

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

19:30, 13th November 2017, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:-

Chairman - Mr A Wilkinson
Mr C Cave
Ms S Hardingham
Ms L Lansley
Mr S McQuillan
Mrs J Pullin
Mr I Scoones
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland
Mr J Thomas
Miss M Uppington

Absent:-

Ms G Collins
Mr M E Harris
Ms S Hughes
Dr P Jackson
Mr A Johnson
Mr D Johnson
Mrs B Mackwood
Mr N Moorcroft

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes) and Mr M Riggall, North Somerset Council Liaison Officer, from 20:40.

C17.183 - Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Harris, Jackson, A Johnson, D Johnson, Mrs Mackwood, Moorcroft and Cllr Kate Stowey, North Somerset Council Ward Councillor. Mr Mike Riggall had told the Clerk that he would be late.

C17.184 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

C17.185 - Exclusion of the press and public

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

C17.186 - Chairman's remarks - None

C17.187 - Parish Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th September, previously having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C17.188 - Matters arising

- a. C17.152a Local Council award scheme. The PC has been awarded Foundation Award.
- b. C17.152c Table Tennis Table or similar. The Clerk has spoken to the Community Centre manager about an appropriate site for a table tennis table, and it could possibly be positioned next to the multi-use games area (MUGA) on the Community Centre site. It was agreed, however, that Cllr Moorcroft would be asked to explore alternative ideas with a view to positioning new equipment elsewhere in the village.
- c. C17.152d Safe place scheme. No further information available.
- d. C17.153 Planting Scheme Arch Bank. A resident has replanted Arch Bank and a notice put up with information about the scheme.
- e. C17.170 Village Orderly. A new orderly has been appointed and started work.
- f. C17.175 Theynes Croft Car park. The Clerk will arrange an inspection regime for the car park which the PC is now leasing from NSC. New signs for the car park and Church House will be commissioned shortly.
- g. C17.179 Presentation from North Somerset re Weston Sustainability and Transformation Plan. No date has been received for this presentation and the Clerk will contact the team again.

C17.189 - Planning Committee Reports

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th September was adopted, proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour. The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9th October was adopted, proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour. It was noted that a wall on the north side of the development at the junction of Glebe and Long Ashton Roads has been built higher than the PC requested and there is no space for a pavement between the development and Glebe Rd. These will reduce visibility for road users exiting Glebe Road, and may make the junction more dangerous. To mitigate this it was thought that consideration should be given to reducing parking on the north side of Long Ashton Road at this junction and moving the nearby bus stop. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Cave will establish whether a safety audit of the junction has been done and if not the commissioning of one will be discussed at the next Highways committee meeting.

C17.190 - Highways and Burial Ground Committee Report

The report of the Highways & Burial Ground Committee of the meeting held on 2nd October was adopted, subject to any alterations by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr Hardingham. All in favour.

C17.191 - Finance and General Purposes Committee

a. The report of the F&GP Committee meeting held on 4th September was adopted Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour. The report of the F&GP Committee meeting held on the 16th October was adopted subject to any alterations by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour.

b. To consider changing the F&GP Terms of Reference . As August's F&GP meeting was not quorate and couldn't proceed, and the next meeting in October was only just quorate it was proposed by Cllr Hardingham to change the terms of reference to allow two additional committee members. An amendment was proposed to consider this resolution only if the committee meeting was again inquorate or close to. The amendment was agreed and it was RESOLVED to delay discussion about changing F&GP's terms of reference to allow two additional members of the committee until such time as if the committee meeting was again inquorate or close to. Proposed by Cllr Cave, seconded by Cllr Sterland. Motion carried.

c. To appoint two extra members to F&GP if required. Not required.

C17.192 - Long Ashton Community Association

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

“For budget purposes, a three-year plan has been discussed at meetings between LACA and PC representatives. No figure has been agreed. The Treasurer has had problems drawing up a budget - one being that £250,000 is required to maintain the complex for the remainder of the lease period, equating to £26,000 per year. A lot of the capital expenditure has been deferred to fall outside a three-year period. Applying for grants for maintaining buildings is time-consuming with a fairly low success rate. Care has to be taken when applying increased charges since user groups would expect improved services and facilities and one large user group is struggling at the moment. It is intended to maintain a minimum level of reserves but if there were exceptional circumstances, LACA would need to approach the PC for further funds. A second appeal has been made to NSC regarding the loss of the £2,000 per year discretionary rate relief. LACA has had amicable meetings with the Bowling Club, Football Clubs (senior and junior) and the Youth Club in order to understand each other's problems and different needs. These meetings will continue in the future.

Any changes to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) by request of the PC could make the process longer and more difficult. Advice is being sought on this and to ascertain what the legal costs are likely to be.

