

Boulmer Howick & Longhoughton



We are deeply saddened by the passing of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

For over 70 years she dedicated herself to faithfully serving the nation and the Commonwealth as a source of strength and inspiration to us all. The love and affection that people had for her was clearly demonstrated in the outpouring of grief in the days prior to and on the day of her funeral.

Rest in peace Your Majesty

We welcome King Charles III



May his reign be successful for the people of this nation
and of the Commonwealth

Longhoughton Parish Council

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[Please contact the Clerk about the parish councillor vacancy.](#)

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Newsworthy items for the next edition, before the

deadline on 21 November 2022, please.

Disclaimer: The Boulmer, Howick and Longhoughton Community Newsletter is published by Longhoughton Parish Council. The views expressed represent the understanding of the editors or of any named person contributing to the newsletter.

Parish Council News & Views

LONGHOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL SIGNS THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

It was reported earlier in the year that Longhoughton Parish Council had agreed to sign the Armed Forces Covenant in view of the presence in the parish of RAF personnel and of course RAF Boulmer, the major employer in the parish.

The signing ceremony took place at RAF Boulmer on 4th August 2022 when the Covenant was signed on behalf of the Ministry of Defence by the then RAF Boulmer Station Commander, Group Captain David Keighley, and on behalf of the Longhoughton Parish Council by the chair, Adrian Hinchcliffe.

Following the signing Group Captain David Keighley said: "I was privileged to be able to jointly sign the Armed Forces Covenant with Longhoughton Parish Council. It is a great step forward in ensuring respect, support and fair treatment for all Service Families within our local community".

Councillor Adrian Hinchcliffe said "On behalf of Longhoughton Parish Council I would like to say that the whole purpose of signing the Covenant is to demonstrate the Parish's commitment to the Armed Forces and to bring the military and civilian communities together".

SPEED WATCH SCHEME

After the announcement in the last newsletter three volunteers have come forward for the scheme. Their names have been put forward for training and familiarisation. The opportunity is still open for more people to be included. If you would like to volunteer or request more information



Representatives present at the signing ceremony. From left to right: Councillor Chris Thomas; Councillor David Hindson; Councillor Peter Bromley; Councillor Adrian Hinchcliffe; Group Captain and Commander of RAF Boulmer, David Keighley; Councillor Jacqueline Barras; David Eccles, MOD Reserve Forces and Cadets Association; and Gary McLafferty, MOD Reserve Forces and Cadets Association.

please contact Adrian Hinchcliffe on 01665 572888 or email adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

AVIAN FLU

It was heart rending and very distressing to see so many sea birds dying from avian flu during the summer. There was nothing we could do to help those that were still alive but in their last days or hours of life. On some occasions our beaches were strewn with large numbers of bodies of dead birds. Goodness knows what the impact of this is going to be on the flocks especially



Bar-tailed godwit

the rare species. We must make a special mention of Jane Hardy and her valiant efforts to set up a scheme for collecting and disposing of the dead birds. Jane battled on for several weeks against utter bureaucracy and red tape and eventually got there. Jane, thank you.



This summer has been challenging for coastal wildlife, but we are delighted to say that shorebirds have had a successful nesting season on the Northumberland Coast! Thirteen ringed plover chicks fledged from our nest protection sites, a fantastic achievement and huge improvement from last year. Big thanks go to the Coast Care volunteers who dedicated their time to help us throughout the season, and to local residents and visitors who gave space to the protected sites.

Our attention now turns to

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the shorebirds which have returned to the coast from their breeding grounds. We are out showing beach users the magnificent birds and explaining why it's important to give them space to feed and rest undisturbed. We're also running Shorebirds for Beginners events to discuss the birds in more detail and give tips on how to identify them. Details will be published on our website over the coming months

www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk.

