

Lesbury Parish Council

**Meeting
Tuesday 24 June 2025**

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

Present: Cllrs Bendix (Chair) (TB), Hodgson (Vice Chair) (AH), Franklin (KF), Knowles (DK), Hall (JuH), Wilmhurst (MW) and County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP)

In attendance: 4 members of the public and Elizabeth Taylor (Clerk) (ET).

	Parish Council Meeting Minutes	ACTION
	<p>Public Questions: Emma Wynne was in attendance re item 5a) Lorraine Starkey and Jane Brunger were in attendance with an interest in joining the PC.</p> <p>Heavy Goods Vehicles: Billy McKnight was in attendance to raise concern about the increasing numbers of heavy goods vehicles using the road from Hipsburn to Shilbottle (a class C road) and requested signs “not suitable for HGVs” are erected. WP advised that it’s not illegal for HGVs to use that classification of road. ET advised this was a decision for NCC Highways to determine. It was noted the lorries were probably moving between the housing development at Shilbottle and Longhoughton Quarry and therefore there was no alternative route. It was agreed ET to enquire with Robin McCartney/Richard McKenzie/Neil Snowdon if signage would be appropriate/ suitable in this instance.</p> <p>Cyclepath Hipsburn to Warkworth: Billy McKnight flagged increasing numbers of cyclists using the A1068 instead of the cyclepath and asked for it to be better sign posted not only at the entrance either side but also at the 5 access points along the cyclepath. It was noted some cyclists would not use the cyclepath because of its surface. ET advised the PC had already flagged the need for better signage to NCC, Northumberland Coast National Landscape (NCNL) and Sustrans (owners of the cyclepath) and that NCNL would hopefully pick it up as part of their Travel and Accessibility project.</p>	ET
1.	Apologies: None	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None	
3.	Minutes: The minutes of 27 May 2025 were signed as a true record.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Online Banking: TB now online banking. JuH and MW to approve this month’s payments to check all in working order with their online banking.</p> <p>VMS Signs: It was noted that Ken Ramsey hadn’t yet passed on his contact details so that KF could made contact to discuss speeding issues, data collection from the VMS signs, etc. KF confirmed he was also concerned about Swarco sharing the data collected by the machine to 3rd parties. KF also challenged the validity of the data extrapolated from the VMS sign on Longhoughton Road as it read the speed out-with the 30mph zone and was therefore possibly spurious. KF also queried the timings of the speeding vehicles associated with the RAF as they did not match RAF shift changes. KF confirmed he could liaise closely with the RAF about RAF personnel caught speeding under Speedwatch. KF also suggested the extension of the 30mph zone beyond the entrance to the RAF site off Longhoughton Road so that vehicles turning into and out of the RAF site would not be doing so on a 60mph stretch of road. ET suggested this could be one of the PCs next top 3 LTP priorities. ET confirmed that each and every time any repairs/inspections needed to be carried out to the VMS sign at Bilton, a cost of £450 would be incurred to undertake traffic management to allow engineers to access the sign safely due to proximity of the sign to the road. It was agreed that this was poor site location as determined by NCC and was not a cost that the PC could afford to or should have to continuously incur. ET suggested that as per the request to move the sign on South View due to NCC locating it in an inappropriate location, the same request should be made of the sign at Bilton. This was agreed and WP suggested ET should contact Robin</p>	<p>JuH/MW</p> <p>ET/KF</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ET</p>

