

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING
7:30pm 27th March 2017, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:-

Mrs B Mackwood - Chairman
Mr C Cave
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris (from 19:35)
Ms L Lansley
Mr B Lee
Mr S McQuillan
Mr N Moorcroft
Mrs J Pullin
Mr I Scoones
Mr R Sterland (from 20:08)

Absent:-

Ms S Hardingham
Mrs S Hughes
Dr P Jackson
Mr A Johnson
Miss M Uppington
Mr A Wilkinson

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr J Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes) plus two members of the public until 19:50.

Before the meeting, representatives of Bristlewand spoke about their concerns about the MetroWest project and options for Ashton Vale Road.

Hb.17.24 – Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ms S Hardingham, Hughes, Miss Uppington and Cllr Wilkinson. Cllr Sterland had told the clerk that he would be late.

Hb.17.25 – Declarations on Interest and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb.17.26 – Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2017, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb.17.27 – Exclusion of the press and public

No relevant items.

Hb17.28 – Matters arising

- a. Hb17.05b - Arch Close Bank. Three quotes were received for clearing and maintaining the bank and the one from Garden Tidy accepted as it was the least.
- b. Hb17.05c - Burial Ground & Chancellors Park Tree Survey. This matter is ongoing.
- c. Hb17.05d - East Entrance to Village relocation of bins. This matter is ongoing.
- d. Hb17.05e - Dawsons Walk. A tree has partially fallen over in Dawson's Walk. Greenbelt, who is responsible for the area, has been informed. The clerk has already written to the owner of the area, Barratt Homes, to let it know of its concerns about the area and to Greenbelt to put it on notice that the PC holds it responsible for any accidents in the area. It was RESOLVED to inform Greenbelt that the PC will involve its solicitor unless necessary maintenance of the area is undertaken within four weeks. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Mackwood, seconded by Cllr Mrs Pullin.
- e. Hb17.05h - Permissive Path on Belmont Hill. The Chair has spoken to the landowner, who does not want a permissive path over his land, as it increases the risk of dogs coming into contact with sheep. It was RESOLVED to accept his offer that his drive is made a

permissive path instead - and that any need for additional signage is investigated, as necessary. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan, seconded by Cllr Lansley. All in favour.

f. Hb17.05k - It was RESOLVED to buy additional hedging from Chew Valley Trees, to ensure that the newly planted Yanley hedgerow is the appropriate length. Proposed by Cllr Cave, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour. The clerk will ask Chew Valley Trees to plant the hedging as soon as possible.

g. Hb17.05i - A mirror to replace the one near Northleaze School that has been defaced has been bought.

h. Hb17.05j - Visit of Bristol City Council (BCC) officer to discuss Park and Ride. The clerk has suggested some dates and has yet to receive a response from the BCC. It was noted that a number of different are involved in the site, and that it may therefore be difficult to get agreement about any changes. It was agreed that the clerk will send the email again, and that the chair will then follow up with a phonecall, and potentially a visit, to BCC.

i. Hb17.17 - Replacement Tree for Merriotts Field. This has been planted.

Hb.17.29 – Ashton Brook and Flood Management

a. Ashton Brook and Flood Management. The PC is still waiting for a report from NSC; Cllr Cave will write to remind the officer. Cllrs Cave and Moorcroft walked round the area recently and discovered several significant differences from the original plans. One field, for example, that was raised by around 10ft during the construction of the South Bristol Link Road, has not been returned to its original state. The Clerk will write to inform NSC.

Cllr Sterland joined the meeting at 20:08.

It was noted too that there is still a wet area on one side of the SBLR, because rainwater is lying lower than nearby drainage ditches and therefore can't drain into them, exacerbated by slow draining clay soil.

b. Update on flooding issues and to agree any action. *See Hb.17.29a above.*

c. Freedom of Information request to North Somerset re flooding data.

Cllr Sterland has researched the flood assessment done for the SBLR construction.