TRAFFIC VOLUMES THROUGH LOW STEAD FARM TO LONGHOUGHTON BEACHES

Traffic monitoring took place on the beach road at Lowsteads Farm from 18 July to 30 of August this year. During this period 4,782 vehicles went down the road to the beach during this 44 day period. The daily numbers were: lowest 31, the average 109 and the largest 236. Of the 4,782, 778 were campervans. During the same period the total takings of the £1 voluntary fee was £2,796 which means that the box is only taking 58% of what it should.

LACEY STREET PARKING and the wider parking issues

The County Council has failed to install the CCTV system in Lacey Street during the busy summer period despite promising to do so. Work has begun to document all the issues associated with the parking issues in Lacey Street



Congestion in Lacey Street

EMERGENCY CENTRE

Will you please volunteer to help in emergencies?

Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre (Westfield Park) is nominated as the Emergency Centre for the Parish for times such as were experienced with Storm Arwen last November. The Centre was open for hot drinks, food, phone charging, showers and social chatter. However, this sort of service is only available provided there are volunteers to open the Centre and provide the range of emergency comforts that are described above.

Would you be prepared to volunteer? We will give training so that you know what you are doing if you are called – and if you are you could be helping to save lives or making life a little bit easier for those who are badly affected by some form of disaster.

If you would like to put your name forward or like more information please get in touch with Adrian Hinchcliffe (01665 572888) or Eleanor Phillips (07843 380886).

and the wider parking issues in Longhoughton. This report will be considered by the Parish Council at the October meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings will take place on the following dates:

- **Monday 17 October 2022 at Boulmer Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.**
- **Monday 21 November 2022 at Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre (Westfield Park) commencing at 7.30pm.**

Residents are invited to raise any issues or ask questions in the first 15 minutes of the meeting.

GREENWAYS AROUND LONGHOUGHTON

The Parish Council is gradually making progress with proposals for greenways around the village of Longhoughton. These are safe routes off the main road away from motorised traffic for walkers and cyclists. They are safer for children away from the traffic. In an earlier consultation they were termed 'the green necklace'. It is anticipated that funding for some of the greenways

will come from the AONB Coastlands Project. Once the potential routes are identified there will be a full consultation.

THE ENERGY AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISES

The energy crisis fuelled by the Ukraine war is going to badly affect all households, especially those who depend on oil for heating for which there is no price cap. The Parish Council is also very concerned that those individuals or families with low incomes may be facing a very difficult time. **Do not hesitate to contact any Parish Councillor about your situation and we will signpost you to the agencies that may be able to help.**

In addition, we are confronted with the increasing challenge of climate change. Many people have unanswered questions, such as alternative heating systems to replace gas boilers. How good is your existing insulation and can it be improved? When should you change your car for an electric vehicle and where can it be charged? What system could you use to move off oil-heating. These are just a few examples of issues that people are beginning to think about. The Parish Council will be

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working with the Trustees of the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre (Westfield Park) to bring experts to Longhoughton to address them. **Watch the noticeboards and Facebook pages for details of when these events will take place.**

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Thank you to the residents who got in touch about what you regard as poor availability, poor connections and poor service. We were particularly sorry for the brave lady who went from Longhoughton to Newcastle by bus to do shopping. All was going well until she arrived back in Alnwick two minutes late to see the Longhoughton bus driving out. She was left abandoned in Alnwick for that was the last bus to Longhoughton. When she complained to the operators that the Longhoughton bus had gone out before the Newcastle bus had arrived they commented 'the driver was unaware of the Newcastle bus coming into the bus station and the timetable does not state that this is a connection'. How ridiculous and this is a perfect example of poor connection and poor service.

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LONGHOUGHTON HERITAGE GROUP

Coffee Morning on Saturday 15 October 2022 from 10.30am to 12 noon at the Community Centre (Westfield Park)

Bring your own memorabilia and any topic of interest about Longhoughton, Boulmer and Howick. We will be sharing photos, maps and other findings. So pop in to have a look and bring your own. Contact Jenny Whittle at longhoughtonheritage@gmail.com for more information.

