

Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 28 May 2026

The Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council Meeting and Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council was held this evening at 7.30pm at Lesbury Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs, Hodgson (Vice Chair) (AH), Franklin (KF), Hall (JuH), Starkey (LS), and Wynne (EW).

In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) and Liz Taylor (Clerk) (ET) & 3 members of the public.

Annual Parish Meeting	
1.	Cllr Andrew Hodgson – Annual Report 2025/26 A copy of the report will be available on the PC website. The report gave a brief summary of the range of projects/activities the PC has been involved in over the past year. Thanks were given to all who help and contribute to the working of the PC and all volunteers for their commitment and efforts to improving village life and working hard to make Lesbury a great place to live, work and stay.
2.	Members of the Public - Questions/Representations Aln Valley Railway: Ken Middlemist updated the PC on the works at Greenrigg Bridge, which are scheduled to start in a few weeks. An invitation was also extended to the PC to attend the Alnwick Branch 60 Years End of Steam celebrations on 20 & 21 June in recognition of the PC's grant to the project. Grass Cutting: Ken Middlemist complained that the grass in Hipsburn was long and was no longer being strimmed. ET advised NCC cut the grass in public areas on a rotational basis and so there are unfortunately occasions when, if the weather is wet and warm, the grass grows longer before it is time to be cut. There is no way the PC can ask NCC to speed up or add to the rota, we have previously tried. The PC already pays for 3 additional cuts in March/October. WP advised NCC doesn't ever strim (as far as she is aware) and advised that one of her other PC's pays for its own grass cutting privately and the PC could consider doing the same.

ALL

7.41pm the Annual Parish meeting ended.

Annual Parish Council Meeting and Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		ACTION
Public Questions: No questions.		
1.	Election of Chairman: TB was proposed by KF. 2nd by AH. All agreed. It was noted that there may be a requirement to have a change of Chair next year. Election of Vice-Chair: AH was proposed by JuH. 2nd by EW. All agreed.	
2.	Election of Planning Sub-Committee Chair: JuH was proposed by KF. 2nd by AH. All agreed. Election of Planning Sub-Committee: DK, MW and TB to remain on the Committee. EW was proposed as a new 4th member. Proposed KF, 2nd LS. All agreed.	
3.	Apologies: Cllrs Bendix (Chair) (TB), Brunger (JB), Knowles (DK), Thackara (MT) and Wilmshurst (MW)	
4.	Declarations of Interest: None	
5.	Minutes: The minutes of 28 April 2026 were signed as a true record.	
6.	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes Community Shop Noticeboard: JuH confirmed no further updates. Hipsburn Bus Stop: ET advised no further update had been received on progress. The Wynd: ET confirmed Penny Royale had re-seeded the area but that the very dry weather subsequent to seeding had meant the seed hadn't germinated as well	

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	as hoped. ET had spoken with Penny Royale who agreed to keep an eye on the situation and advise if any further seeding was required. PC Representative on Lesbury Village Hall Committee: MT was now a member of the Village Hall Committee. ET reported she had received no update on the new lease but that TB may have an update when he attends the next meeting. Footbridge Tree Stability: ET confirmed N'land Estates had been contacted about concern about the stability of the tree next to Steppey Lane footbridge following the high winds which caused the tree branch to fall and damage the footbridge hand rail. N'land Estates had agreed to send out someone to inspect the tree. In addition, it was noted that the handrail was still unrepaired despite TB having confirmed it had been reported immediately on NCC FixMy Street. Grass Cutting: ET confirmed TB's investigations had concluded Dougie Thwaite does cut the grass in the Memorial Garden, as ET had previously advised. It was the grass in the Lealands Garden that had grown long. See item 2 above in the Annual Parish Minutes for explanation to frequency re NCC grass cutting.	TB TB
7.	Matters Arising: a) NDP Working Group: Following the meeting with Sarah Brannigan, NCC Neighbourhood Planning re Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan (NDP), JuH had received a briefing note from Sarah Brannigan about the actions to be taken in reviewing Lesbury's NDP and the potential costs. There are no grants available. The briefing states the PC has 14% of household space that has no usual resident. This is below the 20% threshold for principal resident restriction, so will be unable to be applied to new housing in the Parish. NCC have launched a scoping consultation on their re-drafting of the Local Plan. This scoping consultation is from the 20 May-1 July. It aims to capture initial views on key issues and priorities that should be included in the Local Plan. It was agreed Pam Allen, Rob Bland, Jean Humphries and James Wynne be invited to join the Working Group alongside JuH, LS, LR and MT to look at NCC's paper and draft a response to the consultation. It was noted that the PC's response should be uploaded onto the NCC portal by 1 July. In Autumn, NCC would hold meetings with PCs to continue the consultation on the Local Plan. It was agreed during September, the PC would recruit/commission professional support in reviewing the NDP, to include development sites within the Parish and look to establish a Lesbury NDP working group, to engage with NCC's next phase of consultation with Parish Councils and start the redrafting of Lesbury's NDP. b) NCC North N'land Community Partnership April Meeting: MT had provided an update from the meeting held on 30/4/25. MT advised the presence of several County Councillors there who answered some pre-submitted questions was useful and informative as the answers could be elaborated or explained better than written responses. At the meeting, NCC made a request for Bus Stop Timetable Volunteers from the PC. ET advised the PC had been approached about this previously and the PC had declined. This is an NCC responsibility, residents won't see any reduction in Council Tax costs and if the PC take this on the precept will have to increase to cover associated costs. It was agreed the decision to decline volunteering to take on this role still stands. There was also an update on Climate Change Action/Dark Skies. A similar talk to the one Theia Batchelor from N'land Coast National Partnership had given to the PC at the April PC meeting. MT had been given a PC Toolkit and will bring it to the next meeting. Northumbria Police were also in attendance and had details for non-emergency reporting options, information that can be added to our website/Facebook pages.	JuH

