Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 22 September 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), Starkey (LS) and Wilmshurst (MW).
In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP) and Liz Taylor (Clerk) (ET).

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes		**ACTION**
Public Questions: No member of the public were in attendance.		
1.	**Apologies:** Cllrs, Brunger (JB), Franklin (KF), Hall (JuH), Knowles (DK), Thackara (MT) and Wynne (EW)	
2.	**Declarations of Interest:** None	
3.	**Minutes:** The minutes of 28 July 2026 were signed as a true record.	
4.	**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** **Footbridge Tree Stability**: It was noted with thanks that N'land Estates had organised for the unstable tree to be cut down and the handrail repaired. **Rowan Tree, The Wynd**: JB, EW and MW to continue watering until October. **Hipsburn Bus Stop**: ET advised Richard McKenzie at NCC confirmed the land purchase is almost finalised and then works can take place to improve the bus stop. **Recycling Advice:** Recycling Engagement Officer Jasmine Patterson to visit Lesbury Village Hall for a public talk at 6pm on 29/9/26 to explain about recycling. **Neighbourhood Watch**: No further updates. Postponed to October meeting. **School Hedge**: It was noted with thanks that the hedge had now been cut back. **RAF Boulmer**: ET confirmed Laura Rowberry from RAF Boulmer will attend the October PC meeting and hopefully future PC meetings on a regular basis. **Disclosable and Pecuniary Interests**: New forms issued by NCC Monitoring Officer had been circulated to all PC over the summer and ET reminded the PC these needed to be completed and returned as per instructions ASAP, if not already done so. **People's Emergency Briefing**: ET advised Longoughton PC were to sponsor the screening of the People's Emergency Briefing at LCSCT. IT was agreed ET to contact Longhoughton PC to suggest a collaboration. If the local MP and County Councillors were to be invited to discuss, it is likely they would attend only one local screening and so it made sense to collaborate. LCSCT was a larger venue with better parking with the PC covering any room hire costs. ET to write to suggest. **David Smith, MP**: It was noted that the meeting about how the PC can help with food security was to be held in The Hub at 12noon on 25/9/26. **Vandalised Bus Stops A1068**: ET reported that over the August Bank Holiday weekend both bus stops on the A1068 had been vandalised with a panes of glass from each shelter broken. ET had immediately organised for Multiutilis to clear up the glass and make safe. AH had organised for James McLean to quote to replace the glass with Perspex. The quote to be circulated to the PC for approval prior to progressing.	**LS** **KF** **ALL** **ET** **ALL** **ALL** **ET/AH**
5.	**Matters Arising:** a) **NDP Working Group Update:** LS advised that NCC would be arranging to meet with all PCs in October following collation of all responses received to NCC's New Northumberland Local Plan Consultation. On 21/9/26 LS attended the NCC's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) meeting. The information given at that meeting was essentially the same as the information Sarah Brannigan delivered to the PC when she attended out April 2026 PC meeting. Strong NDPs are less than 5 years old. Site allocations must meet the new housing target. PCs must plan positively for development. PCs need to provide their preferred development sites, include a settlement boundary and have an understanding of housing needs. NCC would be undertaking a further consultation with PCs in October 2026 and then a residents' consultation in Spring 2027. The Lesbury NDP Working Group	

