

**LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**19:30, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Jubilee Pavilion**

Present:- Chairman – Mr A Wilkinson	Absent:-
Ms S Hardingham	Mr C Cave
Dr P Jackson	Ms G Collins
Mr D Johnson	Mr M E Harris
Ms L Lansley	Ms S Hughes
Mr S McQuillan	Mr A Johnson
Mrs J Pullin	Mrs B Mackwood
Mr M Semple	Mr N Moorcroft
Mr I Scoones	
Mr R Sterland	
Mr J Thomas	
Miss M Uppington	

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes) and five members of the public, two of whom left at 19:45, two others at 20:00.

*Before the formal meeting, two representatives of Light Up Long Ashton (LULA) presented their plans for this year's Christmas lights display, and three members of Transition LA - the winner of this year's Community Grant - updated councillors and answered questions about a mural that is due to be painted on the wall of the Co-op.*

C17.111 - Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cave, Collins, Harris, Moorcroft and NS Ward Councillor Stowey.

C17.112 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

Interests to be declared during the meeting and no dispensations had been requested.

C17.113 - Exclusion of the press and public

There were no matters necessitating the exclusion of the press and public.

C17.114 - Chairman's remarks

The Chair congratulated new councillor Matthew Semple on his co-option and welcomed him to the meeting. He also expressed his sadness at the news that Cllr Jane Booth has resigned from the Council, but recognised that her business commitments had increased.

C17.115 - Parish Council Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, previously having been circulated, were, after adding Cllr James Thomas' name: to the Highways and Burial Ground Committee (C17.71); and changing *model lease* to *model constitution*, (C17.90c), confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C17.116 - Matters arising

a. C17.108 - Village Club. It is thought that Hebron Church did not submit a bid for the former Royal British Legion building by the closing date (16<sup>th</sup> June).

- b. C17.107 - Taylor Wimpey plans for the Vale. According to a recent article in the North Somerset Times, it appears that some town and parish councils in North Somerset support Taylor Wimpey's plans for this development.
- c. C17.86c - Tree Council Grants. The development of a scheme that could be appropriate for grant funding will be discussed at the next Highways meeting.

#### C17.117 - Planning Committee Reports

The reports of the Planning Committee of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> May (Proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington, seconded by Cllr Thomas. All in favour) and 5<sup>th</sup> June (Proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington, seconded by Cllr Hardingham. All in favour) were adopted.

#### C17.118 - Highways and Burial Ground Committee Report

The report of the Highways & Burial Ground Committee of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May was adopted, subject to any alterations by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr McQuillan. All in favour.

#### C17.119 - Finance and General Purposes Committee

- a. The reports of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> June were adopted, with the latter report subject to any alterations by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour.
- b. To consider the Internal Auditor's Report. The Internal Auditor noted that three of the PCs accounts have balances greater than the £85,000 covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and suggested the PC consider the associated risk. This was discussed and it was agreed that as the funds are spread over five providers it is an acceptable risk. The Internal Auditor also suggested that the PC considers changes to its asset register so it is obvious which assets are included in the accounts. This will be done before next year's audit. It was RESOLVED that the PC has considered the Internal Auditor's Report. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington. All in favour.
- c. The Annual Accounts were discussed. It was noted that all councillors are responsible for the PC's accounts, and can always ask the Clerk or Chair of F&GP if they have any questions about them. It was confirmed that Local Council accounting practices mean that assets are recorded at historical value and no allowance made for depreciation and that there is an earmarked reserve for the replacement of office equipment. It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Annual Accounts for 2016/17. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour.
- d. To consider the statements contained in the Annual Governance Statement in part 1 of the 2016/17 Annual Return, to complete and sign. It was noted that these statements should be considered carefully as councillors have a collective responsibility for ensuring sound financial management. Each of the governance statements was considered and discussed in turn and it was agreed that the council could agree to each of the statements. It was RESOLVED to complete and sign the Annual Governance Statement. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.
- e. Following analysis of the accounting statements in part 2 of the 2016/17 Annual Return, it was RESOLVED to approve and sign them. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington. All in favour.
- f. To consider the reviewed investment strategy and to resolve to adopt it. The reviewed strategy was discussed and it was RESOLVED to adopt the investment strategy. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.
- g. It was RESOLVED to accept the Bank Signatories proposed by F&GP. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.

h. It was RESOLVED that subject to satisfactory investigations into the ownership of the wall next to Church House, and agreement with NSC over new car park signage to accept the lease for Theynes Croft car park and to allow it to be signed outside the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Scoones. All in favour.

