Lesbury Parish Council

Meeting
Tuesday 27 October 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), Brunger (JB), Franklin (KF), Hall (JuH), Knowles (DK), Starkey (LS), Thackara (MT), Wilmshurst (MW) and Wynne (EW).

In attendance: County Cllr Wendy Pattison (WP), Liz Taylor (Clerk) (ET), Neil Robson (Alnmouth Football Club re item 1) and 1 member of the public.

	Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes	**ACTION**
	Public Questions: Ken Middlemist had a number of issues to raise as follows: **Speeding in South View:** Ken reported cars speed to/from the train station, particularly between the Play Area and Hipsburn Square and requested a speed camera rather than the flashing VMS sign, which Ken advised didn't slow the traffic. KF to obtain the speed readings from Swarco from the VMS sign, as well as the output from all of the cameras in the parish. This would give a correct reading of the speed vehicles were travelling. WP also suggested asking NCC to put down speed monitoring strips and if vehicles are travelling in excess of the speed limit, NCC would review what additional measures could be put in place. It was agreed the speed readings from the VMS sign as the first port of call. **Hedge Trimmings**: Ken reported that the hedge trimmings from 40 South View had been left all over the path. This could be reported to NCC FixMyStreet as a footpath obstruction. WP also advised if hedges were overgrown and obstructing footpaths, this should be reported to NCC Neighbourhood Services. **Overgrown Grass Area**: Ken reported that the grass on the corner of Curly Lane leading to Mill Lane/High Path used to be cut by NCC, but this year had been left and become overgrown. KF to inspect and report, if appropriate, to NCC on FixMyStreet. **Aln Valley Railway**: Ken thanked the PC for their support for the 60th Anniversary and advised the railway was on schedule to be extended from Greenrigg to Branch End and then onto the station. In addition, there were further celebrations for 2027 including 150th Anniversary of the Opening of the railway and the birth of one of the locomotives.	**KF** **KF**
1.	**Neil Robson, Alnmouth & Lesbury Football Club – Car Park** Alnmouth Football Club owns and manages the car park and playing field, which have traditionally been available for wider community use. The Club wants this to continue but is increasingly concerned about unauthorised use, damage to the playing area, litter and dog fouling, dumping, insurance and liability risks, and the lack of contributions towards upkeep. To protect the facility while retaining community access, the Club is considering clearer signage with an option to donate via a QR code. The PC valued the use of the car park for local residents and offered to include some comms on Facebook and in the newsletter about use of the car park and local public support for the football club. AH to also give Neil contact details for sign makers.	**MT/KF** **AH**
2.	**Laura Rowberry, RAF Boulmer:** Laura was unable to attend. To be re-scheduled.	
3.	**Apologies:** Cllr Bendix (Chair) (TB).	
4.	**Declarations of Interest:** None	
5.	**Minutes:** LS advised it's Rob not Gill Bland who is a member of the Lesbury NDP Working Group. Correct membership is JuH, LS, Pam Allen, Rob Bland & James Boatman. Otherwise minutes of 22 September 2026 were signed as a true record.	
6.	**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** **Hipsburn Bus Stop**: No further updates from Richard McKenzie at NCC. **Recycling Advice:** LS confirmed the talk by Recycling Engagement Officer Jasmine Patterson at Lesbury Village Hall on 29/9/26 was well attended by 30+ residents.. **Neighbourhood Watch**: KF advised the scheme had been set up and next steps were to engage with N'bria Police and hold regular meetings with the PCSO. MT and DK	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	were interested in joining the group. KF to find out more about what would be involved and to report back to the PC in Spring. JuH suggested the PC could also attend the Police Liaison Meetings held by Longhoughton PC. **People's Emergency Briefing**: ET confirmed Longoughton PC were to sponsor the screening of the People's Emergency Briefing at LCSCT at the end of February 2027 and were happy to collaborate with Lesbury. The timings of the PC newsletter were discussed and it was agreed an edition could be issued in January to include promotion of the event. ET to connect MT with the organisers at Longhoughton PC. ET advised Alnwick Playhouse are showing the People's Emergency Briefing on 20/11/26. It was agreed the PC to attend the viewing and to promote it on the PC website/social media. **David Smith, MP**: JB/LS reported that the meeting with David Smith MP on 25/9/26 was interesting. Topics covered included planning, food security, Defra's food strategy, "resilience hubs" and "warm hubs", dualling of the A1, fuel prices and electric buses. **Vandalised Bus Stops A1068**: The broken glass and bench had all been repaired. MT reported that the signs and also bus timetables on the bus shelters at the top of Curly Lane needed replacing. WP advised the PC should contact Chris Curtis in NCC Transport Team. MT to send the detail to ET to forward onto NCC. **Open to the Public sign for Memorial Garden**: ET confirmed this was now installed **NCC Consultation on Alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order:** ET confirmed TB had reviewed the consultation. ET read out the summary but it was agreed the PC would not submit a formal response. **PC Suggestion Box**: MT had followed up with the Village Shop about the suggestion box, but unfortunately this hadn't progressed as there was no space in the shop to support such a scheme. ET asked WP to inform the PC about the difficulties encountered with a similar scheme introduced by another PC elsewhere in WP's constituency. It was agreed to put the idea on hold. **Annual Fixed Asset Check**: ET was yet to process all the returns received. **PondField Hedge**: ET advised TB had spoken with the owner and the hedge was cut.	**KF** **MT** **ET/KF** **MT/ET**
7.	**Matters Arising:** a) **NDP Working Group Update:** JuH provided an update about the NCC Town & PC Consultation re Housing. The current consultation with NCC is just for Parish Councils and then residents will have the opportunity to get involved in a consultation with NCC in Spring 2027. The deadline for the PC's response to the consultation is 9/12/26. What we know: • we now have access to NCC's assessment of potential sites for housing development • the PC will be unable to challenge any planning application for housing, as the current NDP boundary is too tight. • developers could be successful in securing an application to build houses outside the NDP boundary, if it isn't amended, • NCC (Sarah Brannigan) will be attending a PC meeting in the near future, to ask the preferred development sites, • Warkworth PC held a drop-in session on 24/10/26, to inform their residents about the changes to the National Planning Policy and share the sites identified in their Parish • Lesbury PC have already established a working group, to undertake the re-drafting of the NPD, which is now 5 years old. Moving forward, JuH suggested that the PC should, • hold a drop-in session, similar to Warkworth's