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	(comprising JuH, LS, Pam Allen, Gill Bland and James Boatman) have agreed to await the meeting with NCC before progressing any further. It was noted that NCC have been allocated 34,000 new houses to build in Northumberland. b) **Newsletter**: MT had suggested the possibility of producing 8-page A5 newsletters, the idea being to produce something that people might like to hang onto. He was sure the content is there. It was agreed for MT to research costs and format/content and to present a paper to the PC to consider. c) **Community Electric Cars:** No further updates. Postponed to October meeting. d) **Annual Fixed Asset Check**: ET to circulate the current Fixed Asset Register and allocate Fixed Assets to be checked amongst the PC.	**JuH/LS** **MT** **ET/ALL**
6.	**County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update** WP had previously circulated a report. **Library Consultation**: WP confirmed at a cost of £100k each, NCC could only provide 1 mobile library van. The van will visit Longhoughton every 4 weeks but residents can take out up to 19 books. In addition, from January 2027, NCC Customer Services will also operate out of Alnwick Library based in Alnwick Playhouse **Scheme of Delegation**: New national rules will change how councils decide planning applications. Councillors will no longer call in applications under local rules and objection numbers will not automatically send an application to committee. NCC will update its constitution. The aim is clearer, more consistent decisions. Schedule 1 applications must be decided by planning officers. Schedule 2 applications are usually decided by officers. They can go to committee only if the nominated officer and member agree and the set criteria are met. Planning committees will focus on major local proposals, while officers decide minor and technical applications. WP also said that Northumberland must build 34,000 new homes over the next 5 years and will revise the NCC Local Plan. **Anti-social behaviour and nuisance:** For issues such as loud music being played from vehicles; excessive revving of engines; gatherings of individuals in vehicles behaving in an anti-social manner etc., contact the Safer Communities Team: email: public.protection@northumberland.gov.uk/ tel: 0345 600 6400 **Abandoned vehicles:** If you believe that a vehicle has been abandoned, you may report this to NCC's Environmental Enforcement Team: tel 0345 600 6400	
7.	**Planning** a) 26/03161/LBC – Listed Buildings Consent for alterations and extension - Millers Cottage, 1 Lesbury House Cottages, Lesbury, NE66 3PT – no objection b) 26/03160/FUL – Alteration and extension - Millers Cottage, 1 Lesbury House Cottages, Lesbury, NE66 3PT – no objection c) 26/03039/FUL – Demolition of existing sunroom and replacement with garden room, small single storey extension to courtyard elevation and extension to and conversion of existing garage building - Old Reading Room, Lesbury, NE66 3PN – objection due to extensive alterations to the garage. The proposal for the garage is out of character with the surrounding area which has historical value. There is no rationale as to why the garage needs the proposed amenities and that it would appear to being developed for rental, which the PC wouldn't support. If the application was divided into two parts, the PC would not object to the amendments to the main property.	
8.	**Correspondence Received** a) NCC – Northumberland Local Plan Update - noted b) NCC – What Does the new NPPF Mean for Neighbourhood Plans? - LS attended this meeting on 21/9/26 – see agenda item 5a) above for update.	