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE AT WESTFIELD PARK

CAR BOOT SALE OR JUMBLE SALE

Car Boot Sale (in our car park) or Jumble Sale – If you are interested in holding either of these contact the Centre on 07773 453 6962

WHAT'S ON AT THE COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE

The Trustees want to make all residents aware of the many activities that are going on at the Centre (Westfield Park) and so are distributing a special leaflet with this Newsletter. Sport England has given funding to help promote many of the activities at the Centre. There are many opportunities for you and all members of your family to get involved and many of them are free of charge. Our Trustees are keen to provide activities for all ages and all needs, so we hope that you can find something which is of interest to you. If not please let us know and we will see what we can do!

APPLICATION TO VARY THE PREMISES LICENCE

The Trustees of the Community and Sports Centre (Westfield Park) have applied to the Licensing Authority to vary the Premises Licence as follows:

- To amend the opening times from 9am to 8am Monday to Sunday
- To amend the licensed start time for events like plays, dancing, playing live or recorded music, playing of films or other streamed entertainment, from 10am to 8am Monday to Sunday.
- To amend the licensed hours for the sale and consumption of alcohol from 5pm to 11pm Monday to Friday and 12 noon to 11pm Saturday and Sunday, to 10am to 11pm Monday to Sunday.
- To amend the area that is licensed for the sale and consumption of alcohol to include some part of the centre grounds around the centre building.

An official notice of this application has been on the noticeboards since late July and all residential properties around the centre were given a copy of this proposal.

The changes in opening times are already approved legally so this is just to bring the licence in line with the law. The change in the times for the sale and consumption of alcohol has to be approved by the licensing authority. By the time you are reading this newsletter we should know whether this has been approved. The Trustees would like all residents to know that these changes are to make it easier for the centre to operate and of benefit to residents and organisations that hire the accommodation. Having the alcohol licence is an optional extra in hiring the accommodation which has to be approved by the Trustees. We

do not expect much change in the way that the alcohol licence has been used over the last few years but the widening of the licensed times gives more flexibility should some hirers wish to sell alcohol.

Where individuals bring their own alcohol or where it is given away free of charge, these circumstances are not affected by the change.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

The Community and Sports Centre (Westfield Park) has been part of a feasibility study along with 18 other similar buildings throughout



Northumberland for the installation of solar panels on the roof and battery storage. The prime objective would be to be self-sufficient in electricity use and an exemplar within the parish.

The centre has a perfect roof for generating solar energy. The roof is south-facing and is capable of taking 162 solar panels.

The scheme was costed at £43,181.00 + VAT for sun panels and battery £25,676 + VAT for battery storage and a smart management system. The surplus electricity generated will be sold to the market along with the other participants.

The scheme is to be formerly announced shortly.

CREATION OF A NEW USABLE SPACE

All consents are now in, apart from planning permission, to turn two unused changing rooms into a usable space. This is the space that could be used for all types of activity including some clinics run by Alnwick Medical Group. We are on schedule to have this space fully in use by 31 March 2023.

THE ASTRO-TURF PITCH

The Astro-turf football pitch at the Community and Sports Centre (Westfield Park) is now thirteen years old and is worn out. The Football Association recently refused to re-certify the pitch due to its age and condition. The trustees are in talks with the Football Foundation about its replacement. The centre has saved a sinking fund of almost £67,000 from its hire over the years since 2009 but the quotation for the replacement is £137,424. The Football Foundation may help with some funding but we are likely to be short by around £66,000 to enable the pitch to be replaced.

Funding is being sought from possible sources.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Volunteers are sought for opening and closing the Centre. It only takes five minutes and if we have enough volunteers each person would only be asked once each week. Please volunteer. Please send your name to the Secretary Adrian Hinchcliffe on 01665 572888 or by email to adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com, or if you have any questions Adrian will answer them.

