

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19:30, 4th September 2017, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:-

Chairman - Mr A Wilkinson
Mr C Cave
Ms G Collins
Mr M E Harris
Mr A Johnson (from 19:33)
Mr D Johnson
Ms L Lansley
Mrs B Mackwood
Mr N Moorcroft
Mrs J Pullin
Mr I Scoones
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland
Mr J Thomas
Miss M Uppington

Absent:-

Ms S Hardingham
Ms S Hughes
Dr P Jackson
Mr S McQuillan

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes) and 1 member of the public (19.32 to 19:47)

C17.147 - Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hardingham, Jackson and McQuillan.

C17.148 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

C17.149 - Exclusion of the press and public

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

C17.150 - Chairman's remarks - None

C17.151 - Parish Council Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on the 19th June and 17th July, previously having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C17.152 - Matters arising

- a. C17.136 Local Council award scheme. The Clerk has sent the information needed for the PC to be considered for the Foundation Award.
- b. C17.129 Community Grant. The mural organised by a resident and Transition LA and funded by the Grant has been painted on the wall of the Co-op. Although the painting of the buzzard was described as excellent, there was some concern expressed that it doesn't contrast very well with the brick background and is not very noticeable.

A member of the public joined the meeting at 19:32.

- c. C17.137a table tennis table or similar. Cllr Moorcroft has been to see a table tennis table near the Arnolfini in Bristol, and believes that the PC should look at other ideas, unless an appropriate site can be identified within the Community Centre. The Clerk will liaise with LACA about the matter.

Cllr A Johnson joined the meeting at 19:33.

d. C17.137b Safe place scheme. Cllr Collins has yet to receive further information from the police about this scheme, which was discussed at the recent PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting.

e. C17.140 Buses. First Bus has replied to the Clerk's letter about problems with Long Ashton's bus provision, explaining the difficulties it has been encountering and that it hopes that the new timetable and ending of road works in Bristol will improve the service. The Clerk has asked two residents, who have written to the PC about the buses, to keep a record of how they are running.

C17.153 - Planting Scheme Arch Bank

It was agreed to take this agenda item early to allow a resident to explain her planting scheme for Arch Bank.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:41 to allow her to speak, and opened again at 19:45.

It was RESOLVED to allow the resident to plant the area, with a review after a year, with the PC meeting the £210.50 cost of the plants. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour. The site will be planted before the end of September with a mix of wild flowers typically found in the Avon Gorge. The Chair thanked the resident, who agreed to prune back brambles on the site for the first year.

The resident left the meeting at 19:47.

C17.154 - Planning Committee Reports

The report of the Planning Committee of the meeting held on 17th July was adopted, proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington and seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour. The report of the 14th August was adopted, subject to any alterations by the committee, proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington, seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.

C17.155 - Highways and Burial Ground Committee Report

The report of the Highways & Burial Ground Committee of the meeting held on 24th July was adopted, subject to any alterations by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Mackwood, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour.

C17.156 - Finance and General Purposes Committee

The planned F&GP committee meeting on 21st August did not go ahead as there was not a quorum present and so there was no report. The report of the F&GP meeting held on 4th September will be considered at the next Council meeting.

C17.157 - Long Ashton Community Association

a. Cllr Mrs Pullin gave the following report:

“Since the last report the Treasurer and Centre Manager have met with three F & GP Councillors on two occasions. LACA has held one committee meeting and their AGM after which the trustees were very downhearted. Seven residents attended, one of whom pursued the usual criticism consistently covering the same ground as at previous LACA AGMs. This caused another resident to believe that LACA had unaddressed problems and since this criticism was delivered in an address at Any Other Business, with no pause for explanation or reply, negated the detailed reports by the Chairman and Treasurer. The treasurer agreed to look at any suggestions this resident, or any other, has for the running of the Community Centre. There were queries from another resident about the loss of the small committee room which he had used in the past for small informal meetings, prompting another resident to query whether the Parish Council was intending to pay rent for this room. However the overriding factor commented upon by trustees was that after such scrutiny by the Parish

Council during the past year, not one councillor felt inclined to attend the AGM to find out what the Community Association does, nor as has been customary, to thank them for their many hours of voluntary contribution.”

