

Lesbury Parish Council

**Meeting
Tuesday 22 October 2024**

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

Present: Cllrs Norris (JN) (Chair), Humphrys (JH) (Vice Chair), Hodgson (AH), Knowles (DK), Tulip (PT) and County Cllr Martin Swinbank (MS).

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

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		ACTION
Public Questions: There were no members of the public in attendance.		
1.	Apologies: Cllrs Church (MC), Hall (JuH) and County Cllr Gordon Castle (GC)	
2.	Minutes: 24 September 2024 minutes were signed as a true record.	
3.	Declarations of Interest: none	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Parish Council Vacancy: David Reddington would not be progressing with his application to become a Parish Councillor for the time being. It was noted that PT would retire after the November meeting leaving 4 vacancies. It was unanimously agreed that JN to join the planning sub-committee and noted that a replacement Chair of that committee was required asap. To be discussed at November meeting. It was also noted that a more forceful appeal for volunteers to join the Parish Council was required in the next newsletter.</p> <p>Steppey Lane Footbridge: MS confirmed he had contacted NCC to request that they re-check about the concerns raised by Billy McKnight about the obstructions placed under the arches impeding water flow and increasing the danger of damage to the bridge and flooding to surrounding property.</p> <p>NCC Service Level Agreement: JN confirmed an email had been sent to the PCs in Longhoughton Parish and neighbouring parishes to enquire if they would endorse a NCC SLA following the revision of the parish boundaries from 2025 onwards.</p> <p>Online Banking: It was noted that a further 1 or 2 signatories were needed for online banking. JN to approach JuH and MC. To be discussed at the November meeting.</p> <p>VMS Sign: The quote from Swarco for a maintenance contract to be discussed under item 9a). MS had met with Penny Royale onsite and it was noted that extensive works to reduce the 10ft hedge and sycamore tree were required to facilitate the sign working efficiently and effectively. It was noted a letter from the PC had already been delivered to the resident together with a copy of the previous letter from NCC, both advising works were required. However, given works were more extensive than previously anticipated, it was agreed MS to contact NCC again for their advice and, if required, a further letter to the resident advising of the need and extent of the works.</p> <p>Memorial Garden Gate: ET confirmed Keith Nicholl had been instructed to carry out the repair the gate into the Memorial Garden (at a cost of approx. £300 depending on the state when dismantled) and also to repair the bottom panel of the kissing gate into Watty's Field.</p> <p>Grass Cutting Bilton: PT to report on Fix My Street that the grass in Bilton had been missed off the grass cutting route again.</p> <p>Old Mill Wall: ET confirmed Martin Duddy at NCC had agreed to undertake careful weeding of the old mill wall but no works had started. ET suggested the PC might like to consider commissioning and paying for the works as the wall was a listed heritage site that we should ensure is preserved and maintained. AH advised he knew a qualified stone mason who was contracted by Northumberland Estates to repair/maintain their stone walls who may undertake the works. AH to obtain a quote.</p> <p>Fixed Assets: ET confirmed Neil Easton at NCC had been contacted to request proper timetables at all Parish bus stops but no response had yet been received.</p>	<p>JN</p> <p>JN</p> <p>MS</p> <p>PT</p> <p>AH</p>

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	<p>PC Policies & Procedures: ET confirmed these had all been updated and uploaded to the PC website.</p> <p>Longhoughton Road – Gateway Signs – ET confirmed Michael McMonagle from NCC had approved replacing the 30mph sign with the logo of the bridge (as per the Village Shop signage). JuH to make enquiries about cost to produce a round sign.</p> <p>Damaged Fence High Path – MS had reported this and it was now repaired.</p>	JuH
5.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>a) NCC Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2025/26 The PC's top 3 priorities were agreed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repair and widen the existing pavements from Alnmouth Train Station up to Bilton 2. Improvement the pavements on Lesbury main road through the village on the north side to match the south side. 3. Continue and lengthen the pavement up Longhoughton Road on one side of the street so that pedestrians don't have to zig zag across a busy road in multiple places to walk on a footpath. <p>b) New Bin A1068 Bus Stop: It was agreed the PC to purchase a like-for-like replacement litter bin from Glasdon for the broken bin at Alnwick bound bus stop on the A1068.</p>	ET ET
6.	<p>County Councillors Gordon Castle and Martin Swinbank – NCC Update</p> <p>NCC's Green Spaces: MS advised NCC would be consulting with the PC on green spaces in the parish and how to improve biodiversity. Examples would include Billy McKnight's suggestion to not cut the grass on Hipsburn roundabout in May-June. AH urged caution about not cutting grass verges on narrow country lanes.</p> <p>Alnwick Banking Hub: MS confirmed works were still progressing and negotiations on the lease of a building were taking place. In the meantime, if the lease wasn't ready by January 2025 (when the last remaining banks in Alnwick were set to close), then a temporary location would be found</p> <p>Free Trees: MS flagged NCC's ongoing offer of free tree saplings for all residents.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/03282/FUL – proposed rear utility extension - Hazel Cottage, Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU – objection due to overdevelopment of the site. • 24/03182/FUL – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of self-build residential dwelling - Rydal, Longhoughton Road, NE66 3AT – objection as it's not in line with the NDP and is creating an 'executive' large family home not one suitable to stated local need and is demolishing a bungalow in the process. • 24/01753/FUL and 24/01754/LBC – Lesbury Village Hall – installation of solar panels to south facing roof slope – both applications to be heard at North Northumberland LAC on 24/10/24. No objection. 	
8.	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) NALC ENews September 2024 - noted b) Thriving Together Newsletter September 2024 #2 and October 2024 #1 - noted c) NCC - Environment & Transport Who's Who and Elections Documents - noted d) Peter Hignett - Thank you re resurfacing of footway in Lesbury – noted. JH advised Tim Bendix also passed his thanks to the PC and NCC for the works. 	
9.	<p>Parish Financial Matters</p> <p>a) Swarco – Quote for 3 Year Maintenance Contract for VMS Signs 11407 (Bilton Hill) and 11408 (South View) – Silver Contract £1,152.26 and Gold Contract £1,689.44. Plus one-off inspection fee of £658 for VMS Sign 11407. The cost of the Gold and Silver contract were considered extremely high and the one-off inspection fee extortionate. The PC were disappointed that NCC were allowing Swarco to have a monopoly and that only they could carry out repairs and</p>	

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	<p>maintenance of the VMS signs. MS agreed to take this up with Paul Jones, Director at NCC to see what assistance NCC could offer.</p> <p>b) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £66.00 - agreed</p> <p>c) Clerk (September Wages) - £443.57 - agreed</p> <p>d) HMRC (September PAYE) - £104.60 - agreed</p> <p>e) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £166.85 - agreed</p> <p>f) Shiel & Morrison (Lesbury Leisure Trail Leaflet) - £77.00 - agreed</p> <p>g) Billy McKnight (Hipsburn Christmas Tree) - £32.51 – agreed</p> <p>h) NCC (3 extra grass cuts) - £577.33 - agreed</p>	MS
10.	<p>Pond Field Play Area</p> <p>Nothing to report. It was noted 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"> • AH to organise the Christmas Tree for Lesbury in the Lealands Garden. • ET reported that the cycle path to Warkworth was once again flooded and impassible for walkers and that in Scotland boardwalks were successfully installed to overcome similar problems and would be a relatively inexpensive fix (and less problematic/expensive than the previous solution of re-routing the cycle path). MS to pick up with NCC. 	AH MS
12.	<p>NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm – Tuesday 26 November 2024 – Lesbury Village Hall</p>	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.48pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____