

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING
7:30 pm 30th January 2017, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:-

Mrs B Mackwood - Chairman
Ms S Hardingham
Mrs S Hughes (until 21:00)
Mr A Johnson (from 19:35)
Ms L Lansley
Mr B Lee
Mr S McQuillan
Mr N Moorcroft
Mrs J Pullin
Mr I Scoones
Mr R Sterland
Miss M Uppington
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:-

Mr C Cave
Mr M Harris
Dr P Jackson

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr J Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes)

James Willcock (MetroWest Phase 1 Project Manager) was unable to attend the meeting, where he had been expected to talk about the MetroWest project and the Ashton Vale Road options.

Hb17.01 – Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cave and Harris.

Hb17.02 – Declarations on Interest and Grant of Dispensations

Any interests to be declared during the meeting and no dispensations were requested.

Hb17.03 - Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2016, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb17.04 - Exclusion of the press and public

No relevant items.

Hb17.05 - Matters arising

- a. Hb16.114a - Planters by Dentist and Co-op. A local resident has volunteered to look after the planters. There is money available to pay for plants for them, if required.
- b. Hb16.114b - Arch Close Bank. The Clerk has asked four companies for quotes to maintain the bank. It was RESOLVED to delegate responsibility for the choice of contractor Clerk in consultation with the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Hughes. All in favour.
- c. Hb16.114c - Burial Ground & Chancellor's Park Tree Survey. The Clerk is due to request quotes for the work soon.
- d. Hb16.114d - East Entrance to Village relocation of bins. These have now been obtained and the Clerk will arrange for one of them to be installed at the east entrance to the village away from the information board and the other in Keeds Lane.
- e. Hb16.114e - Dawsons Walk. The Clerk has written to Barratts, the site developer, about the dilapidated state of the Dawson's Walk area and the failure of the maintenance organisation Greenbelt to make necessary repairs there. But has had no reply as yet.

- f. Hb16.114h - Permissive Path on Belmont Hill. The landowner is currently considering the idea of creating a permissive path on Belmont Hill.
- g. Hb16.114k - Yanley Hedgerow update. The hedgerow will be planted on Yanley Lane, near Northleaze School, within the next two weeks. The Chairman will oversee the planting, which will be done by Chew Valley Trees.
- h. Hb16.118c - Letter to NSC (North Somerset Council) CEO. The CEO has replied to the PC's recent letter detailing its concerns about a number of matters, including localised flooding. However, it was noted that NSC has so far not taken action to address the flooding issues. One landowner has cleared Ashton Brook from Yanley Lane to the A370. NSC has suggested that recent flooding in the area had been exacerbated by a plastic barrier in the brook, while the PC believes that calculations used to inform the construction of the South Bristol Link Road (SBLR) were wrong, and that there has, therefore, been inadequate provision made for water flows in the area. This view seems to be supported by the amount of flood water still visible near the SBLR. Cllr Cave is still discussing this matter, as well as NSC's plans for the MetroWest project and the Ashton Vale Road, with NSC officers and therefore it was agreed that a response to NSC's CEO is not necessary at the moment. It was noted that although there is increased congestion both in and out of Bristol since the opening of the SBLR, the matter may be improved when Barrow Street and Hartcliffe Way are re-opened.
- i. Hb16.119b – Purchase of mirror. A replacement for the defaced mirror on the cycle path by Northleaze School has been ordered.
- j. Hb16.122a – Visit of Bristol City Council officer to discuss Park and Ride. This has been postponed but it is hoped that an officer will come to the next Highways and Burial Ground Committee meeting to discuss the Park & Ride usage and other concerns.

Hb17.06 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management

- a. Update on flooding issues and to agree any action. *See Hb17.05h above.* No action has yet been taken by NSC to resolve local flooding issues.
- b. To consider Freedom of Information request to North Somerset re flooding data. NSC has not yet given the PC the flooding data it has requested. It was RESOLVED to submit a freedom of information request for this data. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson. Cllr Sterland will draft the request.
- c. Kissing gate. This will be discussed at the meeting with NSC's PROW on 31st January.

Hb17.07 - Footpaths

- a. To receive working group report and to discuss any proposals. Cllr McQuillan reported that a helpful resident had cleared brambles from a footpath of which he had been notified.
- b. Response from NSC re footpath on Peel Park. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would inform NSC that a permissive path on Peel Park was its preferred option but if this is not possible it would accept a public right of way instead. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington. All in favour. It was agreed that this would be raised at the meeting with NSC's PROW officer at the meeting on 31st January.