#### C17.120 - Long Ashton Community Association

a. Report for information. Cllr Mrs Pullin gave the following report:

LACA is looking into the safety of the caretaker when called out to alarm calls at the complex. Whilst recent responses have not found any incidents, the caretaker's safety is paramount. Unexpected expenditure of £3,000 was incurred for early replacement of the main hall dishwasher. A questionnaire has been prepared, included in the Parish newsletter, requesting usage of the centre, views of events provided and any suggestions that may improve the service by LACA. The Garden Project progresses with a drawing of the suggested layout to be on display at the Village Picnic this coming weekend. Other fundraising events include a Beer Festival, a Wine & Cheese tasting and a Bands Evening.

b. To consider F&GP recommendation on whether to release the retained £1000.

LACA has provided information to the PC about increases in its charges to user groups and that some groups will also be subject to higher than average increases next year. On this basis, F&GP recommended that the PC release the £1,000 it kept back from LACA's grant this year, and it was RESOLVED to accept this recommendation, and release the £1,000 to LACA. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour.

c. LACA's new constitution. It was noted that LACA has not yet decided whether to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and that LACA should be aware that the PC will have comments on the constitution when the decision is made.

d. To discuss and agree to F&GP recommendation on whether the lease needs to be amended. This matter will be discussed when LACA decides on its new constitution. The PC wants to ensure both that it retains ownership of assets currently leased to LACA under any new constitutional arrangement, and that its lease with LACA is still appropriate.

#### C17.121 - Community Safety - Local Action Team

Cllr Scoones gave the following report: Cllr Cave has mentioned a recent lack of police representation. There are concerns about the number of events taking place at Gatcombe Farm. Many local road signs are obscured by vegetation. Cllr Cave is keen to conclude a survey of the Parish's drains and has asked all councillors to feed back the results of their investigations to the Clerk, if they have not already done so. Any potholes should be reported online to NSC. Residents at the western end of the village have requested one of the PC's vehicle activated speed signs is placed there to discourage speeding motorists and this will be looked at.

Cllr Lansley reported that the village community allotment has recently been vandalised twice. She has reported the damage to the police but the local beat officer has yet to contact her.

#### C17.122 - Youth Provision

Cllr Jackson gave the following reports:

a. Youth Club Report

First an update on the youth club sessions. Wednesday evenings continue to be focused around the older age group as more of a drop-in session. The junior session on Thursday evenings continues to be very well supported with numbers of young people regularly in the high 20s and sometimes in the 30s. These sessions are

increasingly attended by pupils from Northleaze School as well as those from Birdwell School. We've carried out the review of the Monday session, and concluded that we will move up the older ones from the juniors earlier than September as planned. This will start from 19<sup>th</sup> June and will moderate the numbers of young people on Thursdays to ensure a good ratio of staff to young people. As part of the graffiti project, the artist worked with the juniors on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May to paint the wall at the end of the Club Room; 40 young people attended this session. The artist has now added the finishes touches to the mural which provides a lovely outlook on to the recreation ground.

**b. Children and Young People's Network**

Further to the consultation with young people, an outline sketch of the skate park layout is being drawn up to support discussions with stakeholders. To note, the youth club is aware of discussions with the junior football club to re-organise the pitches in Peel Park. We would look to have a meeting with the youth club and the junior football club together with Charles Cave to discuss how the needs of both parties can be best met. We are preparing to launch the Youth Grants; the current focus is on finalising the eligibility criteria for young people's organisations. The plan is to launch the grants call over the summer with a selection process around September.

C17.123 - ALCA NS Group

Cllr Scoones reported that the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) NS group and Parish Councils Airport Association have their AGMs on the same day - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. There are key staffing changes taking place within ALCA and the importance of PC representation during this time was noted. The Clerk will ask if either Cllrs Cave or Moorcroft is available to attend.

C17.124 - Parish Councils Airport Association

Cllr Scoones gave the following report: The PCAA is objecting to a number of the airport's plans, some of which threaten green belt, others seem to ignore its Section 106 obligations. NSC has several outstanding parking enforcement orders around the airport, as it attempts to control parking facilities provided by other businesses. The airport's on-site parking on is within the green belt.

C17.125 - Parish recycling scheme working group - No update.

C17.126 - Superfast broadband working group

Cllr Wilkinson reported that Cllr Moorcroft has a contact at BT through which more information may be available.

C17.127 - Community Engagement/ Website working group

It was agreed that website working group should meet to consider the development of a Facebook page and how to manage the PC's facebook presence. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Thomas would join the website working group. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Jackson.

C17.128 - LULA (Light up Long Ashton)

The PC has £2,500 available for Christmas lights, and it agrees in principle to making £1,500 available this year for lights on the tree at the east end of the village, and another £1,000 for other decorations subject to at least one councillor being involved in the planning process. It was also noted that ownership of the lights should be considered in due course. It was agreed that the LULA working group will report back to the next council meeting.

