

# Lesbury Parish Council

Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday 26 January 2021

The Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held this evening at 7.30pm via Zoom.

**Present:** Cllrs Knowles (Chairman) (DK), Norris (Vice Chair) (JN), Bradshaw (KB), Church (MC), Hall (JuH), Hodgson (AH), Humphrys (JH), Martin (AM), Tulip (PT), Whittaker (BW) and Mrs Taylor (Parish Clerk) (ET).

**In Attendance:** Mr Robert Bland (item 8h).

Monthly Parish Meeting Minutes	ACTION
<p><b>Public Questions:</b> Mr Robert Bland was in attendance in regard to the Northumberland Estates planning application 18/04528/OUT, land north of Alnmouth station. It has now been 2 years since Northumberland Estates made 2 applications for major housing developments in Lesbury, but the Hipsburn one is still undecided. Following the rejection of the Planning Appeal over the Northumberland Estates' application for 41 houses north of Lesbury, Mr Bland suggests that a precedent has been set which also applies to the Hipsburn application. Both applications proposed building on open countryside outside the existing settlement boundaries, and both try to pre-empt and contradict the Lesbury Neighbourhood Development Plan, which were the Planning Inspector's main reasons for refusing the Lesbury appeal. Mr Bland commented that since Covid, the train station has been used much less and he believed would be used much less going forward, making the need for additional parking more doubtful. Mr Bland thinks 2 years is too long to wait for a decision on this application and that now is a suitable time to renew objections to the Hipsburn application, pointing out the precedent set by the Lesbury appeal decision. Mr Bland has done so and feels it would add weight if others, including Lesbury Parish Council, do the same and asked if the PC would submit a further objection. JH advised she had spoken to some local residents affected by the application, who were heartened by the outcome of the Lesbury decision but had experienced stress about the delay on a decision on the Hipsburn application. A determination on a planning application is usually made within a certain period of time but due to Covid, etc. it had created problems in dealing with this application in the usual way. Local residents have pushed NCC and tried to get clarification on when a decision will be made but NCC are not ready to make a decision. JH agreed it was unacceptable to make residents wait 2 years for a decision on a planning application. JH suggested the PC could contact NCC and ask them to bring the application to a conclusion and mention the weight of the NDP. JN agreed with Mr Bland that following Covid there was much less need for additional train station parking. It was agreed JH to draft a form of words for PC approval which would then be sent to NCC.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>JH</b></p>
<p>1. <b>Apologies:</b> County Councillor Gordon Castle (GC)</p>	
<p>2. <b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of 24 November 2020 were agreed and will be signed as a true record next time there is a physical PC meeting.</p>	
<p>3. <b>Declarations of Interest:</b> JH advised she was linked to Age UK, Bailiffgate Museum and CAN (item 9c). These connections were all declared on her Declarations of Interest form submitted to NCC however, it was agreed JH would abstain from voting on this item.</p>	
<p>4. <b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b> <b>Hipsburn Steadings:</b> KB had followed up with Neil Snowdon, NCC unhappy that he had advised it was not possible to paint either solid central double white lines or a red hatched zone in the middle of the road from Hipsburn roundabout out past Hipsburn Steadings junction to stop dangerous overtaking. The reason being it was unusual to have such road markings painted. Neil Snowdon had however advised he would include the request in a study of the A1068 that was due to be carried out by NCC. KB to keep an eye on progress and DK to also flag the problem with Northumbria Police.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>KB/DK</b></p>

