

Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 28 July 2026

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

Present: Cllrs Hodgson (Vice Chair) (AH), Hall (JuH), Thackara (MT) and Wilmshurst (MW).

In attendance: Liz Taylor (Clerk) (ET) and 1 member of the public.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		ACTION
Public Questions: 1 member of the public was in attendance. Glass Recycling: Billy McKnight (BM) enquired if the PC could provide a centralised glass recycling bin within the parish now that the doorstep glass recycling had been stopped by NCC and until the new glass recycling bins were delivered as some residents were now putting their glass recycling into general waste. BM referenced the excellent glass recycling facilities available in Rothbury. BM suggested the Post Office car park in Lesbury or the car park by Hipsburn Primary School. JuH advised that NCC were due to deliver new recycling bins for all residents in Lesbury, Hipsburn and Bilton in Autumn and by the time a request to NCC for a centralised bin had been received and processed, all households would have received their new recycling bins which can be used for glass anyway. ET also flagged that neither location suggested was considered suitable for glass recycling due to noise and proximity to residents houses (PO car park) and broken glass being a danger to young children (school car park). It was also noted there were glass and other recycling facilities available in Alnwick until door-step glass recycling returned to operation. BM was thanked for his suggestion but it was agreed that no action would be taken.		
1.	Apologies: Cllrs Bendix (Chair) (TB), Brunger (JB), Franklin (KF), Knowles (DK), Starkey (LS), Wynne (EW) and County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP)	
2.	Declarations of Interest: None	
3.	Minutes: The minutes of 23 June 2026 were signed as a true record.	
4.	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes Footbridge Tree Stability: ET advised Julia Robson at N'land Estates had confirmed the tree was unstable and needed to be removed. N'land Estates would liaise with the house owner to organise access to the land for removal. N'land Estates to also contact NCC insurers about the damage and repair of the handrail. Damaged Rowan Tree, The Wynd: ET advised NCC have removed the dead Rowan/Mountain Ash tree and replaced it with a new mature Rowan/Mountain tree with thanks to Barry Wilson and his team at NCC. JB, EW and MW now watering the tree twice a week over the summer period. Newsletter: MT our new newsletter editor and to liaise with JuH over next issue. ET to send MT a newsletter template. Hipsburn Roundabout Bus Shelter: ET confirmed the ivy has been cleared and the bus shelter cleaned on the A1068 towards Amble. The bus shelters on Curly Lane have also been cleaned. The Bus shelters on A1068 required no action. Hipsburn Bus Stop: ET advised no further updates from Richard McKenzie at NCC. Recycling Advice: LS has booked Recycling Engagement Officer Jasmine Patterson to visit Lesbury Village Hall for a public talk at 6pm on 29/9/26 to explain about what can and can't be recycled. To be publicized on PC website, in the newsletter and on socials. JuH to also promote the talk via the Shop. Neighbourhood Watch: KF progressing setting up the group and will include an article in the next newsletter. Some signs may be required and KF to confirm costs. Bilton Hedge: AH confirmed this had now been cut back and was an improvement. School Hedge: It was noted despite ET contacting the school and some of the hedge being cut back, a large section was missed (after the school driveway	JB/EW/MW MT/JuH/ET LS/ET/KF/ JuH KF/MT

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	entrance towards the school car park) and the overgrown hedge is now forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. It was suggested EW could speak to the school. Triangle at Foxton Turning: JuH reported that the overgrown grass triangle at the turning from Lesbury/Boulmer to Foxton had been reported to NCC on FixMyStreet as it was overgrown and obstructing the view of the highway. RAF Boulmer: ET confirmed Laura Rowberry from RAF Boulmer had been invited to attend the July PC but was on annual leave. An invite to the September meeting was also offered to discuss how Lesbury and RAF Boulmer could work together for the benefit of the community.	EW
5.	Matters Arising: a) NDP Working Group Update: JuH confirmed the first meeting of the Working Group took place on 26/6/26 and was attended by JuH, LS, Pam Allen, Gill Bland and James Boatman. The Group had submitted a response to NCC's New Northumberland Local Plan Consultation. ET requested a copy for the PC records. JuH advised NCC are to collate all the responses and hold meetings with all PCs in Autumn. The Working Group agreed to await the meeting with NCC before progressing any further. b) Multiutlis Annual Bench Survey: ET circulated the report of the survey undertaken in July. 3 benches are flagged as requiring maintenance in the future (2 are starting to rot and 1 has grass growing out of it) but Multiutlis confirmed all benches are structurally sound and will last for at least another year. Some are overgrown by foliage, so are clearly little used. Multiutlis also flagged the style below Foxton is rotten and needs repairing. ET to be report on FixMyStreet.	JuH ET
6.	County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update WP had previously circulated a report.	
7.	Planning a) 26/02409/FUL – Proposed ground floor extension to create utility room - 13 Curly Lane, Lesbury, Northumberland, NE33 3QB – objection on grounds of the extension being further forward of the current and other bungalows; the proposed building being up to the boundary fence of the plot; the side of the wall of the extension potentially blocking neighbours light. b) 26/02517/FUL – Demolition of existing single storey garage and utility room. Proposed replacement two storey side extension with new single storey garage. Alterations to the existing house inc some new windows and doors, render to some existing walls, partial removal of an area of flat roof and replacement with a pitched roof and replacement of an area of flat roof with a new flat roof - Grey Croft, Steppey Lane, Lebsury, NE66 3PU – no objection c) 26/02394/FUL – replace back door with new UPVC door - 9 Alinside Court, Lesbury, NE66 3PD – no objection	ET
8.	Correspondence Received a) NCC Monitoring Officer – Disclosable and Pecuniary Interests - circulated to all PC who were to complete and return direct to NCC. b) Alnwick Town Council – Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan – noted but JuH advised no response sent by the Planning Sub-Committee. c) NCC Digital Switchover Briefing (24/6/26) – info to be included in next newsletter d) NCC – Thriving Together June #2 and July #1 - noted e) N'land Coast National Landscape – Coastline Conversations - noted f) Katherine Challis – Friends of Alnmouth Statin – Grant Thank You - noted g) Abi Knapton, Gladiator Events – Alzheimer's Society Trek26 – Event details for 18 July 2026 and proposed date 17 July 2027. It was noted that the event on 18/7/26 had gone well and noise issues had been resolved (with a slight blip at	ALL MT