Hb17.08 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

- a. Report on Heaven Scent Garden. Work on the garden has stopped for the winter, and will start again in spring.
- b. Update on consecration of further part of burial ground. The application to have a further part of the burial ground consecrated has been sent to the Diocese for approval. There has been no response as yet.
- c. Correspondence re hedge and tree cutting. The Chairman has asked NSC's tree officer to clarify the boundary of the conservation area around the burial ground, to inform her discussions with a local resident who would like the PC's boundary hedge and trees to be cut back.

d. Wild flower area update. The Clerk will write to the church to ask about its maintenance plans for the wild flower area. If there are no plans, she will suggest that the area become subject to the normal maintenance regime adopted in the rest of the churchyard.

Hb17.09 - Road safety issues

a. Vehicle Activated signs. From November 2016 to January 2017, there was little change in the numbers or speed of traffic along the main road from those previously recorded except there were fewer vehicles recorded over Christmas. There was no obvious change when the South Bristol Link Road opened although, this may not be representative of its effect, as both Hartcliffe Way and Barrow Street are currently closed. Although the two VASs record slightly different information, they indicate that average traffic speeds through the village have fallen from around 31 mph during a short period in May 2014 to approximately 26 mph 2016/17. Vehicle numbers have risen from around 1,600 a day to 2,300. It was noted that the absence of the central white line may have helped to reduce speeds. These figures need to be considered cautiously as they do not compare like with like. Cllr Sterland noted that the Westcotec VAS should be charged by a battery conditioner and 230V should not be present in the box. It was RESOLVED to spend up to £100 on a battery conditioner. Proposed by Cllr Sterland, seconded by Cllr Lee. All in favour. Cllr Sterland also suggested the purchase of larger batteries for the 3M VAS - as its existing batteries need to be changed every 10 days - together with a lockable metal box to protect them. It was RESOLVED to spend up to £400 on two new batteries and a lockable box. Proposed by Cllr Sterland, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour. It was agreed to leave the VASs in their current positions on Long Ashton Road and Yanley Lane until after the re-opening of Barrow Street and Hartcliffe

b. Acquisition of a GATSO camera. Given the police will only support a modern GATSO camera and they cost around £40,000 the PC agreed not to pursue this.

c. Yellow Lines. The Clerk in consultation with the Chairman wrote to NSC to explain the reasons behind the PC's requests for double yellow lines over the past two years. This is in response to NSC's request that the PC shows that its requests conform to the new criteria for yellow lines NSC has introduced, even though they weren't in place when the PC originally submitted its requests. As yet, there has been no reply from NSC.

d. Glebe Road pavement by new development. No update, although it was noted that yellow lines outside the new development have been agreed with NSC, and that all the other requests for yellow lines that have been delayed could be included in this order.

Hb17.10 - Festival Way - There were no matters to raise.

Hb17.11 - Biodiversity - There were no matters to raise.

Hb17.12 - Village Enhancement Scheme working group

NSC has agreed specifically to look again at the viability of a pedestrian crossing on Weston Road, from Brocks Lane to Yeo Lane. If NSC concludes that a crossing is viable, the PC will consult on the matter with local residents and businesses. Although NSC currently doesn't have the resource to draw up measures for a 20mph zone for the shopping area, it would be helpful if the VES team could make a start on considering the detail in the hope resources will become available. NSC's aspirations for modifying the junction of Long Ashton Road and the B3128 are also not likely to be funded imminently, although the PC has asked to be fully consulted whenever the plans are drawn up.

Hb17.13 - Park and Ride

Resolve to discuss this at the Committee meeting on 27th March. It was agreed to postpone this discussion until a Bristol City Council representative is available.

Hb17.14 - Theynes Croft car park

NSC will send the PC a copy of the draft lease so that realistic quotes for the necessary legal work can be obtained.

Hb17.15 - Gullies

It was agreed that for the next meeting the Clerk will divide Long Ashton into areas which can then be allocated to councillors to enable a village-wide gully review to take place.

Hb17.16 - Parking outside Gunstone House

Parking in this area and outside Church House caused problems over the Christmas period but this seems to have eased now so did not need to be discussed.

Hb17.17 - Replacement Tree for Merriotts Field

It was RESOLVED to spend up to £250 on a tree for Merriotts Field to replace the felled ash. It was agreed that Chew Valley Trees should be asked to plant a relatively mature mountain ash, with a tree guard to protect it from livestock, when they plant the hedge as long as the landowner is happy with the choice of tree. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Mackwood. Seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour.