A trustee is analysing results of a questionnaire put out to all residents. With a return rate of 2% on a population of 6,000 unremarkably 76% of those declined to offer to volunteer at the Centre. Efforts are being made to engage with the remaining 24%. Various ideas regarding extra storage facilities have been investigated and the placing of a container in the car parking space close to the Youth Hut is being explored. The cost would eventually be recovered through charges to users. Currently all users pay for any storage space with the exception of the Youth Club with whom LACA is negotiating. Windows in the Club Room need maintenance, as does the damaged back door. Quotes for replacing these structures amount to £11,500. However, patio doors to replace the windows are being considered in conjunction with implementing a pared-back garden plan. A detailed plan will be prepared in due course for presentation to the Council.

Problems with vandalism and nuisance are ongoing. The youth shelter was wrapped in industrial plastic material one weekend when five youngsters camped out there, resulting in a difficult and time-consuming clear up by the caretaker. Police are suggesting removal of this structure and are attending the next LACA meeting to discuss this and other matters. The café continues to prosper and offers a new venture - A Cream Tea - once a month, a project that will hopefully help to alleviate loneliness. LACA has agreed that the Biodiversity group's project in Peel Park can continue for another year."

The PC noted LACA's concerns re vandalism and anti-social behavior associated with the bandstand or youth shelter but it was felt that were it to be removed, the behaviour would simply occur elsewhere so believes it should be retained, and cleared more frequently, as necessary.

b. To appoint Councillor as LACA Trustee. There is a vacancy for a PC trustee on LACA following Cllr Booth's resignation. It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Cave as trustee. Proposed by Cllr Scoones, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson. Motion carried. As Cllr Cave is a LACA trustee already this will create a vacancy for another trustee on LACA which could be filled from outside the PC giving LACA more freedom in recruitment.

c. LACA funding: to discuss future arrangements. Although the PC acknowledges that the cost of maintaining the Community Centre can be difficult to accurately predict, it is keen to support LACA balancing its costs and income with a three-year, index-linked, settlement. This settlement would help to avoid unexpected year-on-year increases in grant applications, which the PC may find difficult to meet as the squeeze on local council budgets continues and the threat of a cap has not been removed. Councillors commended LACA's new treasurer on his work in understanding LACA's finances, and acknowledged the importance of the Community Centre to local people. The PC's funding of LACA represents about 20% of the precept and it is reluctant to increase this proportion significantly. However, it was noted that ongoing maintenance could suffer if the PC's grant to LACA is inadequate. It was suggested that the PC support of LACA is divided so it is transparent what is spent on maintenance and what is a subsidy supporting activities taking place at the Community Centre. It was also suggested that it would be more transparent if the PC pay to hire the Jubilee Pavilion for Monday meetings. The Chair asked Cllr Cave to convey his apologies to LACA for any interruption to the good relationship between LACA and the PC, which may have been caused by recent scrutiny into the relationship between LACA and the PC by the PC's auditor, following an objection raised by a local resident. PC representatives and LACA's treasurer are continuing to talk, and LACA will provide the PC with the ongoing financial information that it will present to its trustees.

C17.193 - Community Safety - Local Action Team

Cllr Cave gave the following report: Our last PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting was on 25th October, and was attended by 18 members of the public. The village's

beat officer attended and gave details about crime in the Parish, and heard comments about accidents on the South Bristol Link Road (SBLR). It was suggested that CCTV be installed on the SBLR as it provides an escape route for criminals carrying out robberies in Long Ashton. Residents of Theynes Croft attended the PACT meeting to discuss anti-social behaviour, drug paraphernalia and bike thefts in the area. Parking problems in Brook Close were also discussed, as were NSC's proposed changes to Hollis Close. Motorists' illegal use of North Road in Leigh Woods' rush hour was raised, together with parking enforcement both there and in Long Ashton at the top of Glebe Road. Anecdotal evidence indicates that motorists driving through Long Ashton to bypass the A370 because of congestion on the SBLR roundabout. It was agreed that the PACT priorities will be speeding and anti-social behaviour.

C17.194 - Youth Provision Report

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

a. Youth Club Report

Activities continue to be varied, including seasonal ones such as pumpkin carving as well as the usual ones like crafts and street dance. It looks likely that NSC's funding for local networks launched in 2012 has come to an end. We had used the previous grant for street dance sessions and as this is such a popular part of the youth club, we are desperately trying to find alternative ways of funding it. Thursday evenings for the younger age remain popular and well supported. Mondays cater for 11 to 13 year olds and have had a steady attendance but is still building up. On Wednesdays, we have found that the older ones are not coming into the youth club but remain outside and the youth workers have been engaging with this group in recent weeks. The Youth Workers are aware from discussions with the Police and LACA there is a level of anti-social behaviour around the village at the moment, and will seek to focus the Wednesday sessions on this group of young people where practical with detached work. A very successful Fun Day fundraising event was held on 14th October and many parents and children attended to support the event, which included a bouncy castle, street dancing, lucky dip, raffle and so on. Thanks to EPIC Youth for all its efforts in planning this event, together with the young people and management committee members who helped in the baking and manning the stalls. Over £400 was raised. The Youth Club also supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning by baking some cakes for them.