Attenuation ponds were designed to ensure that the run-off rate into Ashton Brook was the same as would occur if the surrounding area were green fields. Cllr Sterland noted that the flood assessment called for Wessex Water to repeat inundation studies designed to assess the risk of flooding from a breach of Barrow Tanks. It was noted that a Freedom of Information (Fol) request to NSC could include a request to see correspondence with Wessex Water on this matter. It was also noted that recent flooding of the SBLR underbridge was blamed on a blockage in the river. The Fol request could also ask for copies of relevant reports and procedures concerning the removal of such blockages. Additional points raised to be reported to NSC included: the need to widen Ashton Brook below the underpass to prevent flooding; the absence of a promised cycle path running parallel to Ashton Brook, to the Park & Ride; and the absence of a mammal ledge in the underpass. The clerk will write to NSC about these matters.

d. Kissing gate. Given that NSC cannot authorise the installation of a kissing gate to discourage cyclists from using the footpath behind Copford Lane and that the number of cyclists using the path seemed to have decreased it was agreed not to pursue the matter further at the moment.

Hb.17.30 – Footpaths

a. To receive working group report and to discuss any proposals. Walkers have not been keeping to the designated footpath across a field between Warren Lane and Gatcombe Mill Lane, and the farmer has asked that additional signage to mark the path is erected. The footpath group will explore the issue.

b. Meeting with NSC PROW Officer. Matters discussed at the meeting included: the installation of a kissing gate (Hb.17.29b); footpaths across Ashton and Longmoor Brooks; and the lack of separation between cattle and pedestrian underpass users. It was

confirmed that NSC are happy with the mirror installed by Northleaze School. It has been recently noted that gates on the Festival Way cattle bridge have been left open, meaning that cattle could walk directly on to the SBLR. The clerk will ask NSC to install self-closing gates there.

c. DMMO request. Cllr Moorcroft will attend a meeting of NSC PROW Committee on 28th March to ask that a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) requested by the PC be considered out of sequence. The owner of the field through which the route passes has recently erected a fence preventing walkers from using the route, although many residents have used it for many years without objection. Cllr Moorcroft will report back to the PC at the next meeting.

Hb.17.31 – Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

a. Report on Heaven Scent Garden - noted.

b. Update on consecration of further part of burial ground. It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Mackwood, Moorcroft and Wilkinson will represent the PC at the consecration ceremony, hopefully in May or June. Other Cllrs will be able to attend and the Vicar and other Church representatives may also be invited to attend.

c. Correspondence re hedge and tree cutting. The Chair and Cllr McQuillan have not yet visited a local resident to discuss his request to cut back hedges and trees bordering his garden, which belong to the PC. They will aim to organise a meeting shortly.

d. Wild flower area. The maintenance of the wild flower area in the churchyard will be discussed at the Parochial Church Council meeting in May.

e. To consider a headstone request and to agree whether to permit it or not. It was agreed that a resident's request for a gravestone with a cross on top should be allowed, and that the clerk will emphasise that the cross must be attached securely with stainless steel pins. She will also review the guidelines for memorials, to check whether stainless steel pins are specified for fixing, with a view to the PC updating its guidance on the matter.

Hb.17.32 – Road safety issues - to discuss

a. Vehicle Activated Signs (VASs). Cllr Sterland presented the latest figures from the PC's two VASs. With two exceptions (4 June 2016 and the Christmas period), the speed and volume of traffic through the village has not changed significantly in the past year. Although the opening of the SBLR seems to have had little effect, it was noted that the figures couldn't be seen as representative, as several major routes nearby are currently closed. The VAS in Yanley Lane has new batteries, which should last for up to five weeks. A battery conditioner has been installed in the VAS on Long Ashton Road. It was agreed to move the VAS outside 45 Long Ashton Road to Buttercliffe Rise, and to leave the Yanley Lane VAS in place for the time being. Cllr Cave has used the mobile speed gun recently, and noted that traffic in and out of the western end of the village often travels at excessive speeds.

b. To RESOLVE to request the Halt sign on Lovelinch Gardens to be repainted. Councillors will let the Clerk know if there are any other road signs that need to be repainted within the next two weeks, and she will inform NSC.

