

Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 24 February 2026

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

Present: Cllrs Bendix (Chair) (TB), Brunger (JB), Knowles (DK), Franklin (KF), Hall (JuH), Wilmshurst (MW) and Wynne (EW).

In attendance: 1 member of the public, County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) and Liz Taylor (Clerk) (ET).

Parish Council Meeting Minutes	ACTION
Public Questions: Mark Thackara was in attendance for item 5a).	
1. Apologies: Cllrs Hodgson (Vice Chair) (AH) and Starkey (LS).	
2. Declarations of Interest: JB item 7c)	
3. Minutes: The minutes of 27 January 2026 were signed as a true record.	
4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes VMS Signs: It was noted the sign on Longhoughton Road was now working. Lesbury NDP Review: JuH confirmed still no update from Sarah Brannigan NCC Neighbourhood Planning on the outcome of NCC's Call for Sites. WP to follow-up. Community Shop Noticeboard: JuH advised the cost of a new noticeboard would be £70 with a green surround. It was also agreed to replace the existing PC noticeboard at the same time, which was old and tired. PC to fund both costs. Graffiti: KF clarified the road bridge graffiti had now been painted over but the Steppey Lane Footbride graffiti was still pending on FixMyStreet. Hipsburn Bus Stop: ET advised no further updates had been received on progress. Christmas: It was agreed to discuss in September the possibility of putting up more Christmas lights, especially on the large tree at the Memorial Garden. KF advised previously there had been an electricity supply available there. KF to clarify. Remembrance Sunday: It was noted that Lesbury hadn't any representation for recognising Remembrance Sunday other than the sale of poppies in the Church. It was noted that local WI had arranged the remembrance activities in other villages but that it was difficult to undertake any arrangements for Lesbury there was no War Memorial or obvious way in which to commemorate the occasion. The PC welcomed ideas, suggestions and volunteers to undertake any suggestions. Bilton Hedge: WP reported that NCC had inspected the hedges at Bilton and reported no driver infringement. NCC advised this issue was also reported last year and all residents had been written to and hedges were all cut back. KF flagged that it was the obstruction of pedestrians using the footpath that was of concern with the overgrown hedges, not drivers on the road. WP advised that NCC would not progress the complaint any further and suggested the PC write or visit the residents direct to request that the hedges are cut back. It was agreed that KF/ET to draft a letter to NCC Highways to make an appeal for NCC action and to flag the PC isn't concerned about the impact of the overgrown hedges on drivers but the safety and impact on pedestrians. The footpaths are narrow already in this area and the overgrown hedges are making them even more narrow, forcing pedestrians onto the road. This is a busy road with traffic often rushing to and from the train station and so this is therefore a health and safety concern. Grit Bins: ET confirmed an appeal against the rejection to the request for a grit bin at Longhoughton Road crossroads had been made and was pending reply. The case for a grit bin on the High Path had also been made but had been rejected.	<p style="text-align: center;">WP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JuH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ET/KF</p>
5. Matters Arising: a) Parish Council Vacancy Application – Mark Thackara's application had been circulated and the PC agreed to co-opt to the PC. Proposed JuH, 2 nd JB. All agreed. Mark was welcomed onto the PC.	ET

