

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ANNUAL REPORT for the 12 months ending 31st March 2025



SUMMARY AND THANKS

It has been another very busy year for Longhoughton Parish Council (LPC). This report illustrates the range of activities and projects that Councillors are developing and implementing to meet the needs of residents and deal with changes in the economy and environment.

- Thirteen LPC meetings were held during the year and many hours outside meetings.
- It is very appropriate to thank the whole Council for their dedication and commitment in serving the community and giving their time as volunteers.
- Adrian Hinchcliffe, Peter Bromley, Carole Green, Jaqueline Barras, Bryan Ellis, Chris Thomas, Jules Tilley, Hannah Horsley and Peter McEwen. Jaqueline Barras, Jules Tilley stepped down during the year and Bryan Ellis is not standing again. We thank these three for the exceptional continuous service that they have given to the community especially Bryan who is a previous Chair of the Council.
- Thanks are also due to Elizabeth Taylor the Clerk to the Council, Councillor Wendy Pattison and Laura Rowberry the representative of the RAF.
- It is also appropriate to thank all the people in the community who give their time in helping to run community groups, those who deliver newsletter and others who give their time supporting the community in various ways.

What Residents Paid for the Parish Council Services

£42.08 for the year for each household at the Band D level. In 2025/26 this will move to £43.81

Parish Council Accounts

Income £31,240 of which the Precept was £26,798 (85.8%) and Grants received £4,350 (13.9%).

Expenditure £33,357.

Cash in the Bank £21,505 – to cover capital and revenue needs going forward.

£42.08

Communications with Residents

- The popular six page Community Newsletter was issued every two months.
- Noticeboards are maintained at Howick, Boulmer and in Longhoughton outside the Co-op and the Running Fox.
- Facebook
- Two websites: General information website: www.northumberlandparishes.uk/longhoughton
 Neighbourhood Plan website: www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk

Routine Business

Throughout the year LPC conducted the following routine business:

- Considering and commenting on 16 planning applications.
- Dealing with various incoming consultations and correspondence.
- Dealing with queries, complaints and requests from residents.
- Arranging services and paying invoices.
- Financial grants to community organisations of which £4,980 were awarded. This includes a substantial grant to each of three village halls to assist with covering costs.
- Requests for services supplied by the County Council and other agencies.
- Liaison with Northumberland County Council.

Key projects undertaken during the year

Liaison Arrangements with Longhoughton Quarries. The quarterly liaison meetings with Longhoughton Quarry have been very useful for discussing the issues such as vibration from blasting and mud on the public road from vehicles emerging from the quarry. A representative of the independent Monitoring Authority attends these meetings and has stated that the Quarry is operating within the guidelines set by the Planning Regulations.

Liaison arrangements with Northumbria Police. These meetings have been useful to deal with the outbreak of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. This led to a review of facilities in the Parish for young people and to more frequent patrols by the police. The re-opening of the Youth Club has also helped.



Community Wellbeing walks started in Longhoughton in January 2025 and are held every Wednesday starting at Westfield Park at 11.00am.



The new footbridge over the Howick Burn was opened in August 2024 after much hard work by Peter Bromley, Chris Thomas and others.



The Longhoughton Community Gardeners have done an excellent job in brightening up Longhoughton.

Liaison Arrangements with RAF Boulmer. Regular meeting have taken place with the Base Commander and are very useful.

Howick Burn Pedestrian Bridge and Improved walk way. The new Howick Burn bridge was officially opened in August and a project to improve the footpath from the bridge to Burnmouth was successfully completed in the Autumn.

Longhoughton Summer Fete. This was a joint event between the RAF Boulmer, the Parish Council and the Community and Sports Centre attracting a very good attendance.

Medical Facilities in Longhoughton. Following AMG's decision to terminate the free delivery of prescriptions they agreed to the distribution of prescriptions from the Community Centre twice each week. LPC covers the costs of the accommodation needed for this purpose.

Health and Wellbeing. NHS health checks for people 40 to 74 have been held quarterly at the Longhoughton Community Centre. This service has been well used.

Longhoughton Wellbeing Walks. Weekly wellbeing walks started in January 2025 with an average of 7 people taking part over fourteen weeks. These are to assist people in getting fitter and are put on in conjunction with Northumberland Health Trainers.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan has been updated to incorporate some issues raised in the major consultation in late 2023. It has now been submitted to the County Council for the next stage of assessment. It is hope that it will go to a referendum in the Summer of 2025. For a small community the completion of this plan is a triumph.

Longhoughton Road Safety and Speedwatch. A VMS machine was installed on Station Road, Longhoughton (a big thank you to Councillor Wendy Pattison who funded it) and one is also planned for South End. This will give drivers vital information about their speed and their entry into the 30mph zone. The Speedwatch team (thank you team) have carried out vital speedchecks on vehicles in the Longhoughton 20 and 30mph zones. Towards the end of the year the checks show that vehicles are slowing down. Faded road markings in Longhoughton have been refreshed.