Boulmer News

POP-UP CAFÉ AT BOULMER MEMORIAL HALL

There will be a pop-up café at Boulmer Memorial Hall on Sunday 9 October 2022 from 10am to 2.00pm.

BOOKS BY THE SEA LIBRARY

We are a little closer to an agreement for the library to be situated in Boulmer close to the telephone box. The residence adjacent to this site has agreed. Chris Robinson has agreed to look after the library and we are now waiting for a copy of the design so that an assessment of the cost of the materials can be made.

Many people encourage the reading of books and one resident has offered some money towards the cost of the materials.



Would your household offer a small amount towards this project? If so please contact Adrian Hinchcliffe or Chris Robinson.

BOULMER CAR PARK by the Memorial Hall

The County Council say they have completed a pre-planning application for the car park. Effectively this is the County Council asking themselves whether planning is required and what the planning issues are. The prevarication and delays are just unbelievable. It is now five years since this was agreed and three years since we saw the first design proposals – and one year since residents voted in favour of a new car park in this location.

Enough said!!!!



Sandra Beenley and Sonia Stephenson at the last Pop-up café.

Thank you to the ladies who do all the catering and serving!

Howick News

PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY A HOWICK VIEW

The parish council surgery, held on 17 September at the village hall, was an opportunity for residents to meet Chris Thomas, their recently appointed councillor, and to share their views on whatever topics they felt strongly about. The new councillor introduced himself and explained that his public service to date included a background in education. In recent years he has been supporting Longhoughton Parish Council by designing and producing its communication needs, as a volunteer.

Chris says that he felt gratified to meet villagers and that the opportunity was useful to put forward a number of issues around the table.

The issues which surfaced at the surgery included the aftermath of Storm Arwen and our relationship with environment.

Storm Arwen left the group with three principle areas of concern in the event that the experience is repeated: Firstly, a means of communication without power in an area with poor mobile phone reception; secondly, to persuade Northern Power Grid to bury the power supply below ground in vulnerable places; thirdly, to publish and broadcast an emergency strategy designed to help



the community during power cuts in the future. The feeling in the room was that long power cuts were likely to reoccur, and that the same extreme problems experienced by residents would be intolerable. Regarding the environment, it was clear that residents held an unusually sensitive and well-informed view and that they wanted to promote best practice. It was clear that the natural environment in this neck of the woods is much appreciated and valued. We were all reminded that strategies such as leaving grass uncut and discouraging the use of weed killers is helpful to the wildlife. It was noted that this very much echoes the longstanding approach of the trustees of Howick estate.

The parish council is always keen to listen to views expressed across the whole parish so that it can be

guided by such evidence as it moves forward on behalf of its population. Chris Thomas is available by phone at any time on 07869 330066 and by email at chrismerylaythomas@gmail.com. It's never too late to share your thoughts.



**LIVE MUSIC @ HINDMARSH HALL
ALNMOUTH**
OFTEN HERD supported by ERRANT MOOSE
Saturday 15 October at 7.30pm
£20/head from John Roper
M: 07905 696555
E: johnroper1@btinternet.com
or Aln Gift Shop, Alnmouth
Doors open at 7pm
Bring own drinks, glass & nibbles?

THE COPLEY HALL (Howick Village Hall)

- **Film Club:** Please email John Roper johnroper1@btinternet.com to join the club mailing list and find out which films are showing and when. Donations only are suggested at £5.00.
- **Craft Club:** For details call Audrey Jamieson on 01665 577797.
- **Howick WI:** Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Contact Jeanette Archbold on 01665 577384
- **Howick Art Group** welcomes new members. We meet on Monday mornings in Howick Village Hall, 09.45 to 12.25pm with a longer session on the first Monday of the month.

<https://howickartgroupnorthumberland.com/>

Copley Hall booking

Jane Doleman 01665 577801



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