#### C17.129 - Community Grant

It was agreed that the PC will ask Transition LA to keep it informed on the consultation process regarding the mural on the wall of the Co-op, and subject to satisfactory consultation and the results of the process, it will award the Community Grant.

#### C17.130 - To consider and provide comments to NSC on the following planning application.

17/P/1262/MMA - 20 Ridgeway Road, BS41 9EU - Minor material amendment to planning permission 15/P/2151/F (Erection of a single storey dwelling to rear garden with access off private track) to allow changes to site layout, house appearance and materials. Officer - Julie Walbridge. The PC has no objection to this application.

#### C17.131 - Scout Group HQ Working Group - There was no update on this matter.

#### C17.132 - Vacancies

a. To note resignation of Cllr Booth and to consider filling her appointments. Noted.  
b. To agree timetable for co-opting Cllrs (if poll not called) to fill vacancies in LA Ward. It was agreed to advertise the vacancies left by Cllr Booth and Lee's resignations at the same time, with a view to the new councillors being co-opted at September's council meeting.

#### C17.133 - To appoint Cllr Semple to committees.

Cllr Semple was appointed to the Highways & Burial Ground and Planning Committees.

#### C17.134 - Community Resilience

Cllr Wilkinson will attend a Community Resilience workshop based on responding to situations like the Grenfell Tower fire and will report back to the council if any changes result.

#### C17.135 - Council workshop

Cllrs were informed on the brief sent to Deborah White (ALCA officer), who is due to facilitate a workshop for councillors on 10<sup>th</sup> July. It was agreed that the response to the questionnaires completed by Cllrs may give here additional ideas for the session. It was agreed to remind councillors of the date of the session, as very few attended the planning workshop.

#### C17.136 - Local Council award scheme

Because of the delay with last year's external audit, the Clerk was not able to apply for the Local Council Award Scheme, foundation award, in 2016. The PC now has an unqualified audit. The checklist was provided and it was RESOLVED that the PC publishes on line or has those items required for the foundation award. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington. All in favour.

#### C17.137 - Village Items

a. Table tennis table or similar. There was no update to give on this matter.  
b. Safe place scheme. This is promoted by the police. It was suggested that Cllr Collins could attend the next PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting to discuss it with police. The Clerk will write to the organisers if she cannot.  
c. Further defibrillators for the parish. It was agreed that regular CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training for residents is as important as the provision of defibrillators. There are three more defibrillator training sessions (which include

CPR) in July and August, and the PC will continue to promote these sessions. The provision of more defibrillators will be discussed again when the budget is reviewed. d. New benches in Long Ashton (Cllr McQuillan). Residents have suggested that a bench be installed in the area outside the Post Office. The Village Enhancement Scheme (VES) has already considered seating in this area and will include this. The PC is still awaiting feedback from NSC on the VES, but will arrange another meeting to discuss how it could take this matter forward. New councillors will be invited to join the group.

#### C17.138 - Major Developments in the Parish

##### a. Taylor Wimpey plans for the Vale

Although Taylor Wimpey hasn't yet submitted an official application for the Vale, there are regular articles about the development in the local press. It was noted that the PC has discussed how to respond to this at its recent workshop. The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) review meeting was cancelled as only two Cllrs attended. The Chair asked to be involved in the NDP Review Group. It was noted that it would be unusual for a housing project on the scale of The Vale to be agreed, when it goes against the local council's Core Strategy but agreed that the PC should review its NDP to reduce the risk further, and potentially allocate other areas for possible development in the Parish. It was agreed that another meeting of the NDP Review Group would be organised and the Chair asked members to make every effort to attend. The matter will be added to the agenda of the next Planning meeting.

#### C17.139 - Volksfest

The PC has received both positive and negative feedback from residents about the recent Volksfest. It was felt that the event's licensing arrangements with NSC were inadequate considering the number of people at the event. Traffic management protocols and parking arrangements varied from those agreed beforehand with the PC. The Clerk will write to the organisers to arrange a date for a debrief meeting.

#### C17.140 - Correspondence to consider and respond

a. From NALC – re Battle's Over. The Clerk will send this National Association of Local Councils letter about lighting beacons to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War to the Royal British Legion.

b. From residents re buses (two emails). It seems as though buses scheduled to serve the village are bypassing Long Ashton if they're running late. The Clerk will write to First Bus to explain that bus timetables are not fit for purpose, and will include residents' letters and copy in the West of England Traffic Commissioner. It was noted that residents could be asked to record instances when buses do not arrive, to give the PC evidence for discussions with First Bus and the regulatory body.

c. From LA Cricket Club re possible meeting. Cllrs Thomas, Miss Uppington and Wilkinson will attend the meeting.

d. From resident re Perry Road play area. The PC welcomes this community event, as long as the groups involved leave the area as they find it. The organisers must undertake a risk assessment.

e. From resident re islands at end of Long Ashton Road. The Clerk will ask the PC's gardener to tidy up the islands at the eastern end of the village.