Boulmer Vehicle Parking. The existing Beach car park is still to be taken over by the County Council. This is now expected in Spring/Summer 2025. The Parish Council has been invited to compile a report, to be included with the planning application, on the benefits of having a new car park next to the Boulmer Memorial Hall.

Support for the Longhoughton Community Hub. A semi-legal document has been agreed between the Parish Council, the RAF Families Centre and the Trustees of the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre, to promote the Longhoughton Community Hub. A specific role for the Parish Council is to form a group to develop a strategy for the delivery of facilities for young people.

Climate Change. The Community and Sports Centre has lead the way on a scheme towards self-sufficiency and a reduction in energy costs. The Parish Council is hoping to resurrect the Climate Change Group.

Northumberland Coast National Landscape Travel and Access Plan. A presentation made to LPC on this topic. An open meeting is to be held for residents to put their ideas forward.

The status for Crowlea Road to Longhoughton Beach. The County Council has been asked to change the speed limit for the lane from 60mph to 20mph.

Chancel Place Trees. Unfinished planning work on the Chancel Place estate became an ongoing problem taking up much time. It was resolved by the involvement of the Director of Planning of the County Council.

Boulmer Road Pavement. Following many requests the pavement from the RAF Camp to the Boulmer 30mh sign has been widened and re-surfaced. Some improvements have also been done closer to Longhoughton.

Parish Council Ways of Working. Councillors have held two meetings to find a better way of sharing the workload.

Working with the Northumberland Coast National Landscape Team (NCNLT). The Parish Council has been represented on the Partnership and has reported various initiatives which are underway or proposed.

Bait digging at Boulmer Haven. Following three representations the sustainability of bait digging at Boulmer Haven has been questioned. This has been referred to NIFCA (the responsible Authority) and will be considered at their Board meeting in April 2025.

Grass cutting. Following a query by residents the Parish Council has requested that the County Council undertake three additional grass cuts each year at a total cost of £798.

Meeting with David Smith MP. In January LPC met David Smith PM for discussions on the role of the Parish Council and the difficulties that it encounters.

Gifts to the people in need at Christmas. 57 gifts were given to people who are not well, bereaved or living alone.



Longhoughton Community Gardeners..



Residents enjoying Christmas Lunch at Westfield Park.



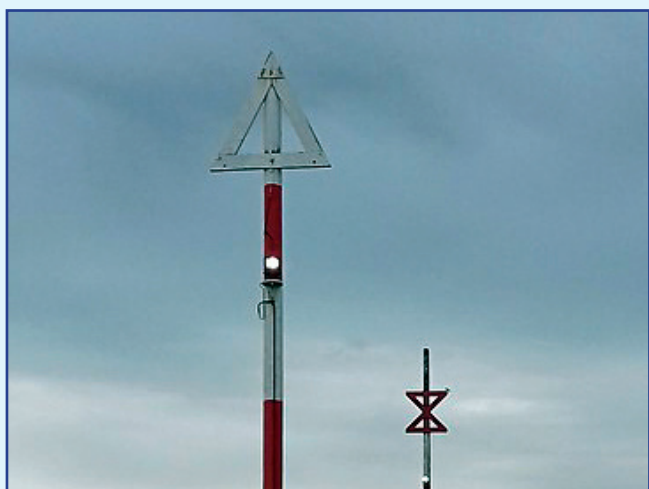
Boulmer wildflower meadow in full bloom in June 2024.



76 solar panels have been fitted to the roof at Westfield Park in a move towards energy self-sufficiency



David Smith MP



Navigation poles at Boulmer



An appeal to dog owners – please dispose responsibly

Burnside One Way. The signage for the turn left into Burnside from North End has been a discussion point. Some motorists continue to drive the wrong way up the street. New signage appears ineffective.

Navigation Poles at Boulmer. Trinity House asked LPC if it would be involved in the maintenance and ownership of the shipping navigation poles at Boulmer. The maintenance role has been taken on by a fishing boat owner.

Dog Poo at Boulmer and Longhoughton. Complaints received about dog poo being left by dog owners at Boulmer and Longhoughton. Information put in the Newsletter. All dog owners are asked to pick up after their dogs. Fines of up to £1,000 can be imposed for failing to pick up anywhere in the open air.

Longhoughton Community Gardeners.¹ L PC congratulates the Longhoughton Community Gardeners on the excellent work they are doing in the village. The village furniture purchased by the Group has been covered under the LPC insurance.

Other Issues and Projects: Numerous other projects and initiatives were undertaken during the year. Some are listed here – New banking hub in Alnwick; Boulmer Meadow; Assistance to community organisations; Council tax and second homes; Support for the Aln Valley Greenway project; Digital phone changeover; glass doorstep collection; Open garden event; LPC Policy review.

LONGHOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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SUPPORTING
THOSE WHO
SERVE.