approach, to inform people about the changes to the National Planning Policy and share the sites identified by NCC • ask the Lesbury NDP Working Group to undertake a risk assessment of these sites and determine the types of housing required to be developed based on the NDP	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	• hold an extraordinary PC meeting, to consider the working groups assessment and then meet with NCC to outline the PC's suggested boundary change • prepare a newsletter, outlining the national planning policy, NCC's assessment of potential sites and the PC's recommended boundary change. Request written comments to be submitted. • review the comments and amend the NDP to include the new boundary. WP commended the PC's commitment to their residents, but advised that they were the elected representatives of the parish and that it was, in her opinion, too soon to hold a drop-in session and recommended against that route. ET suggested that the PC and/or the Lesbury NDP Working Group liaise with both Sarah Brannigan (NDP Officer from NCC) and also Jenny Ludman (planning professional who helped write the Lesbury NDP) and ask them both for help and assistance in responding to this consultation. ET had also produced a draft summary of the consultation with JuH and LS had reviewed – to be circulated to the PC. It was agreed that the NDP Working Group would review the consultation and produce a risk assessment alongside help from Sarah Brannigan and Jenny Ludman and draw-up a proposed response and recommendations for the boundary change for the PC to consider at an Extraordinary PC Meeting to be held on Wednesday 18 November. Rather than holding a drop-in session, information on the changes to the National Planning Policy and the sites identified by NCC to be shared on Facebook and the PC website. A special edition newsletter to be produced and circulated in the New Year. b) **Newsletter**: MT had yet to receive costings for a 8-page A5 newsletter. In the meantime, it was agreed that the newsletter should continue quarterly with the next edition to be issued before Christmas and then another in Spring with a special edition at the end of January to include the update detailed in 7a) above and also the People's Emergency Briefing. c) **Community Electric Cars:** JuH advised the Village Shop had considered this scheme but had questions about insurance and liability. Jean Humphrey's had registered an expression of interest in the scheme, but had heard nothing further. d) **B1339/Longhoughton Road Junction**: LS flagged that as the winter weather approached the junction still posed a problem that had not been resolved and repeated last year's request for a grit bin. It was acknowledged that the request for a grit bin in this location and for the High Path had been rejected by NCC last year as not meeting their criteria. WP advised the PC could purchase a grit bin for £200 from NCC and pay to have it filled or purchase and collect the grit from Alnwick. It was agreed the solution to the problem at the junction was more fundamental than purchasing a grit bin; the metal channel on the footpath needs widened so that the water from the land drains into the road drain rather than overflowing onto the footpath (and freezing causing an accident). LS to speak direct with NCC Highways about the problem and request a site visit to highlight and discuss the issue.	**ET** **JuH/LS/ KF/ET** **MT** **LS**
8.	**County Councillor Wendy Pattison – Northumberland County Council Update** WP had previously circulated a report. **EV Charger:** WP advised that Conor Edgar from NCC Highways had emailed WP to advise that a 7kw EV Charger was available to be 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 who have confirmed that the rent for this land would increase if there was a change of use to commercial. The PC would not receive any income from the EV Charger, NCC would keep all revenue generated. 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. The 7kw EV Charger is low charging and expensive one to use, which is less appealing to electric	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	car owners and if so, its value was questioned. There were already 7kw EV Chargers located at Alnmouth Train Station and in Alnmouth and super-fast chargers located in Alnwick. The PC took a vote, JuH abstained from voting but everyone else present were against the installation of the EV charger as currently offered by NCC. WP asked ET to respond direct to Conor Edgar to advise of the PC's decision accordingly. **Simpler Recycling in Northumberland**: From April 2026, the Government has introduced new simpler Recycling rules across England. These rules mean all councils must collect the same set of recycling materials from all households. NCC is working to introduce these changes as soon as possible. What's changing nationally? Under the new rules, councils must collect a wider range of materials for recycling. This expanded range of materials includes the following that NCC don't currently collect: · plastic pots, tubs and trays · glass bottles and jars · food and drink cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak) · flexible plastics such as plastic bags and wrapping (by March 2027) NCC must also provide a separate weekly food waste collection. Why some councils won't start on 1 April 2026 Many councils, including NCC, will not have the new services in place from day one because of: · insufficient Government funding to fully deliver the changes · national delays in the supply of new refuse vehicles · the need for major upgrades to waste processing facilities · complex planning, procurement and construction timescales How Northumberland is preparing NCC have been planning for Simpler Recycling for several years to create a cost-efficient, environmentally responsible system. In November 2025, Cabinet approved an investment of over £21 million to: provide new recycling bins, upgrade reception and processing facilities, make major improvements to our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), prepare for the wider range of recycling materials. These improvements must be completed before new services can start. When will the new dry recycling service start? Infrastructure upgrades are now progressing through procurement, planning and construction. NCC expect to begin phased introduction of the new dry recycling service in early 2027. Once final dates are confirmed, NCC will publish full details for residents. What the new system will look like General Waste: No change to the current general waste collection service. This will continue to be collected every two weeks. Recycling: To accommodate the expanded range of materials, collections will be made from 2 separate recycling bins: Bin 1: Fibre Recycling Bin (New bin) An additional 240litre wheeled bin with a black body and burgundy lid will be supplied to kerbside households for the separate collection of the following materials: paper, card and cardboard. Bin 2: Mixed Recycling Bin (Existing bin repurposed) Your existing recycling bin will remain and be repurposed for collection of the following: · metal tins and cans · plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays · clean aluminium foil trays and tubes · empty aerosol cans · glass bottles and jars	**ET**