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	<p>b) Parish Online: Parish Email and Website: ET confirmed all PC had been issued new email addresses and these are to be used going forwards. The new PC website is now live and ET had spent considerable time updating the content. The issues accessing the Parish Online admin panel had been resolved with the purchase of a separate PC laptop. It was agreed JuH and KF to be given access to the website admin panel. ET to now notify all stakeholders (inc an article in the Parish Newsletter) of the new website and email address details.</p>	<p>ET</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report.</p> <p>Library Review: NCC Library Review will take place from 16/2/26 until 13/4/26 and all are encouraged to take part. It is suggested that the frequency the mobile library visits local villages is increased to every 6 weeks instead of every 3 weeks. If this is agreed, WP advised at least residents may take out up to 20 library books per visit.</p> <p>EV Charging Point: WP advised Keith Hopper from NCC would be in touch about the possibility of installing EV charging points in the village. It was noted that the Village Hall had expressed an interest in these behind the village hall but that the electricity supply to the village needed to be upgraded first.</p> <p>Pot Holes: NCC highways teams are carrying out repairs in response to this recent rise in road defects, caused by the prolonged spell of poor weather. Road temperatures have fallen to as low as minus 10 degrees in recent weeks, and these extreme conditions have accelerated deterioration of the road surface, resulting in an increase in potholes across some parts of the network. Inspectors are travelling the county’s 5,000kms of roads to identify issues, prioritise the most serious problems and ensure repair works are targeted where they are most needed. Latest figures show around 1,100 potholes reported in January compared to a monthly average of 365 reports last year. Despite the weather, teams are completing around 500 pothole repairs per week.</p> <p>Dog Walkers: Dog walkers are being limited to walking 6 dogs at a time in public areas. The new ruling effective from 31/1/26 is designed to improve public safety and dog control, following concerns of large, uncontrollable groups of dogs.</p> <p>Alnwick Bus Station: Planning approval is now being sought for the 1st phase of the transformation of Alnwick Bus Station into a welcoming, safe and accessible transport hub for the town. Subject to approval, works are to begin Summer 2026.</p> <p>Appeal for Foster Carers: NCC has issuing an urgent call for anyone considering fostering to contact them, as a growing shortage leaves children in need of safe, loving homes. If anyone could provide a home to a child in the North East, whether for temporary, short stay or long-term stays, please contact NCC. To find out more about fostering and how you could make a life-changing difference, visit: https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster/foster-with-northumberland</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) 26/00329/FUL – Demolish existing conservatory and replace with new single storey rear extension to house. New detached garage and gym building in garden - Tanglewood, 6 Meadowlands, Lesbury, NE66 3BG - this application has 2 parts to it, the first being the conservatory, which there is no objection, the second part is the building of the garage and gym, which there is an objection due to size and lack of detail regarding height impact.</p> <p>b) 26/00381/FUL – proposed double storey extension and front porch - 10 Lesbury Road, Lesbury, NE66 3ND – objection due to the building coming up to the boundary edge of the site and leaving no access to the rear of the property.</p> <p>c) 26/00287/FUL – (retrospective) replacement of white wood and glass patio doors with sliding glass patio doors, fitted with energy efficient glass and dark</p>	

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	brown metal frame - 2 Alnside Court, Lesbury, NE66 3PD – objection as the dark brown doors are visible and impacts the character of the area.	
8.	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>a) Calum Currie & Iona Heaton – Flooding/Footpath Issues at Deep Dene – ET advised this had been reported to WP and NCC Highways who were dealing with the issues direct with the residents affected.</p> <p>b) Stage One Community Governance Review Public Consultation - noted</p> <p>c) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter Jan #2 and Feb #1 - noted</p> <p>d) NCC – Joint Town & Parish Council Spring Conference – 5/3/26 – noted</p> <p>e) NCC – Environment & Climate Fund - noted</p> <p>f) NCC – Libraries Consultation 2026 - noted</p> <p>g) Grant Thank Yous – Citizen Advice Northumberland, Aln Valley Railway – noted</p> <p>h) NCC – Community Partnership Meeting – 26/2/26 – noted</p>	
9.	<p>Parish Financial Matters</p> <p>a) Clerk (Laptop and Microsoft 365) - £691.94 – PAID</p> <p>b) Playdale (Maintenance works to Pond Field play equipment inc additional £400 for repair of wet pour surface) - £1,521.55 - agreed</p> <p>c) Lloyds Bank (Monthly Banking Charges December) - £4.25 - agreed</p> <p>d) CBS World (Stationery) - £45.54 - agreed</p> <p>e) Clerk (Jan Wages) - £475.99 - agreed</p> <p>f) HMRC (Nov £112.60 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.44 - agreed</p> <p>g) Grant – St Marys Church - £500 – agreed</p>	
10.	<p>Pond Field Play Area:</p> <p>DK reported that the play area was ok: albeit wet and with many mole hills. It was noted that Playdale had carried out the repair works had been carried out to the play equipment. Further operational inspections are scheduled for April and July 2026.</p>	
11.	<p>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Culture 2028: DK reported that Alnwick was applying for Town of Culture 2028 which, if successful, would result in a £3m investment in the town. • The Wynd: JuH suggested that Penny Royale is asked to re-seed the grass and possibly also sow wild flowers at The Wynd. • Blocked Drains: MW and EW reported blocked drains on Steppey Lane. It was agreed this to be reported on NCC FixMyStreet. 	<p>ET</p> <p>MW/EW</p>
12.	NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm – Tuesday 24 March 2026 – Lesbury Village Hall	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____