

# Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting  
Tuesday 24 March 2026

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

**Present:** Cllrs Hodgson (Vice Chair) (AH), Brunger (JB), Knowles (DK), Franklin (KF), Hall (JuH), Starkey (LS), Thackara (MT), Wilmshurst (MW) and Wynne (EW).

**In attendance:** County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) and Liz Taylor (Clerk) (ET).

Parish Council Meeting Minutes		ACTION
<b>Public Questions:</b> No members of the public in attendance.		
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllrs Bendix (Chair) (TB)	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> AH item 5a)	
3.	<b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of 24 February 2026 were signed as a true record.	
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p><b>VMS Signs:</b> It was noted the sign on Longhoughton Road was now working but that the sign on Alnwick Road, A1068 had stopped working again. ET/KF to monitor and if it's still not working by the end of week, ET to report to Swarco.</p> <p><b>Lesbury NDP Review:</b> JuH confirmed Sarah Brannigan NCC Neighbourhood Planning had been in touch with an update for the parish as follows:  <u>Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA):</u> identifies potential housing sites for the next 15 years. Several sites fall within the Parish. 4 sites are currently considered developable in the longer term, with a theoretical capacity of around 62 dwellings. These would still require planning applications before any development could proceed. 3 further sites are currently discounted. The sites can be viewed on the interactive <a href="#">SHLAA map</a> Further details for each site are available in the <a href="#">SHLAA Sites Assessment Summary Schedule</a> (January 2024).  <u>NCC Call for Sites 2025:</u> This has identified several new potential sites within the Parish. These have not yet been assessed in detail, so further information is unavailable at this stage. These sites are on land owned by N'land Estates.  <u>Projected housing figures:</u> NCC are not currently able to provide a definitive housing requirement for the Parish. The housing-related strategic policies in the N'land Local Plan remain up to date, the new Local Housing Need (LHN) figure for N'land - around 1,670 dwellings per year, compared with the Local Plan's average of 885 dwellings per year - indicates that the requirement in the next Local Plan will need to be significantly higher. Housing requirements for individual neighbourhood areas will be set through the new Local Plan. As formal preparation has not yet begun, NCC cannot yet determine how the countywide need will be distributed or provide an evidence-based requirement for your area. However, NCC can provide an indicative figure based on the local population, the number of households and dwellings. On this basis, a minimum starting point of 110 dwellings is suggested for Lesbury Parish for the period 2025-2045. As the group of settlements in the parish benefits from regular rail services, and is currently classed as a Service Village (together with neighbouring Alnmouth), the final requirement is likely to be higher, so if the PC intends to allocate land for housing, it's advisable to plan for more than this. Sarah Brannigan to be invited to the April PC meeting to discuss next steps forward.</p> <p><b>Community Shop Noticeboard:</b> JuH confirmed the ordering of the new noticeboard was in hand (circa £70) and replacement of the existing PC noticeboard with the same noticeboard was also in hand. PC to fund both costs.</p> <p><b>Hipsburn Bus Stop:</b> ET advised no further updates had been received on progress.</p> <p><b>Christmas:</b> KF to follow-up with Roger Styring re previous years' Christmas light provision for the Memorial Garden and to feedback options to the PC in due course.</p> <p><b>Bilton Hedge:</b> AH noted that the hedge had been cut back and the footpath accessibility vastly improved. No further action required.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ET</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>JuH/ET</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>JuH</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ET</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>KF</b></p>