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	· food and drink cartons · flexible plastics (March 2027) Collection pattern: Households will continue to receive a general waste collection once per fortnight and have the fibre recycling bin emptied the following week and then the mixed recycling bin emptied on the following fortnight's recycling collection day so that each recycling bin gets emptied once per month on an alternating 4-week cycle. Keeping residents informed These are significant changes to waste and recycling in Northumberland which also include food waste collections starting in SE Northumberland at a later date. NCC are developing a dedicated communications campaign to keep residents updated on: when changes will happen, what the new services include, which materials go in each bin, when new bins will be delivered and where to find further info. More details to follow once implementation dates are confirmed. **Digital Switchover**: The UK's telephone network is changing. By January 2027, most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines over to new upgraded landline services using digital technology. The switchover is being led by the UK telecommunications industry and services in the UK such as home phones and healthcare devices will be switched over. Your telephone provider will contact you to give you a switchover date and to check in and discuss what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected. If you or someone you know has a telecare safety device, who depends on their landline and/or use a telecare device connected to a phone line such as a fall monitor, lifeline or personal alarm, then please contact the provider of this service to find out how this device will be affected. Vulnerable users are entitled to a backup battery free of charge from their provider if they have critical services running such as telecare/telehealth. You should tell your telephone provider now if you have no other way of making emergency calls and if you have no broadband, internet or mobile phone. Your telephone provider should contact you before the switchover to let you know if you'll be affected. Please contact your telephone provider directly if you have any concerns about the switchover. Useful links: · Local Government Association Digital phone switchover FAQs. · Local Government Association Digital switchover telecare checklist. · DCMS, UK transition from analogue to digital landlines · Ofcom, Moving landline phones to digital technology: what you need to know. · Which?, Digital Voice and the landline phone switch-off: what it means for you. · Age UK, Changes to landline telephones. **Home Library Service**: delivers items free to your door. There is no charge for borrowing any items. You can choose how many items you borrow - up to 20 at a time. A volunteer will bring the items to your home every 4 weeks, at a time that suits you. Please contact your local library or email mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk for info.	
9.	**Planning** a) 26/02409/FUL – ground floor extension to create a utility room - 13 Curly Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3BQ – objection due to over development of the site and the extension being up against the boundary wall. b) 26/03219/PRUTPO – Tree Preservation Order T18B Horse Chestnut, T15B Lime and T16B Sycamore – reduction in lateral spread by up to 2m - Hipsburn Farm Cottage, Hipsburn Steadings, NE66 3QP – no objection	
10.	**Correspondence Received** a) NCC Town & Parish Council Engagement – Housing – see 7a) above b) NCC Town and Parish Council – Local Plan Engagement – see 7a) above c) NCC Neighbourhood Planning Team – Briefing Note on National Planning Policy Framework – see 7a) above	

