

# Lesbury Parish Council

**Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday 23 February 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), Church (MC), Hall (JuH), Hodgson (AH), Humphrys (JH), Martin (AM), Tulip (PT), County Councillor Gordon Castle (GC) and Mrs Taylor (Parish Clerk) (ET).

**In Attendance:** Alice & David Inglis and George & Jean Curry.

Monthly Parish Meeting Minutes	ACTION
<p><b>Public Questions:</b>  <b>Cyclepath Project:</b> Alice &amp; David Inglis asked what the PC could tell them about a cyclepath either going along Steppey Lane or the rear of Steppey Lane. JH advised she knew nothing about a cyclepath but that one of the things residents said they wanted through the NDP process was a greenway through parts of Lesbury, between Longhoughton and Lesbury and up to the train station. JH advised a greenway is like a footpath but wider for pushchairs and scooters - it's not a cycle track for cyclists and they are not likely to use that kind of track anyway. There is a group currently looking at where this work could be done. The first priority is looking at access to the train station and then the second priority is looking at routes that Lesbury residents can enjoy. A greenway is a gentle, traffic-free, countryside route. Bikes can also be used on a greenway but not racing bikes. Longhoughton PC is looking at a route to Lesbury. A meeting has been held with Northumberland Estates to look at different parts of land that could be made available for a greenway. The RAF are also involved and are looking at routes between their two sites. JH advised unless land is made available to do this, then there will be no greenways. All that has been done so far is to hold initial discussions with Northumberland Estates. A route to link the existing Warkworth route (NR1) up to the station is also being looked at. Linking the NR1 is a secondary consideration and is not high on the agenda. A paper was brought to Lesbury PC about 3 meetings ago to look at options and Lesbury PC agreed to this project to look at where greenways might be possible. The reason a greenway is being looked at and not a cyclepath is because there is currently government funding for greenways but no funding for cyclepaths. Route options had been given to Northumberland Estates and they had not liked some of the routes proposed including the possibility to join the NR1 which they had been unhappy with. Lesbury PC is currently talking with Northumberland Estates to get some land to give the opportunity to build some greenways around the parish at some future date. This could take many years. If options do become available and the project is successful in getting the land then there will be a public meeting so residents can have their say and say if they approve. Alice Inglis flagged that residents own the land right behind Steppey Lane and that Northumberland Estates owns the rest. JH advised that if it is a public footpath then people have a right of way but the first major thing is for the route between Longhoughton and Lesbury.                      George &amp; Jean Curry advised that they were in attendance for the same reasons and that would like to be kept informed and would like to know if there are any routes around Steppey Lane area that are being considered and if so, would have strong objections. JH confirmed that if there was anything concrete residents like George &amp; Jean Curry, Alice &amp; David Inglis would be the first to know.                      JH confirmed that a route along Steppey Lane is a non-starter as there is no way you could have a greenway down Steppey Lane. However, it would be good to find a way to get to the school safely. AH advised that he was of the opinion the path behind Steppey Lane and over the Steppey Lane footbridge also shouldn't be an option considered for the greenway either and he would object to that use for safety reasons such as the narrowness of the bridge and access either side and concerns going past</p>	

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	<p>the cricket club. JH advised that the greenway would bring no more traffic and only the occasional cyclist and that the safety issues of going past the cricket club are always there, and currently for pedestrians, and she didn't think it would bring hoards of cyclists along the lane.</p> <p>ET advised another resident, Mary Hollins, had dropped off a written note with similar questions and concerns, as she was unable to attend the Zoom meeting. Mary Hollins's questions were about timescales, enquiry into what other routes were being looked at other than along Steppey Lane and the rear of Steppey Lane and an enquiry about what benefit to Lesbury would such a proposal bring. Mary Hollins had advised, as both a cyclist and pedestrian, she would not be in favour of either the Steppey Lane or the footpath to the rear of Steppey Lane being used as a route.</p> <p>Alice &amp; David Inglis and George &amp; Jean Curry requested that they be kept abreast of any further information regarding possible routes.</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllrs Bradshaw (KB) and Whittaker (BW),</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of 26 January 2021 were agreed and will be signed as a true record next time there is a physical PC meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None</p>	
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Footpath at Bilton:</b> PT advised NCC had repaired the holes in the footpath.</p> <p><b>Speeding:</b> DK advised Northumbria Police had carried out speed surveys on Lesbury Road and would visit again to carry out surveys through Lesbury Village and on the road past the school to Alnmouth.</p> <p><b>Lesbury Broadband Project:</b> Sylvia Pringle of iNorthumberland/NCC had circulated an update on the scheme, information about other providers and had advised that the current take up was at 80% - the scheme needs to hit 100% to go ahead. JuH advised some residents had received emails from Gov.uk asking them to confirm they had requested a Gigabit voucher through Openreach and were concerned it was spam. This is not spam and residents are asked to confirm. JH advised a lot of residents were unsure about the scheme and had questions to ask. ET advised in the ordinary way without Covid Sylvia Pringle would have held a drop-in session where residents could have asked questions and raised any queries or concerns. ET advised Sylvia Pringle can be contacted by any resident with any questions and her contact details has been given on the letter delivered to all residents. Sylvia Pringle, iNorthumberland/NCC M:07827 825357 E: <a href="mailto:sylvia.pringle@northumberland.gov.uk">sylvia.pringle@northumberland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>JuH to liaise with Sylvia Pringle to put together Q&amp;As and other useful information for residents to go onto the PC Facebook page. [Since the meeting Sylvia Pringle has advised iNorthumberland/Openreach are to send out a further postcard to all residents to confirm what further action to take with the email from Gov.uk and the Department for Digital Culture, Media &amp; Sport (DCMS)].</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>a) John McErlane, NCC – Alleged Public Right of Way – as a number of residents/parishioners had requested this and provided evidence, it was unanimously agreed that the PC is in full support of the proposed modification to add a public footpath. PT suggested the PC also respond to advise that the PC is aware that this route has been used ever since the Lealands housing estate was built giving access from Lealands to the A1068. ET to respond accordingly.</p>	<p><b>ET</b></p>
6.	<p><b>County Councillor Gordon Castle – NCC Update</b></p> <p>GC advised that NCC were working on the budget which includes a £3m feasibility study (of which NCC is contributing £900k) to recover the railways – which will include an improved service that includes a stopping train between Berwick and Newcastle.</p>	