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	6am). The PC had therefore no further concerns and organisation would be left to Gladiator Events, the Football Club and Cricket Club. h) NALC – July Update – noted i) St Mary's Church – request for funding to refurbish toilet. No exact estimate of costs had been provided as the project was still in the initial stages. The PC were mindful of another recent grant request for financial assistance made by the Shop to assist with insurance. It was noted that the provision of public toilets does not fall within the remit of the PC but with NCC. However, the PC wished to assist as this was of benefit to the local community and it was agreed the PC were happy to agree in principle to a grant, depending on the cost of the project and in anticipation that it would be a nominal amount. The PC was mindful of the drawdown on the precept with unexpected NDP costs, professional fees to assist with planning applications and unexpected Pondfield repair costs to be considered. It was noted that with these increasing demands on the precept it was very likely that the precept would need to be increased for 2027/28 to cover these new pressures on the PC finances. MW also flagged funding available from Northumbria Historic Churches Trust who had recently funded £7k for an accessible toilet in Ryehope. ET to share the link to the Church in the response.	ET
9.	Parish Financial Matters a) Lloyds Bank (Monthly Fees) - £4.25 - agreed b) Multiutlis (Annual Bench Inspection) - £84 - agreed c) Syd Carr (Bus Stop Maintenance) - £300 - agreed d) Clerk (July Monthly Wages) - £592.85 - agreed e) HMRC (Monthly £141.80 PAYE and £43.75 Employers NI) - £185.55 - agreed f) Clerk (August Monthly Wages) - £475.99 - agreed g) HMRC (Monthly £112.60 PAYE and £21.84 Employers NI) - £134.44 - agreed h) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £102 - agreed i) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £158.04 – agreed j) Playdale (Pondfield repairs - resurface mat under pull up bar) - £420.77 - agreed	
10.	Pond Field Play Area: DK had reported that the hedge was now so overgrown that the footpath down to the Pondfield was inaccessible. AH to liaise with members of the PC who live nearby to approach the hedge owner to get it cut back. ET advised the repairs to the mat under the pull up bar (highlighted in the April inspection report) had been undertaken in July. Invoice in 9j) above. During these repairs, Playdale flagged repairs were required to the cradle swing seat and that the rocking log needed replacing as it was rotten. ET had voiced concern that every time there was an inspection there were considerable repairs required; the problem is the equipment is now getting towards 20 years old. The quote for the cradle seat and rocking log was considered. The rocking log is under a 20-year warranty and so to take advantage of that warranty as the item is 16 years old and it will soon expire (and to save £1,577 replacement costs), it was agreed these works should be carried out and the cradle seat repaired at the same time. Total cost £1,188.	AH ET
11.	Any Other Matters for Discussion: • EV Charger: JuH advised that Lesbury Village Hall had submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to have an EV Charger installed in the Post Office car park. AH and ET expressed concern at this for a number of reasons: the land is rented from N'land Estates by the PC and not by the Village Hall. Any EOI on this land should have been agreed by both the PC and N'land Estates prior to submission and, if agreed to, should have been submitted by the PC. Previously the Village Hall had indicated they were exploring the possibility of an	

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	EV Charger on the land behind the Village Hall, not on land the PC rented. The PC only has a small car park available for use by residents visiting the Shop, Church and Village Hall. The EV Charger would take up 1 or possibly 2 valuable car parking spaces and so therefore this was a decision that the PC needed to have agreed to first. ET also raised concern about the type of EV Charger and if it would be a low charging and expensive one to use like the other ones that NCC were installing, which were less appealing to electric car owners and if so, it's value was questioned. ET also flagged that there were already EV Chargers located at Alnmouth Train Station and in Alnmouth, so did Lesbury need to lose valuable parking space(s) to provide more, especially if they might be of low charging speed and expensive to use? It was agreed as this was only an EOI that there was time to debate this further and consider the options. JuH to report the feedback to Lesbury Village Hall. • People's Emergency Briefing: TB had made a suggestion to screen a viewing of the People's Emergency Briefing at Lesbury Village Hall. It was noted has already been shown at Alnwick Playhouse. The screening is from November 2025 when the National Emergency Briefing brought together leading experts to present the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians and other influential people in Westminster. MW advised a screening had also taken place in Warkworth. MW flagged he understood the intention was to have politicians in attendance alongside the screening to answer any questions arising. It was agreed TB to research how other communities carried out the screening and who could attend to explain and answer questions arising from the screening. • David Smith, MP: TB had visited our MP when he came to Lesbury on 24/7/26. TB asked how the PC can help with food security. David Smith would like to brief the PC in September. It was noted TB to keep the PC updated with any further news on this.	JuH TB TB
12.	NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm - Tuesday 28 July 2026 - Lesbury Village Hall	ALL

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

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