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

	d) NCC Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment Update – Invitation to Contribute – noted. No response to be sent. e) NCC Presentations from the Town & Parish Council Conference (8/10/26) - noted f) NCC Local Meetings Invitation – 2/11/26 – noted g) NCC Gambling Licensing Consultation – noted. No response to be sent. h) NCC Consultation on School Admission Arrangements and Review of Free Transport – noted. No response to be sent. i) NCC Councillor FixMyStreet Webinar - noted j) Police & Crime Commissioner – Online Webinar - noted k) NCC Thriving Together Newsletter Sept #2, Oct #1 & Funding Fair - noted l) NALC Update – October - noted m) County Councillor Martin Swinbank - Cyclepath - ET advised County Councillor Martin Swinbank had received a complaint about the detritus on the cyclepath left by vehicle RTAs and that he was liaising with Sustrans to have the cyclepath cleared up. ET flagged that each time a vehicle crashes into the hedge (of which there have been a number of incidents over the last couple of years), the vehicles get removed but the damaged hedge does not get repaired, which poses a danger to the cyclepath users. Hedge repair was to be picked up/actioned with Sustrans. n) Joanne Osborne - Litter Picking – the Ferguson's skip left without permission in the football club car park had attracted fly-tipping and litter debris. Neil Robson had persevered and finally successfully arranged for the skip to be collected. o) Chad Crossman - South Side Beach - proposed introduction of cattle – ET had referred the complainant to N'land Estates who owned the land. p) Kate Pringle - Blocked Drains – Lesbury – to be reported direct to NCC FixMyStreet q) Michael Bassi - Damaged Seat A1068 Bus Shelter – now repaired.	
11.	**Parish Financial Matters** a) Chez Vacances Ltd (Multiutilis) (Broken seat in A1068 Bus Shelter) - £34 - agreed b) Playdale (Pondfield: Cradle Seat/Rocking Log) - £594.04 - agreed c) Lloyds Bank (Aug Monthly Fees @ £4.25 per month) - £4.25 - agreed d) Clerk (September Monthly Wages inc backdated payrise) - £598.09 - agreed e) HMRC (Monthly £143 PAYE and £44.71 Employers NI) - £187.71 - agreed f) Lesbury Village Hall (Hire for Recycling Talk on 21/9/26) - £39 - agreed g) Northumberland Accountants (Payroll) - £86.40 - agreed h) Shiel & Morrison (Newsletter) - £79 – agreed i) James N McLean Ltd (Replace broken glass A1068 Bus Shelters) - £480 - agreed j) Penny Royale (Lesbury Works) - £31.20 - agreed	
12.	**Pond Field Play Area:** DK had reported all in good order. Next formal inspection is in October/November.	
13.	**Any Other Matters for Discussion:** • **Solar Panels**: JuH reported the shop had received a grant to install solar panels. • **Village Hall Posters**: KF requested that now there is a community noticeboard at the Village Shop, if all the promotional posters can be removed from telegraph poles. JuH to speak to Village Hall and KF to speak to Coach Inn. • **Amazon Locker**: JB enquired if the Shop/Village Hall had considered an Amazon Locker, for which there is a substantial income. JuH advised there's no space at the Village Shop and there is also a locker already located at Alnmouth train station. • **Hedge Trimmings**: JuH had received a complaint about hedge trimmings left by the Post Office car park on Riverside Road. ET to check with Penny Royale.	**JuH/KF** **ET**
14.	**NEXT MEETING**: 7.30pm - Tuesday 24 November 2026 - Lesbury Village Hall	**ALL**

The meeting concluded at 9.27pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____