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

	<p>Boundary Review, Longhoughton Ward was now comprised of 7 Parish Councils. WP recognised that Lesbury Parish Council had previously enjoyed being represented by 2 County Councillors and that moving to 1 County Councillor was different and could be of concern. WP advised being able to see and visit different Parish Councils is useful and there was a opportunity for sharing knowledge and information. Being a part of a ward with 7 Parish Councils is therefore a good thing but WP recognised it was something new for Lesbury. WP also hosts an event once a year where all the Parish Councils have the opportunity to get together and network. WP advised she was Cabinet Member for Tourism, Culture and Leisure.</p> <p>Tourism in Northumberland: Northumberland had 10.5million visitors in 2024 with a total economic impact of £1.443 billion in 2024, a 9% increase on 2023 and a 3.2% rise compared to 2019. Direct expenditure stands at £1.071 billion, marking an 8.8% rise on 2023 and 3.1% up on 2019. In 2024, the number of overnight visitors increased by 0.5% on 2023 to 1.863 million with an extension in average length of stay to 4.2 nights. Simultaneously, the county saw a strong uplift in day visitors, with visitor numbers reaching 8.601 million in 2024, representing a 4.1% increase on 2023. JuH asked WP what the impact of this was on the villages and parishes in the Longhoughton Ward along the coast and flagged that although high numbers were a good thing for the economy, there was a good side and a bad side to increasing visitor and tourist numbers including parking issues, house prices, increased number of holiday lets.</p> <p>Northumberland Archives: the archive service for Northumberland collect records relating to the history of Northumberland and have offices at Berwick-upon-Tweed and Woodhorn, Ashington. Their main function is to ensure the preservation of archive documents, photographs and other media relating to the County of Northumberland and to make these available for consultation by the public. Users of this service must register: https://archivescard.com/ Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, QE2 Country Park, Ashington, NE63 9FL Tel: 01670 624358 – E-mail archives@northumberland.gov.uk</p> <p>Grass Cutting: NCC teams cut grass from beginning of April until end of September, depending on the weather. The grass is cut around once every 14 days. NCC cut grass in the following places (depending on land ownership): housing estates, parks, schools, highway verges, open spaces and out-of-town amenities and country lanes. Longhoughton PC has requested and pays for additional grass cuts from NCC as part of an enhanced partnership agreement. These take place during March and October. NCC do not collect grass cuttings, except on plots within elderly people's residential developments. NCC perform weed killing from April to October each year. NCC only use products approved and licensed for amenity use. These products are considered to be relatively non-toxic to dogs and other domestic animals.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25/01698/FUL – replacement beach hut - Overacres Beach Hut, Foxton Drive, Alnmouth – this application was discussed and it was agreed to object due to concern about the increased size of the new proposed structure and the impact on the coastline. 	
8.	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Lesbury Parish Council – this had been addressed in item 6 above. b) Trek26 for Alzheimer's Society – Saturday 24 May 2025. ET advised emails had been exchanged with Stuart Rodgers, organiser of the event, following complaints received about the use of a very loud tannoy system at the event 	

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Date: _____

	<p>highlighting it had a poor surface in the 1980s, is badly troubled with moss and leaves and is also too small and incapable of being expanded to the correct size. However, the need to even consider it, highlights the poor access to all weather sporting facilities in Hipsburn, Lesbury and Alnmouth. Having seen the very successful multi-use games areas in places like Shilbottle and Seahouses, is there mileage in Lesbury trying to create such a facility locally? Kevin McKenna enquired if the PC would take the initiative or be the vehicle to bring interested parties together. Again, the PC agreed it did not to support the current proposal for the reinstatement of the Lesbury tennis court/club but agreed it was important to have a wide-range of sporting facilities for all the community to access. The PC would support, but does not have capacity to lead, a local group who would wish to take forward such a project that would enable further development of the sporting facilities, including a full-sized tennis court. ET to respond accordingly.</p>	ET
9.	<p>Parish Financial Matters</p> <p>a) HMRC (VAT Reclaim) - £414.21 CREDIT - noted b) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £45.48 - agreed c) Multiutilis (Annual Bench Checks) - £82.50 - agreed d) Clerk (Wages) - £462.32 - agreed e) HMRC (£109 PAYE and £19.25 Employers NI) - £128.25 - agreed f) Lloyds Bank (Banking Charges) - £4.25 - agreed g) Steve McKee (Repairs to Pondfield Gates) - £346 - agreed</p>	
10.	<p>Pond Field Play Area: DK reported no further issues. The repair work to the gates was excellent and the grass had been cut. ET reported no news on the RoSPA Annual Inspection.</p>	
11.	<p>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ET advised the damaged kissing gate on the footpath up to Foxton from Lesbury was off its hinges and had been reported to NCC on Fix My Street. • ET advised on behalf of Les Miller, the recess in the footpath outside Box Cottage had been reported as a trip hazard to NCC on Fix My Street. • DK reported the grass next to the High Path was overgrown making it difficult to use. DK to report to NCC. • DK reported NCC had knocked over the Lesbury Road road sign whilst cutting the grass outside The Coppice. DK to report to NCC. • KF advised the graffiti under the road bridge at Lesbury had been reported to NCC on Fix My Street. 	DK DK
12.	<p>NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm – Tuesday 29 July 2025 – Lesbury Village Hall</p>	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.47pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____