

Lesbury Parish Council

**Meeting
Tuesday 28 April 2026**

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), Brunger (JB), Knowles (DK), Franklin (KF), Hall (JuH), Starkey (LS), Thackara (MT), Wilmshurst (MW) and Wynne (EW).

In attendance: Liz Taylor (Clerk) (ET).

Sarah Brannigan NCC Neighbourhood Planning had been in attendance from 18:15-19:30 to give Parish Councillors an update and options on actions going forwards following NCC's review of the Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes		ACTION
Public Questions: No members of the public in attendance.		
1.	<p>Theia Batchelor & Sarah Winlow from N'land Coast National Landscape Theia Batchelor: Dark Sky Project - funded through the National Heritage Lottery Fund with aims to protect and conserve dark skies along the coast, and engage residents, business and planning and policy makers in dark sky friendly lighting and issues surrounding light pollution. NCNL is working with the NCC streetlighting team to carry out works in 5 villages, where streetlights will be replaced with 2700k lights, which are less disruptive to critical behaviours of birds, bats, moths, plants and human health. Howick is one of the villages, all 4 streetlights will be replaced. NCNL will also be opening a community grant fund, where residents and businesses can apply for funding to retrofit or adapt their outdoor lighting to be dark sky friendly (e.g. redirect luminaire to face down/ only where the light is needed to reduce light spill, change colour kelvin to 2700k, install hoods, set lights on timers or dimmers). NCNL are keen to raise awareness that dark sky friendly lighting does not mean a compromise of security and safety, we are working with a lighting consultant throughout the project to ensure professional advice is given in relation to lighting design. LR to speak with NCNL about RAF Boulmer and the Dark Skies Project.</p> <p>Sarah Winlow: NCNL Management Plan - NCNL has a new statutory management plan. The Management Plan 2025-2030 was adopted by NCC in December 2025. It provides direction and a framework to enable everyone with interests in the National Landscape to work together to achieve the statutory purpose of conserving and enhancing the protected landscape. For the first time, the plan includes targets for National Landscapes set nationally by Government. The plan is for the place - the Northumberland Coast National Landscape. It is not solely for the staff team or Partnership of the National Landscape or NCC; it is relevant to all authorities, organisations and individuals making decisions that impact on the National Landscape, including parish councils. The plan will be desk-top published in the summer, and the annual landscape-wide parish council liaison meeting held later in the year will focus on how to use the plan. A copy can be found out the National Landscape's website.</p>	
2.	Apologies: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP)	
3.	Declarations of Interest: None	
4.	Minutes: The minutes of 24 March 2026 were signed as a true record.	
5.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes VMS Signs: It was noted the sign on Alnwick Road, A1068 was now working having been reported to and repaired by Swarco. Community Shop Noticeboard: 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>	