Disappointment was expressed by Cllrs, that the trustees felt unappreciated and they reiterated the PC's support of LACA and their concern about the damaging effect of one resident's actions. The considerable value of the Community Centre Manager, the hard work of its staff and the time and effort put in by the volunteer trustees in keeping the centre working well were all recognised. It was noted that, although the PC approves the appointment of Trustees, the appointments, apart from the two Councillors, originate from LACA.

b. LACA's garden project. LACA has developed a design for a new garden financed by a grant. Councillors reviewed the plan, which was put together by a local designer. Although there was concern that the garden would encroach too much on the green open space around the Club Room, councillors asked that LACA approach the PC once it has reviewed the design, and established the cost of the elements it'd like to adopt.

C17.158 - Community Safety - Local Action Team

Cllr Cave gave the following report: Seventeen people attended the PACT meeting on 12th July. The village beat officer reported on recent local thefts, and on Volkesfest. He was not consulted over plans for the event's licensing and reported that security and medical provision had proved inadequate, and that there had been damage and anti-social behaviour around the event. The Community Centre CCTV has proved its worth recently by recording the removal of a vacuum cleaner from the centre by a service user. The woman has subsequently been charged. It was noted that PACT meetings could be more widely publicised. Leigh Woods residents are interested in learning how to use the PC's Speed Watch gun.

C17.159 - Youth Provision Report

Cllr Wilkinson gave the following reports on behalf of Cllr Jackson:

a. Youth Club Report

The Youth Club re-opens on 4th September after the summer break. In the few weeks before the summer break, we have successfully moved the older young people from the Thursday evening juniors evening to Monday evening, and both sessions are running well. We will continue to run the Wednesday session as a drop-in session for the seniors and will review this in the autumn.

b. Long Ashton Children and Young People's Network Report

Further to the consultation with young people on a skate park, a further session will be held at the youth club session on Wednesday 20th September with a potential provider. This will allow us to better scope the area needs of the skate park in Peel Park. LACA Chair Judith Bridges and Charles Cave will be invited recognising that discussions are needed with the junior football club to ensure that both sets of needs can be met within Peel Park.

The PC would like more detail from the Youth Club about its plans for a skate park in Peel Park. This idea has been rejected in the past because of the proximity to homes.

C17.160 - ALCA NS Group

Cllr Scoones gave the following report: There has been no meeting, but the AGM is on 7th October, in the Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke. Cllr Cave went to the previous meeting, which was attended by a planner, John Baker, who is very much in favour of development. ALCA NS is in a better financial position now than it was because more parish and town councils have joined it. Councillors should pass any comments on ALCA's proposed new constitution to the Clerk.

C17.161 - Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA)

- a. Report for information. Cllr Scoones gave the following report: "Councils should respond to the latest consultation; the airport wants to expand, which amongst other things, means loosening restrictions on night flights. Heathrow has 14 flights during the night, Bristol Airport wants 42. Responses to the consultation have to be in by 13th September. A meeting with NSC transport officers was very disappointing - it seems as though the highest priority is business, regardless of environmental issues. The reason the airport is so opposed to non-airport parking is because it makes as much money from parking as it does from its flights and it is in debt. The money for new buildings, a railway, and changes to the A38 is surely coming from local residents." It was agreed that NSC be asked to test nitrous oxide levels in the valley. The Clerk will also thank the PCAA for its work on the consultation response.
- b. To comment on proposed strategy with regard to Bristol Airport's stated wish to expand. It was agreed that the PC will respond to say it supports the PCAA strategy.
- c. Airport slot co-ordination consultation - to agree whether to respond and response. The PC will respond to the consultation along the lines of the PCAA response.
- d. Bristol South West Economic Link - Report of PCAA meeting with NSC. Noted.

C17.162 - Parish recycling scheme working group

There was mixed feedback about the performance of NSC's new waste contractor - there have been delays picking up residents' rubbish from several sites in the village, while other areas' waste collections are better than in the past. Backwell Recycling Centre does not seem to be working well and there is an increase in incidents of fly-tipping in the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to NSC about these concerns.

C17.163 - Superfast broadband working group

There was no update from the group who feel that time was needed to see the effect of recent changes and new initiatives in the market before the matter is discussed again.

C17.164 - Community Engagement/ Website working group

Cllr Thomas has set up a Facebook page for the PC. The page has had over 1,000 views in the first two weeks.