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	<p><b>Lesbury Broadband Project:</b> BW is liaising with Sylvia Pringle of iNorthumberland/NCC re an article on the project for the newsletter. AM flagged his concern raised previously at the November PC meeting about whether the PC (and NCC) should be promoting one organisation over others. JH advised Sylvia Pringle had answered this question in November. AM advised he hadn't been happy with the clarity of the answer given by Sylvia Pringle. MC advised he had also been unclear on Sylvia Pringle's answer to AM's question about endorsing only 1 provider and queried if the PC should be supporting commercial providers and was unclear if the PC should be doing this? JH asked if the PC should then promote the project in the newsletter or promote it but make it clear Openreach aren't the only provider? JuH enquired if the literature on the project answered these questions? ET advised her understanding of the position from NCC is that currently only Openreach are actively working to deliver ultrafast broadband to this area, that NCC are supporting this project and that the PC is acting as a conduit to notify residents about the opportunity and project NCC is working on to try to bring ultrafast broadband to the parish. JN and DK advised they wouldn't be signing up as they were happy with their service providers. AH advised he felt it was the PCs duty to let residents know about opportunities and this was an NCC project to improve the speed of broadband available and he felt the PC should tell residents about the project and not make decisions on their behalf. MC also queried whether the PC should be taking a position on what residents should/should not be doing and it was therefore agreed the PC should make residents aware of the project via the newsletter but with a reminder there are other providers. ET reminded the PC Sylvia Pringle had advised she was happy to answer any questions/queries if the PC needed any clarity on any aspect of the project. Sylvia Pringle, Business &amp; Community Engagement Officer, iNorthumberland/NCC M:07827 825357 E: <a href="mailto:sylvia.pringle@northumberland.gov.uk">sylvia.pringle@northumberland.gov.uk</a></p>	<b>BW</b>
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> a) NCC: 3 extra grass cuts of public areas (Oct-March) - £396 - unanimously agreed.</p>	
6.	<p><b>County Councillor Gordon Castle – NCC Update</b> GC had given his apologies for the meeting but had sent the following report to the PC: <b>VMS Sign:</b> The order had been placed with delivery by end March. <b>Hipsburn School Road Safety Scheme:</b> The work on road safety features beside school is to go ahead as indicated at the last meeting, but GC's agreement was needed to omit the AONB request to resurface in a different colour - GC could not justify the £25k budgetary increase needed to fund this cosmetic improvement, especially since the road is in good condition and was resurfaced not long ago. It can be resurfaced in a different colour when resurfacing is next due. The rest of the scheme is drawn up in detail and after safety audit is complete will be added to the work programme asap and as a priority given the delays getting to this point. GC requested, if possible an additional staggered safety barrier a few metres down the cycleway's ending as it joins the B1338 Alnmouth/ Lesbury Road. This will not delay the scheme's progress.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Planning:</b> a) 20/01630/FUL – amended plans – Hazel Cottage, Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU – amends were minor and the PC maintained its objection to the application. b) 20/04245/PRUTPO – Sycamore trees crown thin - 4 Hipsburn Steadings, Lesbury, NE66 3QP – no objections. c) 20/04314/VARYCO – add extra storey over garage, increase height of porch and dining extension, etc - Just in Bounds, Foxton drive, NE66 3BE – no objections.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b> a) NCC – Local Elections Arrangements – noted. JH to contact David English at NCC to enquire if there will be a referendum on the NDP held at the same time. b) NALC – May 2021 Elections Update 17/12/20/Members Update 13/1/21- noted</p>	<b>JH</b>

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	<p>c) NALC – E-news 7 January 2021 &amp; 14 January 2021 - noted</p> <p>d) NCC – Private Sector Housing Strategy for N’land 2021-23 Consultation - noted</p> <p>e) Shelley Silzer – Genealogy Enquiry re Holme House, Lesbury – JH had forwarded the enquiry to Bailiffgate Museum and Mike Norris who had both provided Mrs Silzer with information, who wished to thank everyone for their help.</p> <p>f) Scott Rennie – A1068 Deep Dene 30mph Update – ET had passed this enquiry onto GC who was investigating and would report back.</p> <p>g) Ken Middlemist – Footpaths at Bilton – AH advised residents had reported the overgrown hedges via the NCC website and NCC had recently cut back the hedges freeing up use of the footpath. PT reported that the revealed footpath was in a bad state of repair with holes left where the hedges had been cut back. PT had reported this to NCC. PT had also reported the which was footpath falling away into a residents garden at the top of South View.</p> <p>h) Robert Bland – Hipsburn/Hillside Planning Application – see public questions above.</p> <p>i) Liz O’Brien, NCC – Foxton Glade Drain Outlet by River Aln – KB advised he had met Liz O’Brien, Enforcement Officer, NCC and had discussed the outlet. The willows had not taken and painting the outlet had been discussed but as there would be no ongoing responsibility for the developer to maintain the paintwork, it was decided to leave the outlet to weather naturally. Reducing the size of the outlet had also been considered but was not possible due to flood prevention requirements. AH reported that the field now flooded higher up from the outlet and wondered if installation had damaged other drains in the field. KB agreed to keep an eye on the situation.</p> <p>j) Anne-Marie Trevelyan – Union Connectivity Review - noted</p> <p>k) Macmillan Mighty Hike 2021 – Sat 17 July 2021 - noted</p> <p>l) NCC – Local Area Council – 21 January 2021 – noted</p>	<p><b>GC</b></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Parish Financial Matters</b></p> <p>a) NCC re 2021-22 Precept. AH proposed to keep the precept at £17k, this was 2<sup>nd</sup> by BW and was unanimously agreed by all.</p> <p>b) NCC (Covid Members Grant) - £500 CREDIT – JH suggested the money could be used to purchase IT equipment to help home schooling. This was unanimously agreed and met the funding criteria. JH to liaise with Hipsburn Primary School.</p> <p>c) Grant Requests: CAN, NALC, Bailiffgate Museum, GNAA, Hospice Care, NTC, Age UK, CAB and St Marys Church. It was agreed to offer a grant of £500 to St Mary’s Church and grants of £100 to each of the remaining organisations. Proposed DK, 2<sup>nd</sup> JuH and unanimously agreed by all.</p> <p>d) ParishCouncil.Net (Website) - £200 - agreed</p> <p>e) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £70.70 - agreed</p> <p>f) CBS World (Stationery) - £81.99 -agreed</p> <p>g) Andrew Hodgson (Lesbury Christmas Tree) - £85.00 - agreed</p> <p>h) Shiel &amp; Morrison (Newsletter) - £62.00 - agreed</p> <p>i) Dave Knowles (Memorial Garden Grass Cutting Thank You) - £15.99 - agreed</p>	<p><b>JH/ET</b></p> <p><b>ET</b></p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Pond Field Play Area:</b></p> <p>DK and BW confirmed all ok. AM reported the vehicular gate to Pond Field kept being left open because it wouldn’t shut properly due to the hinges requiring replacing. AM was concerned this was a child safety issue. ET to organise for Multiutlis to carry out repairs. ET advised that any such issues could and should be reported immediately rather than waiting until a PC meeting, especially if there was a safety concern.</p>	<p><b>ET</b></p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Village Hall:</b> JH advised Lesbury Village Hall was working with Newcastle University/CAN on a digital village hall review and has also applied to take part in a feasibility study on encouraging the use of renewable energy.</p>	