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

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

	<p><b>Grit Bins:</b> No further update on appeal against the rejection to the request for a grit bin at Longhoughton Road crossroads.</p> <p><b>The Wynd:</b> ET had liaised with Penny Royale to re-seed the grass and possibly also sow wild flowers at The Wynd. The area is 150m<sup>2</sup> and can be done with a mix of basic grass and wild flowers (specific to water margin species so there should be no problem with regard to being near to the stream/river). Cost will be circa £75 for the seed and £180m for works (cut back growth, prepare ground and sow the grass/flower seed). Proposed JuH, 2<sup>nd</sup> JB, all agreed. ET to ask Penny Royale for any instructions that need to be given to NCC to notify them of the works.</p>	ET
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>a) Grant Request – Alnmouth &amp; Lesbury Cricket Club: an application for funding had been previously circulated and was discussed. The funding was to support replacement specialist wicket cutter to ensure our ground can be used by as many people as possible as usage of the ground increases. The Club is currently used for cricket (3 adult mixed teams, a women's team, junior teams, summer 'Allstars' and summer cricket camps), by the Croquet Club, and for hosting community events (Lesbury May Day Revels 2025 and an Autumn Festival/Show 2026). JuH proposed £500 grant which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by KF and all agreed. KF enquired if Alnmouth PC had contributed. MW flagged that he thought the PC's whole grant funding procedure should be formalised with a form to be completed. This was discussed but it was agreed the application from the cricket club contained all the details required that a form would provide and if any clarification on any application was required, ET could seek this in advance of any decision being made. It was considered that the creation of an application form currently potentially overcomplicated the process. ET reported the PC was also well below the S137(4)(a) grant spending limit of £11.10 per elector.</p>	ET
6.	<p><b>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update</b> WP had previously circulated a report.</p> <p><b>NCC N'land Local Plan:</b> WP advised a new plan was being developed and the approximate housing requirement for the County was circa 34,000 properties.</p> <p><b>End to Glass Recycling Trial for Lesbury:</b> WP advised the trial glass recycling programme was to end on 27 March. Hopefully to be re-instated at the end of 2026.</p> <p><b>Library Review:</b> Currently underway until 16/4/26 - all are encouraged to take part.</p> <p><b>Advanced Dementia Facility:</b> NCC are to build a new 36-bed care facility in Bedlington for people with advanced dementia and other complex mental health support needs.</p> <p><b>Garden Waste Collection Service:</b> NCC offer this service with 20 collections each year from March to November at a cost of £59 for the year. Not all houses are eligible to receive the service. Enter your postcode on the NCC website to find out if you're eligible or telephone 0345 600 6400 and ask for garden waste.</p> <p><b>Recycling Rights &amp; Wrongs:</b> Residents are being reminded of the importance of placing the right materials in their recycling bins – after it emerged that almost a quarter of material collected in the county is contaminated. Over 23% of all material collected from recycling bins at kerbside in Northumberland, is in fact contamination, including black bags, nappies, dog waste, food waste, textiles and clothing and electrical items. Just one contaminated bin can result in an entire load of recycling (from multiple streets and hundreds of properties) being spoiled and rejected, meaning that it must be sent for incineration instead of being recycled. NCC currently only want residents to put their paper, card, cardboard, plastic bottles, tin cans, drinks cans and empty aerosol cans in their recycling bins.</p>	

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7.	<b>Planning</b> a) 26/00877/FUL – single storey side and rear extension Runnymede Steppey Lane Lesbury Northumberland NE66 3PU. Objection on the following grounds: the proposed side extension is almost to the edge of the boundary, leaving a gap of 0.8 metres and the side kitchen window is moving further back on the side elevation, potentially revealing a larger portion of the neighbours garden with no mitigation to screen the view from the window. In addition, the extension of the raised patio at the rear of the property, could also breach the privacy of the neighbouring garden.	
8.	<b>Correspondence Received</b> a) County Cllr Wendy Pattison – NCC Glass Recycling Trial in Lesbury to end on 27 March 2026 - noted b) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter Feb #2 and March #2 - noted c) Grant Thank Yous – GNAA and St Mary’s Church - noted d) Russ Hardy – Genealogy Farming Enquiry – ET advised this had been referred to NCC Archives and N’land Estates for help and advice. e) NCC – Joint Town & Parish Conference Presentations - noted f) Jacqui Pringle – Whittingham PC – Enquiry about NDP Process – ET advised a discussion with Pam Allen and Jean Humphrys had been arranged. g) Macmillan Mighty Hike – 5 & 6 September 2026 - noted	
9.	<b>Parish Financial Matters</b> a) Zurich Municipal (Annual Insurance) - £1,016.06 - agreed b) Lloyds Bank (Monthly Banking Charges) - £4.25 - agreed c) Clerk (Stationery) - £39.44 - agreed d) Clerk (March Wages) - £475.99 - agreed e) HMRC (March £112.60 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.44 - agreed f) Northumberland Estates (Rent – Post Office Car Park) - £30 - agreed g) Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Club (Grant) - £500 - agreed	
10.	<b>Pond Field Play Area:</b> DK reported that the play area was still wet and that the Balance Beam wasn’t moving due to a build-up of mud underneath it. DK to monitor the situation which should also be picked up in the Playground inspection scheduled for end of April.	<b>DK</b>
11.	<b>Any Other Matters for Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Facebook Enquiry re St Mary’s Church:</b> KF to refer the applicant to the Church website (link available from the PC website).</li> <li>• <b>Road Maintenance:</b> KF reported the road was breaking up due to the HGV vehicles by Lesbury roundabout. KF to report on NCC FixMy Street.</li> <li>• <b>Dog Worrying:</b> AH reported issues at Mount Pleasant Farm. New laws are coming into place which local dog owners are asked to note and respect: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-comes-into-force-to-protect-farm-animals-from-dog-attacks">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-comes-into-force-to-protect-farm-animals-from-dog-attacks</a> KF to include an article on the PC Facebook page. AH also advised there were also issues with bottle digging at the farm, which is now being pro-actively monitored and any activity will be immediately reported to the Police for investigation and prosecution.</li> </ul>	<b>KF</b>  <b>KF</b>  <b>KF</b>
12.	<b>NEXT MEETING:</b> 7.30pm – Tuesday 28 April 2026 – Lesbury Village Hall	<b>ALL</b>

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

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

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