

Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 23 June 2026

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

Present: Cllrs Bendix (Chair) (TB), Hodgson (Vice Chair) (AH), Brunger (JB), Franklin (KF), Knowles (DK), Starkey (LS), Wilmshurst (MW) and Wynne (EW).

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

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		ACTION
Public Questions: Pam Allen was in attendance but had no questions.		
1.	Apologies: Cllrs Hall (JuH) and Thackara (MT)	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None	
3.	Minutes: The minutes of 28 May 2026 were signed as a true record.	
4.	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes Aln Valley Railway Celebrations: MW attended the Alnwick Branch 60 Years End of Steam celebrations over the weekend of 20/21 June on behalf of the PC. Lesbury Village Hall Lease: TB advised the lease is being drawn up and that he will be contacted when ready to sign on behalf of the PC. Footbridge Tree Stability: ET advised no further updates from Julia Robson at N'land Estates about the concern raised over the stability of the tree next to Steppey Lane footbridge. N'land Estates had agreed to send out someone to inspect the tree. ET to follow-up. The handrail is still unrepaired despite it having been logged on NCC FixMy Street. ET to follow-up. Damaged Rowan Tree, The Wynd: ET advised NCC had agreed to remove the dead Rowan/Mountain Ash tree and replace with a new mature Rowan/Mountain tree. To be planted as close as possible to the existing tree location. JB, EW and MW volunteered to water the tree twice a week over the summer period. Newsletter Editor: KF confirmed MT was happy to become the new newsletter editor. LS suggested some of the items from Councillor Mather's Cabinet Member for Highways update might be a useful article for the next newsletter, such as the property owner responsibilities for hedges, trees and verges. An article on the new recycling rules and digital switchover could also be included in the next newsletter. Hipsburn Roundabout Bus Shelter: ET confirmed contractors had been approached to clear away the ivy from the bus shelter on the A1068 towards Amble. Hipsburn Bus Stop: ET advised Richard McKenzie from NCC had been in touch and the licence to allow NCC to do the work is almost complete and the land purchase should complete soon after. No dates confirmed yet but things appear to be moving forward at last. Recycling Advice: LS followed up on the NCC recycling contamination engagement and education campaign mentioned at the May PC meeting. LS to organise for Recycling Engagement Officer Jasmine Patterson to visit the Village Hall for a public meeting to explain about what can and can't be recycled.	ET JB/EW/MW MT LS
5.	Matters Arising: a) NDP Working Group Update: LS confirmed that the first meeting of the Working Group would take place on 26/6/26. Pam Allen confirmed she was on the Working Group. The Group would draft a response to NCC's New Northumberland Local Plan Consultation and review Lesbury's NDP. TB advised he had attended a recent meeting with Guy Munden of N'land Estates to update the PC on the results of a briefing they held with NCC. N'land Estates advised TB that the only site viable for development in Lesbury was the site behind Lealands (identified as sites 9315 and 0045) in the NCC Local Plan. LS confirmed the Working Group would consider this information.	