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<p><b>Electric Car Charging Points:</b> PT advised that 2 electric charging points had been installed in the NCC car park at Alnmouth train station.</p> <p><b>Resurfaced Road:</b> PT advised that the road from Bilton to Greenrigg had been resurfaced further to the PCs request as this was now signposted by NCC as a cycleroute to Alnwick but had previously been too poorly repaired to be a cycleroute.</p> <p><b>Cyclepath Project Update:</b> AH flagged that he thought the PC should be updated on progress from the Cyclepath Group that he had joined since the last PC meeting. Some members of the Group had met with Northumberland Estates who own the majority of the surrounding land to discuss possible route options. Northumberland Estates had rejected the suggested route past the cricket club on safety grounds and had rejected the route up Dukes Rise because of impact on current land use. JH confirmed that the Group comprising Lesbury Parish Council, Longhoughton Parish Council and the RAF had been meeting to discuss possible greenway routes as development of greenways had been identified as a project as part of the NDP. The difficulty was finding the right routes for the greenways, the criteria for which was for it to be free of traffic and a safe, pleasant route. It was proving difficult to find space that met this criteria. A key aim of the Group further to the NDP was to get a route from Longhoughton to Alnmouth Station. The Group had now held 2 meetings with Northumberland Estates where the Group had presented 3 route proposals, 1 of which was a preferred route, but which did not fit with Northumberland Estate plans. Northumberland Estates had suggested an alternative route and the Group would now have to hold a further meeting to look at alternative solutions. Steppey Lane footbridge had previously been a focus point because it was going to be upgraded by NCC to enable cyclists to go across. However to make it into a greenway is a different thing and the criteria of a greenway means it's not possible to either have the route come down Steppey Lane or past the cricket club. AH discussed the difficulties finding viable routes and talked through the suggestion of Northumberland Estates to have a route from Longhoughton to Lesbury coming down Longhoughton Road but advised this route was also proving difficult because of the space available on either side of Longhoughton Road and the proximity of the RAF fence to the road which meant the route would have to criss-cross over Longhoughton Road at a dangerous point. AH also mentioned the difficulty extending the current Warkworth cycle route and that as it wasn't possible to go past the cricket club or down Steppey Lane, the only option he could see was to look at taking the route down Lesbury Road towards Longhoughton. AM advised this was not a good route. AH wondered if there was a reason why the existing Warkworth route ended where it did – because there were no viable options to take it any further. AM advised it crossed the road and led towards Alnmouth. AH also flagged that the existing Warkworth route flooded and that the Group whilst reviewing routes should look at resolving this ongoing flooding problem. ET confirmed the flooding issue had been raised previously and advised that Sustrans were responsible for the route. JH confirmed Sustrans had tried to resolve the flooding problem but there was a problem with drainage, land ownership, etc. AH questioned if residents from Lesbury wanted a route to Longhoughton. They currently had a route to Warkworth and one to Alnwick and would a route up the coast towards Boulmer and beyond not be more appealing to residents than one to Longhoughton? MC advised the Group needs to look at the problem they want to solve. MC thought residents would like a route to Longhoughton so people could walk or bike to the Co-op. He suggested getting that route up and running and then looking at connecting it to other areas at a later date. AH reminded that this route too had its problems with the RAF fence and criss-crossing the route over Longhoughton Road. AH maintained that the PC represented residents and that they needed clarity on where the Group were going with the project to ensure the routes considered are right for</p>	
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	Lesbury residents. JH confirmed the Group had to hold more discussions on routes 'and if suitable routes couldn't be found then it was a no go. <b>Newsletter:</b> BW advised the next edition of the newsletter was being prepared and any article were welcomed. <b>NDP:</b> JH confirmed the £2,518.40 left over from the NDP should continued to be ring-fenced as the aim was to use this money for the referendum.	
12.	<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Next Meeting 7.30pm - Tuesday 23 February 2021 – via Zoom	<b>ALL</b>

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

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