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	c) Newcastle University - Coast & Rural Solution Session – Seahouses, 14 September - MT attended this meeting and had produced a report as follows: 10million+ people live on or very near the coast (coastal/rural). On average, they are older, have lower economic and health outcomes and are more cut off from jobs and healthcare. There is a taskforce in place to see what can be done to improve things. These North East coast sessions/research will serve as a model for other coastal communities. There is a rural session (Seahouses), urban session (South Shields) and post-industrial session (Blackhall). At the Seahouses session, a survey was carried out to ask people what they were worried about. The outcome was health access (as major units become more centralised), jobs, transport, opportunities for young people and loss of community facilities like banks. Minutes of the meetings will be produced: https://nicre.co.uk/innovation-portal/north-east-coastal-and-rural-taskforce/	
	d) NCC Town & Parish Council Conference – 8/10/26 5pm-8pm – County Hall, Morpeth - TB to attend	**TB**
	e) NALC AGM – 8/10/26 – 8/10/26 – 5pm-8pm – County Hall, Morpeth - TB to attend	**TB**
	f) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin – 27/8/26 – noted. This inc info on NJC national 3.3% pay rise for Parish & Town Council staff. NALC Update – September - noted	
	g) Elodie Hall Ruiz, Gladiator Events – Alzheimers Walk: it was noted that ET and Neil Robson of Alnmouth & Lesbury Football Club had exchanged numerous emails with Gladiator Events to get the 5 red wheelie bins left over from the event held 6 weeks ago removed from site as they were becoming a nuisance and overflowing with dog poo bags. It was also noted that the Flannigan's skip was illegally parked without the football club's consent and also causing a fly-tipping nuisance. Communications were underway to have the skip also removed.	
	h) Jill & Rob Bland – request for "open to the public" sign for Memorial Garden – this was agreed to be a good idea. TB to organise a sign.	**TB**
	i) Carter Dean Complaint re large construction trucks illegally manoeuvring – TB advised this issue had been resolved.	
	j) NCC – Northumberland Libraries August Newsletter - noted	
	k) NCC - Thriving Together Newsletter July #2, August #1 & #2 and Sept #1 - noted	
	l) NCC – Consultation on Proposed Countywide Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – MW was concerned about the proposal and queried WP on a number of points, particularly the right to drink a social beer on the beach. TB to draft feedback to the consultation.	**TB**
	m) NCC – Consultation on Draft Statement of Principles – Gambling Licensing Policy – noted but no consultation feedback to be submitted.	
	n) Alnwick Medical Group – PPG Newsletter - noted	
	o) Northumberland Coast and Natural Landscape - Minutes – 24/6/26 - noted	
	p) Lost in TV – BBC's The Big School Assembly Sing-along recording at The Glasshouse, Gateshead - noted	
	q) NCC Preparing Communities for Digital Switchover – noted. Info already included on Facebook, website and newsletter.	
	r) NE Mayor Bus Franchising Consultation – noted. TB observed and hoped that the lessons learned from franchising utility companies might be remembered.	
	s) Friends of Alnmouth Station – Katherine Challis reported that Friends of Alnmouth Station had once again been awarded Gold at this year's Northumbria in Bloom. The Friends held a stall at Lesbury Autumn Show in September in an effort to encourage more local volunteers to join the group. The fear is that the work at the station will become unsustainable as half the long-serving volunteers are starting to	

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	think about retiring. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Katherine Challis. Thanks were extended to the PC for their continued support.	
9.	**Parish Financial Matters** a) Mazars – Notice of Conclusion of Audit YE 31 March 2026/Annual Governance Statement 2026. ET confirmed the audit has been concluded and the statement of accounts are published on the PC website (the documents are a scan and therefore not fully compliant with the Accessibility Regulations which require a physical "wet ink" signature). The full return is also available by contacting the Parish Clerk. b) NCC (Precept) £8,500 - CREDIT c) Lloyds Bank (June & July Monthly Fees @ £4.25 per month) - £8.50 - agreed d) N'land Estates (Rent: The Wynd £10 / PondField £100 / Memorial Garden £40) - £150.00 - agreed e) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £31.20 - agreed f) Clerk (September wages inc backdated national 3.3% pay rise) - £566.03 - agreed g) HMRC (Monthly £135 PAYE and £38.70 Employers NI) - £173.70 - agreed h) Lesbury Community Shop (Noticeboard Recharge) - £101.00 - agreed i) IFO (Annual Fee) - £52.00 - agreed j) Playdale (Pondfield: repairs to Cradle Seat and replacement of Rocking Log) - £594.04 - agreed k) Multiutilis (Clear Glass from Vandalised Bus Shelters on A1068) - £75 - agreed l) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £142.66 - agreed	
10.	**Pond Field Play Area:** TB to speak with the owner of the hedge to discuss having it cut back to free up access to the footpath down to the play area. ET confirmed Playdale had completed repairs to the cradle seat and under warranty had installed a new rocking log to replace the one that had rotted. No further repairs had been flagged but the next formal inspection is in October where a full assessment of equipment will take place.	**TB**
11.	**Any Other Matters for Discussion:** • **PC Suggestion Box**: MT suggested the idea of a suggestion box for the PC being placed in the Village Shop. MT happy to organise and handle any suggestions. This follows on from the Coastal meeting MT attended to help community engagement. The PC agreed that MT to produce a paper for consideration including any costs and to ensure that the Village Shop were also onboard with the suggestion.	**MT**
12.	**NEXT MEETING**: 7.30pm - Tuesday 27 October 2026 - Lesbury Village Hall	**ALL**

The meeting concluded at 8.26pm.

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