C17.165 - Scout Group HQ Working Group - No new information.

C17.166 - Public Art Working Group

It was RESOLVED to approve the Working Group's terms of reference. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour. The Working Group will have its next meeting when the money for public artworks has been received from Taylor Wimpey. The Clerk will contact it for an update.

C17.167 - LULA (Light up Long Ashton)

Cllr Thomas and LULA representatives are set to meet in the next week, and to visit local shops to discuss their Christmas light displays. It was agreed that LULA will discuss its progress with councillors at the F&GP meeting on 16th October.

C17.168 - Terms of engagement from Bishop Fleming

It was RESOLVED to accept and sign the terms of engagement from the PC's Internal Auditor, Bishop Fleming. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mackwood. All in favour.

C17.169 - Budget 18/19 - pre-budget discussion meeting in November.

There was no interest from councillors in a pre-budget discussion meeting in November.

C17.170 - Village Orderly

One of the Village Orderlies has resigned and it was agreed that the job description of his replacement should be expanded to include handyperson tasks and that if necessary the new VO could be contracted to work more hours.

C17.171 - To agree dates of meetings in 2018 (draft circulated)

It was RESOLVED to agree the dates of the meetings in 2018 as circulated. Proposed by Cllr Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour.

C17.172 - External Auditor's report - The External Auditor's Report is not yet available.

C17.173 - Enhancing and promoting the value of the green belt around Long Ashton (Cllr Sterland)

It was agreed that the PC would explore how to promote the value of the green belt between Long Ashton and Bristol, to help local people understand its vital importance not only to the parish but to Bristol as the green lung of the city and a wildlife corridor. It was suggested that the PC could use Facebook to promote articles about its importance but that this should be included as part of the PC's Communications Strategy, which will be designed to support the stance against inappropriate development in the Parish. Cllr Sterland asked that the matter be kept on the Council agenda.

C17.174 - Vacancies - To agree new timescale for applications

There have been no applications for the two PC vacancies. The Clerk will readvertise the vacancies and ask applicants to come to a Planning meeting before the next Council meeting.

C17.175 - Theynes Croft car park

It was RESOLVED to give the Clerk delegated authority to arrange maintenance around the Theynes Croft car park, and new signage. Proposed by Cllr Cave, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mackwood. All in favour.

C17.176 - Community Resilience – No update.

C17.177 - Council workshop

The Council workshop held in July was discussed and it was noted that not all Cllrs had found it constructive but it had provided an opportunity for issues to be aired. More time to discuss other things the PC could be doing, the size of the PC and solutions to the issues raised would have been appreciated. It was also noted that most of the PC's work is done by a relatively small number of councillors, and councillors were encouraged to volunteer more often.

C17.178 - Taylor Wimpey plans for the Vale - There was no update on this matter.

C17.179 - Correspondence

a. Vandalism around Cricket Ground. The vandalism was noted by Cllrs and that the clerk had suggested that the manager of the Community Centre would be a good source of advice about CCTV.

b. North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - offer of presentation re Weston Sustainability and Transformation Plan. It was agreed that the NS CCG should be invited to speak for half an hour before a forthcoming council meeting.

c. From resident re vehicles using Yanley Lane in wrong direction. The Clerk will write to NSC to ask it to clean the signs notifying motorists of the one-way section on Yanley Lane. It was noted that the lane has been recently resurfaced and several road markings and traffic calming signs have yet to be repainted.

- d. Tree Charter. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next Highways & Burial Ground committee meeting.
- e. From LACA Trustee. Judith Bridges has written to inform the Council that she doesn't wish to be considered for reappointment as a LACA trustee when her current term of office finishes on 31st December 2017.
- f. From Resident re LACA. The Clerk will reply to the resident thanking him for his email but noting that the PC believes that it has already answered all the points as he had raised them previously on more than one occasion.

C17.180 - Growing a Rural Community Survey for North Somerset

It was agreed that the Clerk, with the Chairman's help, will complete the survey.

C17.181 - Newsletter

The newsletter goes to press on 1st October. Information on the PC's Facebook page will be included and comments on Taylor Wimpey's proposed Vale development will be addressed in the Chairman's letter.

C17.182 - Any items for information - None

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th November

Meeting closed: 21:38