500 – CREDIT - noted b) Sportsworld (Dogs on Lead Sign) - £12 – PAID - noted c) RoSPA Playsafety Ltd (Annual Pondfield Inspection) - £184.80 – PAID - noted d) Ludman Planning Ltd (Representation re 18/04528/OUT) - £320 - agreed e) Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection Annual Fee) - £40 - agreed f) Clerk (September Wages) - £447.37 - agreed g) HMRC (September PAYE) - £104.40 - agreed h) N'land Estates (Annual Rent The Wynd £10 / Memorial Garden £40 / Pondfield £75) - £125 - agreed i) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £138.49 - agreed j) Multiutillis (Install Dog Sign) - £27.50 - agreed 	

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	<p>k) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £73 - agreed</p> <p>l) N'land CAB (Returned Grant Cheque #001606 past banking date. £100 grant to be reissued but via BACS) - £100 – agreed</p> <p>m) Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Club (Grant) - £1,500 - agreed</p>	
10.	<p>Pond Field Play Area</p> <p>It was noted that the RosPa Play Safety quote of £495 to resistance wood drill test the wooden posts on the swing seat (which had been flagged as a concern in the 2024 inspection report) would also cover testing of all the wooden play equipment at Pondfield onsite. However, it was agreed that as all the play equipment had passed the inspection and this was only a suggestion and not a requirement, that this would be reviewed again at the next annual inspection. MS advised that Alnmouth Town Council carried out a monthly check of all play equipment and suggested this was something the PC could also undertake. It was agreed that an appeal for a volunteer to carry out the check to be made in the next newsletter.</p>	
11.	<p>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JuH advised the Village Shop had been awarded National Lottery Funding to create a covered external area next to the shop. • PT reported that the fence on the High Path on the A1068 was damaged and needed repairing. MS to review and report to NCC Highways. 	MS
12.	NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm – Tuesday 22 October 2024 – Lesbury Village Hall	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____