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	<p>£21m is also being put aside for Neighbourhood Services. £8, efficiency savings have to be made but no one is being made redundant.</p> <p>JH enquired on the timeline for works to Steppey Lane Footbridge. GC advised that both Footbridge and Hipsburn School road safety improvements have confirmed NCC funding NCC and works on both projects will take place in 2021. AM enquired about the widening of the footpath outside the school. GC confirmed AM's request to move the island closer to the school had been passed to the highways design engineer.</p> <p>MC asked for an update on the Welcome to Lesbury Gateway Signs for both Longhoughton Road and the road to Lesbury from Foxton. GC thought that had been answered but confirmed he would ask Neil Snowdon for an update.</p> <p>JuH reported she had enquired to NCC about when the white lines would be painted on the road from Lesbury to Foxton and had been advised this was a summer job.</p>	<b>GC</b>
7.	<b>Planning:</b> None received	
8.	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b></p> <p>a) David English – Lesbury NDP Referendum – it was noted that the referendum on the NDP would be held on 10 June 2021.</p> <p>b) Sylvia Pringle, iNorthumberland/NCC – update of Openreach Broadband Project – noted.</p> <p>c) NALC E-News 27/1/21, 3/2/21, 8/2/21 and 17/2/21 - noted</p> <p>d) NCC – Monitoring Officer Contact Details - noted</p> <p>e) NCC - Coastal Summit Update – 19/2/21 – noted. The presentation had also been circulated and JuH reported that NCC were reviewing the quantity of traffic coming to the area, which had particularly increased due to Covid, and were looking at measures to alleviate the pressure this causes such as road reconfiguration, car parking, toilet provision, litter collection, camping and motor homes, etc.</p> <p>f) NCC – Local Area Council – 18 February 2021 - noted</p> <p>g) Thank You from St Mary's Church - noted</p>	
9.	<p><b>Parish Financial Matters</b></p> <p>a) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £86 - agreed</p> <p>b) Multiutillis (Pond Field Gate Temporary Repair) - £25 - agreed</p>	
10.	<p><b>Pond Field Play Area:</b></p> <p>ET advised Multiutillis had carried out a temporary repair of the vehicular gate reported at the last meeting. A quote for £698.92 had been obtained from Cheviot Countryside Contracting to carry out full repairs. DK proposed to accept the quote and commission works, AM 2<sup>nd</sup> and the PC unanimously agreed this was acceptable and ET to ask Cheviot Countryside Contracting to proceed with full repairs.</p>	<b>ET</b>
11.	<p><b>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Theft from Allotments:</b> AM reported a tree and some shrubs had been stolen from the allotments by the side of Pond Field.</p> <p><b>Autumn Debris:</b> JuH advised there was a lot of autumn debris on the pavements on Longhoughton Road and up towards Foxton. GC advised this was not classed as litter and so NCC unlikely to help clear. JuH to clear herself and welcomed any volunteers.</p> <p>ET advised Lesbury in Bloom had high vis vests that the PC had sponsored that she could borrow if she was undertaking any works. GC advised Alnwick Town Council also lent out litter pickers etc. if required. GC also advised any litter from litter picks could be left by the side of litter bins to be collected by NCC.</p> <p><b>Gullies:</b> DK had reported to NCC a number of gullies needed cleaning out. No response yet received from NCC.</p> <p><b>Lesbury Old Bridge:</b> DK advised works to install a new pump were taking place for the cottages near to Lesbury Old Bridge.</p> <p><b>Lesbury in Bloom Update:</b> ET had circulated to the PC and update from John Malloy.</p>	

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesbury Parish Council

Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday 23 February 2021

	<p>The PC discussed the request from a resident for the removal of the conifer in the top right of the Lealands Garden. The PC agreed if John Malloy recommended the removal of the conifer, then the PC unanimously agreed it would have no objection. GC advised that any trees taken down in an area of conservation or AONB requires planning consent. It was agreed that ET to advise accordingly. It was also noted in addition to permission from NCC, Northumberland Estates may also have to be contacted. It was agreed if works are to proceed no costs or liabilities are to be attributed to the PC.</p> <p><b>Coach Inn, Lesbury:</b> JuH reported that repair works were taking place on the roof. JuH to also follow up with the brewery if there was any news on it reopening.</p> <p><b>River AIn Stepping Stones:</b> AH suggested if the PC would support getting the stepping stones next to Steppey Lane Footbridge reinstated. JH advised this had been attempted some years ago but floods/high tides had moved the stones. AM was concerned about health &amp; safety but thought the idea was good and supported it. He mentioned the stepping stones up by the 7 arches which had been reinstated. GC advised he would be happy to enquire about the possibility to reinstate with NCC RoW officer. It was agreed AH to write to GC to initiate the enquiry.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ET</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JuH</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AH</b></p>
12.	<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> Next Meeting 7.30pm - Tuesday 23 March 2021 – via Zoom	<b>ALL</b>

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_