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	b) Neighbourhood Watch: KF advised that following the recent prowler activity in Hipsburn, he had submitted and received permission to set up a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the Parish and was now listed as the Neighbourhood Watch Leader. KF to update the PC on what this involves and what was required going forwards. KF reported the prowlers had been caught by the Police. DK volunteered to be on the team to represent The Coppice.	KF
6.	County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update One Way System for Curly Lane/South View: WP suggested a one-way system for Curly Lane and South View would be a great thing to do and that it should be reconsidered, but it required the appetite of the PC and residents. Overgrown Areas of Concern: WP asked the PC if they had any areas of concern with overgrowth (weeds/grass/hedges) next to the Highways that she can flag to NCC on behalf of the PC. TB flagged the road from Lesbury to Boulmer and DK flagged the area outside The Coppice.	WP
7.	Planning a) 26/0195/LBC – Karndeen flooring for main hall and supper room - Village Hall, Lesbury, NE66 3PP – no objections	ET
8.	Correspondence Received a) Barry Wilson, NCC Tree & Woodland Officer – Damaged Rowan/Mountain Ash Tree – The Wynd – noted and discussed/agreed in item 4 above. b) NCC Highways – 2026-29 LTP Programme – it was noted that the NCC’s response to the PC’s LTP requests were as follows: <u>Alnwick to Alnmouth Station Shuttle Bus:</u> This would require revenue funding so is not eligible for the LTP. <u>Cyclepath from Alnmouth Station to Alnwick:</u> Due to distance involved this is beyond the scope of the LTP. The request has been forwarded to the Strategic Transport Team for consideration as part of wider active travel improvements. <u>Hipsburn Pavements:</u> This maintenance issue has been formally recorded and will be taken into consideration during the development of future planned maintenance programmes. In the meantime, NCC Area Maintenance teams will continue to monitor the situation and undertake any necessary minor works to ensure the area remains safe. c) NCC – Declaration of Interests – new section 32A Localism Act 2011 - noted d) N’land Coast National Landscape Partnership Meeting 24/6/26 - 4pm, Westfield Park, Longhoughton - noted e) NCC – Thriving Together May #1 & 2 and June #1 - noted f) NCC – Update from Councillor Mather – Cabinet Member for Highways – noted. g) NCC – Digital Switchover Briefing – 24/6/26 - noted h) Hannah Pringle – Pond Field Grass Cutting - ET advised the complaint about long grass and weeds/thistles had been reported to Martin Duddy at NCC who had confirmed his operatives will attend onsite and strim all long areas. i) NCC - Community Governance Review - Further to the ongoing Community Governance Review of parish arrangements within Northumberland (for which the PC had previously indicated to NCC it did not wish to make any changes to its current governance arrangements), NCC had received a suggestion from a stakeholder in Lesbury proposing that the PC should consider grouping or merging with neighbouring parishes to share running costs and have access to a potential larger budget. The purpose of the correspondence from NCC was to make the PC aware of the suggestion received and to provide an opportunity for the PC to comment on its current governance arrangements and its options: retaining the existing parish and PC arrangements/grouping with one or more	ET

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	neighbouring parishes under a common grouped PC/merging with one or more neighbouring parishes to form a single larger parish area. The PC were encouraged to consider factors such as community identity, local representation, governance capacity, administrative efficiency, and the ability to fill vacancies. In addition, NCC asked the PC to consider whether its current council size remains appropriate. The PC currently has 10 seats, requiring 4 members to be present for meetings to be quorate. The PC could retain 10 seats or reduce to 9 or fewer seats, which would reduce the quorum requirement to 3 members and may assist where vacancies or absences make meetings difficult to convene. considered your email and the options outlined within it. The PC considered all the above and determined and agreed that it wished to retain the existing parish and PC arrangements and also wished to retain its current council size, which remains appropriate. The PC wished to remain a PC for Lesbury, Hipsburn and Bilton and not merge or group with neighbouring parishes – such as the villages of Alnmouth, Boulmer and Longhoughton, which were considered too different in requirement to our own parish. The PC was, however, happy with work with neighbouring PCs as it has done before. The PC is currently at capacity with all 10 seats filled and the decision was taken not to reduce the number of seats on the PC. ET to respond accordingly.	ET
9.	Parish Financial Matters a) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £79 - agreed b) Lloyds Bank (Monthly Fees) - £4.25 - agreed c) Clerk (April Wages) - £476.19 - agreed d) HMRC (April £112.40 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.24 - agreed e) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £377.35 - agreed	
10.	Pond Field Play Area: DK reported the play area was very dry and the molehills had become solid and might make the grass difficult to cut. DK reported the hedge was overgrown and so the footpath to Pond Field could no longer be used. The grass was also very over grown and some of the equipment covered in weeds and thistles. ET confirmed this had already been reported to Martin Duddy at NCC (see item 8h) above). WP to report again. ET also confirmed Playdale had been instructed to carry out repairs to the worn matting and works would be carried out w/c 20 July.	WP
11.	Any Other Matters for Discussion: - Overgrown Hedge – High Path – AH had reported the footpath was becoming impassable. ET had reported the issue to Martin Duddy at NCC. - Overgrown Hedge – Hipsburn School – ET had received complaints that the footpath was becoming impassable and had reported the issue to the school and requested the hedge is cut asap. - RAF Boulmer:TB advised he had attended the RAF Boulmer Annual Reception on 10/6/26. The RAF had discussed community engagement and it was agreed ET to invite a representative from RAF Boulmer to the next PC meeting to discuss how Lesbury and RAF Boulmer could work together for the benefit of the community.	ET
12.	NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm - Tuesday 28 July 2026 - Lesbury Village Hall	ALL

The meeting concluded at 7.58pm.

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