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8.	County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report. Recycling Advice and Assistance: NCC are undertaking recycling contamination engagement work and are embarking on an education campaign which involves the Recycling Engagement Officer Jasmine Patterson visiting parishes to explain about what can and can't be recycled. For more information, contact Jasmine on M: 07701 287680 and Email: jasmine.patterson@groundwork.org.uk NCC Payroll Service: WP advised NCC offer a payroll service. This is not free. ET advised the PC currently use N'land Accountants, who offer better value for money. Taste of N'land: Visit Northumberland and NCC have launched a new scheme which brings together a collection of bookable county-wide foodie experiences and tours, with a brand new quality mark that assures consumers of genuine ingredients, artisan skill and locally sourced products. Traditional Street Lamps: WP visited Norham Village which had invested in its own traditional street lamps. Much more aesthetically pleasing than the standard street lamps. They are available at: https://www.williamsugg.co.uk/ 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 warmerhomes@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	
9.	Planning a) 26/01575/FUL – alterations to front and rear fenestration, installation of rooflights, internal alterations and proposed outdoor kitchen (Gazebo) - Azalea Cottage, 1 Townfoot Farm Cottages, Lesbury, NE66 3AZ – no objections	ET
10.	Correspondence Received a) Lesbury Village Shop – Request for Financial Support. The request for financial assistance towards the insurance costs for the Village Shop were duly noted. The PC agreed to an immediate initial grant of £500 and then the PC to take a further review of the budget and allowance for grants with a possibility of a further grant being extended, funds permitting. The PC to also review putting the precept up in 2027/28 to cover a permanent grant, as granted to the Village Hall. a) Raf Boulmer – Invitation for the Chairman to attend the RAF Boulmer Annual Reception - 10/6/26 - noted b) NCC – Thriving Together April #2 and May#1 - noted c) Hipsburn Primary School – invitation to Grand Opening of Phase 1 of Playground Project w/c 18 May 1-3pm or w/c 1 June 1-3pm - noted	ET

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	d) NCC Love Northumberland Awards 2026 - noted e) Caitlyn Richmond, WHP Telecoms Ltd – pre-application consultation for proposed works at existing telecommunications installation at Boulmer South, RAF Boulmer, Longhoughton Road, NE66 3AS – noted and JuH confirmed no action required. f) NCC – NDP Groups – Levelling up and Regeneration Act – noted g) Friends of Alnmouth Station – a request for the PC to cover the annual subs to N'bria in Bloom for Alnmouth Train Station was agreed. h) NCC – Town & Parish Liaison Working Group Notes – noted i) NCC North N'land Community Partnership Meeting – 28/5/26, Bamburgh - noted	
11.	Parish Financial Matters a) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025/26 – Internal audit to be noted and to approve the Annual Governance Statement, draft annual accounts for 2025/2026, Accounting Statement & Explanation of Variances and to confirm and approve Certification of Exemption - all unanimously approved and signed. b) Lloyds Bank (Monthly Banking Charges) - £4.25 - agreed c) Clerk (May Wages) - £475.99 - agreed d) HMRC (May £112.60 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.44 - agreed e) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £31.20 f) Lesbury Shop (Grant) - £500 – agreed g) Friends of Alnmouth Station (N'bria in Bloom Grant) - £45 - agreed	
12.	Pond Field Play Area: DK had reported the play area was ok. The grass (as everywhere) was quite long due to the warm, wet weather. ET reported that a quote had been received from Playdale for £350.64 to repair the worn matting under the pull up bar, as flagged in the operational inspection report dated 14/4/26. It was agreed that as this had now escalated from being low to medium risk, the repairs should be undertaken. ET advised Playdale had apologised that it hadn't been listed at all in the January 2026 inspection but had been flagged as low risk in their October 2025 inspection.	ET
13.	Any Other Matters for Discussion: • Damaged Rowan Tree, The Wynd: ET flagged that the NCC compound and works to Lesbury footbridge had likely killed the mature Rowan/Mountain Ash tree that Alnmouth District Council had planted in the middle of The Wynd in 2002 to mark the Golden Jubilee. It was agreed to ask NCC to remove the dead tree and pay for and install a replacement mature tree. • Hipsburn Roundabout Bus Shelter: ET advised the bus shelter on the A1068 going towards Amble was getting overgrown by ivy which might impact on the structural integrity of the bus shelter. ET had asked Penny Royale and Multiutillis to quote to carry out the necessary works to remove the ivy. • Newsletter Editor: ET and JuH advised that Lesley Moss was retiring as editor. KF agreed to ask MT if he might be interested in taking over the role. • Seaton Point Bins: JuH reported that the bins were being filled (and overflowing) with rubbish from the cabins – not their proper use. WP noted the complaint.	ET KF
14.	NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm - Tuesday 23 June 2026 - Lesbury Village Hall	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____