Hb17.18 - SBLR and MetroBus

- a. Opening of SBLR. The A370 has been more congested for motorists exiting Bristol since the road's opening, but it was acknowledged that signalisation of the new roundabout was unlikely to improve the situation.
- b. Visit of Officer re flooding and sewage issues. It was agreed that a Wessex Water representative should be invited to attend a future meeting to update the council on sewage and flooding issues. A local resident has written to the Chairman to alert her to a serious sewage close to the SBLR and the A38. Wessex Water attended the problem. The landowner is concerned about the possible contamination not only of her cattle but also a watercourse. The Clerk will inform the Environment Agency of the issue.
- c. Flooding of underbridge November 21st. Cllrs Cave and Moorcroft are still awaiting a response from NSC after their meeting to discuss recent flooding by the new SBLR.

Hb17.19 - Cycle Forum Report - There was no report to give.

Hb17.20 - Leigh Woods

Cllr A Johnson reported that the gaps in the yellow lines, painted under an emergency order on North Road, have made the situation there more dangerous than before. The yellow lines were not completed to the proposed emergency order therefore the lines fall short of what is needed to be safe. Residents intend to submit two plans to NSC - one for a controlled parking zone and one with yellow lines. There is general acknowledgement, however, that yellow lines merely move the parking problem elsewhere - and this has proved to be the case in Leigh Woods and nearby Abbots Leigh, which is now also seriously congested. The entrance to the woods is dangerously congested, particularly at weekends. It was noted that although North Road is officially closed to traffic until 9am, motorists are still using the road before this time. It was reported that between the hours of 7.45 am and 8.45 am there was eighty one cars illegally driving down North Road. The Clerk will inform the police, and copy in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, who lives locally. The Clerk will also write to NSC's Highways department to ask if anything can be done to improve the safety on Rownham Hill, as there have been a succession of accidents there, and to ask for its permission in investigating how best to protect Leigh Woods' verges, which are under threat from motorists. It was agreed that Cllr Johnson would escalate his requests to more senior North Somerset councillors, as necessary. He will bring a proposal for funding to a future meeting. The Chair thanked Cllr Johnson for his report.

Cllr Hughes left the meeting at 21:00.

Hb17.21 - Village Club

The valuation of the village club is underway and should be completed within two weeks. Historic England have declined to list the village club at this time as it is not under immediate threat.

Hb17.22 - Correspondence

- a. From resident re work behind Copford Lane. It was reported that some work seems to have been carried out without authorisation on the land behind Copford Lane belonging to Taylor Wimpey. It was agreed that this is a matter for the landowner, although the Clerk will also notify NSC.
- b. From resident re Parsonage footpath application. The resident's concerns about the effect of possible future planning applications were noted. It was agreed that were a planning application to be submitted to NSC affecting the footpath from Parsonage Road to the Festival Way (which a Definitive Map Modification Order – DMMO, has been applied for) the PC would ask for the DMMO application to be considered out of sequence as otherwise the process can take years.
- c. From resident re S130 notice - Parsonage Road Footpath. This will be discussed at the meeting with the NSC PROW officer on 31st January.
- d. From resident re this is not a s30 agreement. This matter, which relates to Peel Park, will be discussed with the NSC PROW officer.
- e. From resident re Public Path Creation Peel Park. The resident's comments on the costs of maintaining the path were noted and will be discussed with the NSC PROW officer.
- f. From resident re S106 footpath Long Ashton Research Station. Noted.
- g. From resident to note please. Noted.
- h. From resident re LA12/10 dumping. The Chair will write to residents on the south side of Copford Lane and Brook Close to ask them not to dump garden waste on the footpath behind their properties or into the Brook.
- i. From resident re Highways agenda. Noted.
- j. From resident re inconsiderate parking. The resident expressed concern that another resident is creating an obstruction at the eastern end of the village, by deliberately parking her car in order to create a chicane. The PC noted that there was nothing illegal about the parking but that it does cause a problem. It was agreed that the Clerk would approach the local beat officer to see if he would be willing to speak to the resident.
- k. From Resident re Park and Ride. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Balfour Beatty - which has been using the Park & Ride for some months - to ask it to install a rail at the Long Ashton Park & Ride as a favour to local disabled residents, who also want to see more disabled parking spaces provided there. She will copy her letter to Bristol City Council, which owns the land. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Pullin, seconded by Cllr A Johnson. All in favour.

Hb.17.23 - Other items for information

- a. Letters written by clerk under delegated authority. The Clerk has written to a resident at Cambridge Batch to ask them to trim their hedge.
- b. Closure of Barrow Street. This will be closed for 57 days.
- c. Works at Cambridge Batch. The Clerk will ask NSC about the work that is being undertaken on a patch of land near the A370 junction.
- d. Parking at the Co-op. A grass area on the Co-op site appears to be being used as an extension to the car park. It was agreed that this was a matter for the store and its car parking management company.

Date of next meeting – 27th March 2017

Meeting closed at: 21:26