The Youth Club will hold an Open Evening on 7th December to promote the youth club and raise funds; parents, guardians, LACA trustees and councillors are invited.

b. Children and Young People's Network Report

A further session was held with a potential skate park provider on 20th September. Current methods of using sprayed concrete are now much quieter than traditional methods of wood and metal, and parks are being built in close proximity to houses in areas of North Somerset. These new designs are very low maintenance and warranty periods of 30 years are becoming commonplace. NSC does not now stipulate a minimum distance from housing in its approvals process. A first meeting was held with LACA and the junior football club on 7th November to explore how the football pitches and a skate park could both be located within Peel Park. Adults in their 20s and 30s are interested in the skate park as well as younger people. A follow-up meeting will be planned in the coming weeks although this is still at the exploratory stage. The youth grant of £750 is still to be publicised and will be launched through the Network shortly, with decisions on grants to be made in early 2018.

C17.195 - ALCA NS Group

Cllr Scoones gave the following report: The ALCA (Avon Local Councils Association) Annual General Meeting in Bradley Stoke on 7th October was very interesting and included a session on flat-packed democracy. ALCA's new constitution was approved as was a 2.5% increase in ALCA subscriptions. The next AGM is on 6th October 2018.

The Clerk updated councillors on the ALCA forum she attended with the Assistant Clerk, which included sessions on cyber crime and scamming.

C17.196 - Parish Councils Airport Association

Cllr Scoones gave the following report: There is no meeting of the PCAA until January, but there's a 10 week consultation being held from 16th November on the airport's master plan, on which the PC should comment. Bristol Airport is planning an expansion that will see 19 million passengers going through the airport by 2045 - up from 8 million this year. Issues such as acquisition of the green belt and the pollution caused by increased flights and airport users are of particular concern locally.

Mr Riggall joined the meeting at 20:40.

The airport's infrastructure would need significant investment to enable it to manage such an increase in passenger numbers, and there is concern that residents will be asked to fund this investment, for the ultimate benefit of a private company.

C17.197 - Parish recycling scheme working group

The PC must complete two more recycling-related activities in order to be eligible for a grant from NSC. It was suggested that the PC put posters on its noticeboards, an article in the next newsletter, and notifications on facebook to remind residents how to sort their recycling properly.

C17.198 - Superfast broadband working group

Cllr Cave reported that Gigaclear has been appointed as the Phase 2 provider following a nine-month delay caused by a legal challenge. It will start cable laying in North Somerset in December.

C17.199 - Community Engagement/ Website working group

This group has not met recently. The PC's Facebook presence has generated much interest: 5,500 views of the last 20 posts. These include articles on the green belt, the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and parking in the village, as well as information about Community Centre activities. The NDP Facebook page will be used to convey information about Taylor Wimpey's proposed Vale development, amongst other things.

C17.200 - Scout Group HQ Working Group

Negotiations about a new headquarters site for the Scouts continue to take place and the situation seems positive.

C17.201 - Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review Working Group

a. Cllr Sterland gave the following report: the working group has had two meetings since the last Council meeting - the latest on 23rd October. We have looked at a possible housing allocation and identified and listed open land both within and adjacent to the settlement boundary. We'll assess each of these sites, looking at reasons why they could or shouldn't be used - but we won't necessarily propose any of them. We have spoken to NSC about reviewing the NDP and have been assured that there is nothing in the draft Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) that conflicts with our current NDP. NSC is planning consultation meetings about the JSP after it is approved by the four authorities in November. NSC has informed us that the process for amending the NDP is the same as for the original plan, and includes consultation, assessment by an inspector and a referendum. Therefore, any changes we make must be worthwhile. It is uncertain whether NSC will fund this second referendum.

Whether the NDP review proceeds to referendum or not, the examination of available land for development was acknowledged to be a useful and necessary exercise in order to

support the NDP and counter any challenge to it. The working group's communications strategy is progressing. It has been agreed by the Planning Committee that up to £1,500 can be spent from the planning budget to cover administrative support from the Assistant Clerk and an additional amount will requested to be included in next year's budget.