Chairman: _____

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	<p>Hipsburn Bus Stop: ET advised no further update had been received on progress. The Wynd: ET confirmed Penny Royale had re-seeded the area. Road Maintenance: KF had previously reported the road was breaking up by Lesbury roundabout. KF confirmed it had been logged on NCC FixMy Street.</p>	
6.	<p>Matters Arising: a) PC Representative on Lesbury Village Hall Committee: It was noted that the PC should have a representative on the Village Hall Committee as part of the agreement and lease of the hall from N'land Estates. It was agreed that MT would join the Committee with TB as back-up (if required). In addition, the Village Hall Committee had advised that a new lease was being drawn up with N'land Estates and the solicitors needed confirmation who would sign the lease on behalf of the PC. It was agreed that TB as PC Chair would sign the lease. b) N'land Estates – The Wynd: A rent increase to £15 per annum was noted.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ET/MT ET/TB</p>
7.	<p>County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report. Warmer Homes Northumberland: NCC's Warmer Homes team can help you heat and power your home more efficiently and save money on your utility bills. For more information, contact warmehomes@northumberland.gov.uk or call NCC on 0345 600 6400 and ask for a Community Retrofit Advisor in the Warmer Homes Team. Buying/Selling an Affordable Home: Discounted Market Value (DMV) homes are a type of affordable housing and help local people buy homes at below market prices. They are sold at a fixed percentage below market value, usually 20% to 30%. For example, a home worth £200,000 with a 25% discount will sell for £150,000. For more info, contact NCC Customer Services on 0345 600 6400. Abandoned Vehicles: If you find a motor vehicle abandoned on the highway or in a public place, please contact NCC Customer Services on 0345 600 6400. 2026 LOVE Northumberland Awards: Applications are now open. The awards allow NCC to recognise the fantastic work of a great many groups and individuals who are doing their bit to make the county greener, cleaner, and more sustainable. Entries are invited for the categories of: best children's project, best young people's project, best urban project, best coast or countryside project, outstanding individual, and best community response to the climate change emergency. The closing date for applications is Midnight on 17/5/26. The application form and supporting info should be sent to highwaysandneighbourhoodservice@northumberland.gov.uk</p>	
8.	<p>Planning a) 26/00922/LBC – solar battery cabinet to rear of hall - Lesbury Village Hall, Lesbury, NE66 3PP – no objections b) 26/01179/FUL – Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden for a small parcel of land – 15 Lealands, Lesbury, NE66 3QN – no objections c) 26/01196/FUL – Demolish of old and construction of new single storey side extension – Alncroft, Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU – no objections</p>	
9.	<p>Correspondence Received a) Stuart Wharton, Lonesome Pine Productions – Filming to take place at PO Car Park on Monday 11 May. Car park to be blocked off by the film company from night before until after 2pm. The Church and Village Hall to be compensated £100 each for the inconvenience and the Shop £250. Village Hall, Church and Shop to notify all their users of the lack of the car park for this period. b) Simon Beard & Linda Baxter re 26/00877/FUL – single storey side and rear extension Runnymede Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU – the PC had been invited to a site visit following the PC's objections to the planning application so the proposed changes can be viewed in the context of the existing build and the</p>	

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	<p>Robson at N'land Estates (who were responsible for the tree as it is located on the river bank) to request the tree is inspected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JuH reported that Lesbury Community Shop held its 3rd Annual Members Meeting on 25/3/26 attended by the shop's Management Committee and 31 members and volunteers. Turnover was up by approximately 6% over 2025, some of which is due to inflation, but the profit was down slightly on the previous year. Successful grant applications helped to employ a local person as the shop coordinator. The biggest expenditure was the purchase and installation of a new building adjacent to the shop known as 'The Hub'. Not only does the Hub enable customers to enjoy a snack and a drink, but it also provides a meeting place for community groups such as Book Club and Sewing Group. Other expenditure includes a large battery which can be charged overnight at cheap rates and power the shop during the day and provides resilience in case of power failures. In addition, new tables and benches have been purchased at the front and a prominent sign to attract passers-by. In this financial year 2026-27 the shop is currently funded only through sales. It is important the shop maximises the sales to ensure its continued success and community benefit and would like everyone to pledge to spend £5- per week in the Community shop, to secure its future. The shop has been fortunate to have dedicated fundraisers who staged various events in 2026 raising almost £3,500. This year 2026, the shop is launching a 200 Club to raise money. It will cost £24- per year and there will be a monthly draw of 3 prizes of £60-, £40- @ £20-. If you interested in joining the 200 club, please call into the shop, or send an email to admin@lesburyshop.co.uk The band of shop volunteers have donated over 7,500 hours of their time both serving in the shop on a regular basis and in supporting the shop via stock renewal, managing the finances, and cleaning activities. These activities are supported by a management committee who meet regularly and make decisions about the running of the shop. We are always looking for additional people to help, either as a volunteer or as part of the management committee. If you are interested, contact admin@lesburyshop.co.uk or call 07407 394321. • Following the meeting with Sarah Brannigan, NCC Neighbourhood Planning re Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan (NDP), it was agreed to set-up an NDP Working Group to undertaking a scoping of the existing NDP, look at national policy and understand what this means for Lesbury. JuH, LS and MT agreed to start the Working Group and put together a spec to send to Jenny Ludman, Planning Consultant, to see what the cost of professional advice would be. • TB reported that the grass hadn't been cut in the Memorial Garden. TB to check that everything is ok with Dougie Thwaite who usually cuts the grass. 	
		JuH/LS/MT
13.	NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm - Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council Meeting and Monthly Parish Council Meeting -Tuesday 26 May 2026 - Lesbury Village Hall	TB ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.28pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____