#### C17.141 - Any items for information

There were no items to discuss.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September (Council workshop July 10<sup>th</sup>)

Meeting closed: 22:15

## **LULA Presentation**

*Last year, we put on an event outside Keedwell Church, and Wallace and Gromit turned on the lights. This year, we're hoping to hold a bigger event, and to have lights on poles around the village. We've discussed our plans with the people who organise the lights on Park Street in Bristol, and we've come up with the idea of icicles, and a large Christmas tree outside the New Chestnut's Dental Surgery. The Bird in Hand has said that it will do a hog roast at the switch-on; there'll be craft stalls and card sellers, drinks stands, and lots for the children. We've looked at some trees but we don't like the artificial one on offer, so we're looking at live trees. We want to install external power points for the lights, and to change the wiring a little so it's easier and safer. We're hoping for the trees to be up by 18<sup>th</sup> November, and aiming for the switch-on to be on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We want to get as many people in the community involved as possible, and have already spoken to the schools about a possible tie-up. We're talking about £1,400 excluding VAT for the icicles and connections; the tree that's been proposed is £3,600, which is extortionate, so we're going to talk to Gatcombe Farm about getting a live tree. There's previously been permission granted to put lights in the tree on the island at the eastern end of the village, and this'll cost £1,500. In terms of the suppliers at the switch-on, they will charge and recover their costs. We have someone else helping us this year, and she is hoping to organise matched funding for the next three years. We've also received offers of funding, and are looking at potential sponsorships. New Chestnuts has offered to contribute to the cost of the tree outside the dental surgery.*

*Q from Cllr Hardingham: "This sounds very exciting. Do you have adequate storage?"*

*A: "Yes, we have access to storage."*

*Q from member of the public: "Who will do the switch-on?"*

*A: "We're looking at that at the moment."*

*Q from Cllr Lansley: "How much will the total cost be?"*

*A: £1,500 as a one-off cost for the tree at the east end of the village, and £1,400 for icicles."*

*Q from Cllr Hardingham: "Have you thought about putting a tree in the community centre car park instead of outside the dental surgery?"*

*A: "Yes, but more people would see it if it's outside New Chestnuts."*

*The Chair thanked the LULA representatives for their efforts, and they left the meeting at 19.45.*

## **Co-op Mural Presentation**

*Three Transition LA representatives then presented their plans for a mural on the wall of the Co-op. "A resident had the idea of a mural, as part of an overall plan to re-green the area around the Co-op. I looked for artists, and we've come up with one, ATM, who's known as the 'wildlife Banksy'. We've been discussing subjects for the mural with the Avon Wildlife Trust; the artist is pushing the idea of a buzzard - which is an endangered species. We'd aim for the artist to be working on a community market day, on a big platform and scissor lift, and we're hoping that this mural will be the start*

*of other things such as the My Wild City initiative, which aims to connect people with wildlife.*

*You asked us how we are going to consult - I propose we put a piece in the next newsletter asking for feedback and that I put posters on noticeboards. We asked the artist about the longevity of the mural, and he says the acrylics and masonry paints that he uses are tough and should last many years. There's little chance of the mural being vandalised either, because it's on a high wall; he could apply an anti-graffiti varnish, but doesn't think it'll be necessary. We're looking at the cost of scissor lifts at the moment; they're around £250, and we want to know that the Co-op has got the lease for the building for some time, and that the mural will be protected. I will put the artist up while he's here, and feed him.*

*Q from Cllr Wilkinson: "This sounds very good, thank you. What are your timescales?"*

*A: "We would like something done as soon as possible - and ideally get the consultation done early in the summer, and the mural painted by late summer - the artist needs dry days in which to work."*

*Q from Cllr Hardingham: "As well as the newsletter, could you let people on Birdwell Road know about it? They'll be looking at it all the time."*

*Q from Transition LA: "Would you want people to vote for a design?"*

*A from Cllr McQuillan: "I think a vote is important, in terms of local people feeling involved, getting democratic buy-in and having ownership of the project."*

*Q from Transition LA: "Can we do an online survey?"*

*A from the Clerk: "We could host a link to it on the Parish Council website, and it could lead to the Transition site."*

*Q from Cllr Hardingham: "How will the [Community Grant] £1,500 be spent?"*

*A: "The artist asked for £1,500. We'll cover the other costs, and it looks as though the Co-op will pay for the scissor lift."*

*The Chair thanked the Transition LA representatives for their update, and two of them left the meeting at 20:00.*