Cllr Sterland reported on a meeting that he and Cllr Moorcroft had had with the Forest of Avon. The discussion included woodland planting and enhancing the protection afforded to woodland areas within the parish. A possible site for planting would be next to the Long Ashton Park & Ride. Forest of Avon would assist with this and had given some indicative costs. Some trees may be available from the Woodland Trust. The Forest of Avon Trust has produced a guide for developers - showing how new developments should interact with woodland and open spaces.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has produced a document giving arguments against commonly believed green belt myths.

It was suggested that the Scouts might wish to be involved in a tree mapping exercise. Links to the CPRE article will be added to the PC website and Facebook page. Cllr Sterland will ask the Forest of Avon for more detailed costs of the suggested planting.

b. It was RESOLVED to agree the working group's terms of reference. Proposed by Cllr Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington. All in favour.

C17.202 - Public Art Working Group

The Clerk is still waiting for a response from Taylor Wimpey. It is thought that it won't be resolved until the conclusion of negotiations about a permissive path on Peel Park.

C17.203 - Community Resilience - There was no update on this matter.

C17.204 - LULA (Light up Long Ashton)

Cllr Thomas is working with LULA on its plans for the Christmas lights display. LULA has received a £400 donation from the organisers of Volksfest, and trees and lights are going up around the village shortly.

C17.205 - Vacancies

It was RESOLVED to co-opt Ashley Cartman on to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Semple. Motion carried. It was RESOLVED to co-opt Andrew Batt on to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington, seconded by Cllr McQuillan. Motion carried.

C17.206 - External Auditor's report

The external auditor had no comments on the PC's intermediate audit. Cllr Hardingham thanked the Clerk on behalf of the council for her hard work over the past year.

C17.207 - Code of Conduct - This was reviewed and no changes made.

C17.208 - Community Grant

The community grant was discussed as this year there was just one applicant. It was RESOLVED that the PC will continue with its community grant process, subject to refinements to be discussed at F&GP. However, the grant will not have to be awarded in future if there's just one application. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr McQuillan. Motion carried.

C17.209 - Budget 2018/19

It was agreed to ask F&GP to consider for inclusion in the budget next year, provision for extra administration hours, (with a specific proposal to be submitted to F&GP); a plaque on the village hall as a reminder that it was built as a war memorial; and provision for forest planting and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Review.

C17.210 - Councillor email addresses

Councillors discussed whether they should use dedicated Parish Council email addresses. Mr Riggall, NSC's Liaison Officer, outlined the benefits of doing so, and the risks of not, and the Clerk was asked to investigate the details (reliability, ease of access etc.) of the email service provided by the PCs website provider.

C17.211 - Feedback from courses attended

The Clerk and Cllr Hardingham attended a Finance and Accounting workshop, which will be discussed at the next F&GP meeting. Cllr Lansley attended and recommended the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) 'Being a good councillor' course.

C17.212 - Enhancing and promoting the value of the green belt around Long Ashton

This had been discussed under C17.201.

C17.213 - Audley Redwood

The first residents of Audley Redwood are set to move in shortly, and the 126 units are due to be completed in March. The PC agreed to the operations manager suggestion that it could arrange a coffee morning on site to welcome the new residents and Cllr Hardingham will contact him to discuss details.

C17.214 - To agree to replace the grit bin on Heath Ridge

It was agreed to replace this bin as the existing one is falling apart.

C17.215 - Taylor Wimpey plans for the Vale - There was no update on this matter.

C17.217 - Correspondence

- a. From Barrow Gurney PC re pavement from Barrow Hospital site. The Clerk will contact Barrow Gurney PC to say that councillors are happy to work with it to improve the pavement from the Barrow Hospital site.
- b. From resident re dog bin Gardeners Walk. A resident is unhappy with the effect an adjacent dog bin is having on the enjoyment of his property. It was agreed that the a reply will be made indicating that the PC is prepared to move the bin further away from his property and also to replace it with a larger bin.
- c. From NS re Pharmaceuticals need assessment. Noted - the PC saw no need to comment on this document as it agreed with its findings.
- d. From ALCA re Councillor disqualification. Councillors will send any comments on this consultation to the Clerk by the 24th November. The consultation closes on 8th December.
- e. From ALCA re Defibrillator problems. ALCA pointed out that problems accessing defibrillators can be caused if the ambulance service is not requested as no other service holds the access code for the machines. It was noted that residents calling 999 to unlock one of the village's defibrillators should always ask for the ambulance service.
- f. From Pill and Gordano re Yellow Lines re PC's working together re challenging NSC re parking restrictions. The Clerk will reply to say that the PC is happy to work with it and other PCs.

C17.218 - Any items for information

Long Ashton library will be closed on 21st and 23rd November for electrical repairs.

Date of next meeting: Monday 15th January 2018

Meeting closed: 22:07