c. To discuss the work taken place at the A370/B3130 junction and to agree a response to NSC. NSC has made changes to this junction, which is in Long Ashton Parish, without consulting the PC, although Barrow Gurney residents were consulted. It was noted that the changes have made the route difficult for large vehicles and confusing and counter-intuitive for road users, and that the aim to ensure that airport traffic uses the SBLR could have been achieved with improved signage. It was RESOLVED to ask NSC to have the junction put back to its original state. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Mackwood, seconded by Cllr Lee. All in favour. Cllr Mrs Mackwood will request a meeting with NSC's head of Highways, Elfin ap Rees and the CEO Mike Jackson to ask why the PC seems to have been bypassed in discussions about key issues recently. Cllrs Cave and Moorcroft will also attend.

Hb.17.33 – Festival Way - Festival Way - To receive any relevant items for information

Cllr Moorcroft has reported damage to the Festival Way to NSC and sent photographs. He has received no reply as yet.

Hb.17.34 – Biodiversity - To receive any relevant items for information

Cllr Lansley informed councillors that there will be a wild flower planting event on 5th April, on the northern bank of Peel Park. Cllrs Cave and Mrs Pullin noted that they had not been informed of the plans, and asked Cllr Lansley to update LACA trustees. Cllr Moorcroft reported on inadequate planting next to the A370, after the construction of the South Bristol Link Road. Without guards, he believes that just 10% of the small new trees will survive, while the scale of planting seems to differ from agreed plans. Cllr Cave will refer to this matter in his email to NSC.

Hb.17.35 – Village Enhancement Scheme working group

There was nothing to report. Cllr Cave asked the working group to update the committee on plans developed by a resident at the next meeting.

Hb.17.36 – Park and Ride

a. To discuss issues around Park and Ride use and disability access problems. The contractor currently occupying part of the Park & Ride, Balfour Beatty, has replied to the clerk's letter requesting a handrail, to say that it needs the landowners consent to make changes to the site and has forwarded the letter to the client's project manager.

Hb.17.37 – Theynes Croft car park

The clerk will write to local solicitors' firms to ask for quotes for drawing up the lease transfer between NSC and the PC.

Hb.17.38 – Gullies – to agree an action plan (Cllr Cave)

Councillors will map the village's drains, to cross-check with NSC's records and to ensure that its gully maintenance regime is appropriate.

Hb.17.39 – SBLR and MetroBus

- a. Flooding of underbridge November 21st. Please see Hb.17.29. There was no further update on this matter.
- b. To discuss any issues resulting from Bristlewand presentation. The MetroWest Phase1 Project Manager will be attending the planning meeting on the 8th May and any outstanding issues raised with him.

Hb.17.40 – Cycle Forum Report

None.

Hb.17.41 – Leigh Woods

a. Parking issues and yellow line progress. Cllr Harris reported that NSC has done a good job of painting road markings on Rownham Hill, as well as mending a damaged safety barrier and fence. The speed limit there, however, is still 30mph. Leigh Woods residents would like it reduced to 20mph. An increasing number of buses and coaches are using Rownham Hill regularly. There is a meeting to discuss parking issues with NSC representatives on 4th April. Residents aim to present two plans - one for yellow lines and the second for restricted parking bays to be introduced. At the moment, however, the influx of motorists parking in Leigh Woods continues, with weekends being particularly busy. There have even been tents erected in the woods, and motorists sleeping overnight in parked vans. In a recent police campaign on North Road, 81 cars were recorded using the road too early in the morning. Cllr Cave noted that, if the plan is approved, the PC has money available to help fund the scheme, and there's also some money available to mend verges that have been destroyed by motorists.

- b. Response from PCC re North Road. Sue Mountstevens, Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner has replied to a contact from Cllr A Johnson noting the difficulties in North Road and with some suggestions for possible action the PC could take. As requested a link to the police 'Contact us' webpage will be added to the PC's website. Civil enforcement of parking starts on 3rd April, and officers will visit Long Ashton periodically. Motorists who park their cars outside Piccolos are unwittingly breaking the law by parking within the double yellow lines there. Cllr Cave suggested that the PC fund the installation of a kerb there, at a cost of approximately £1,000. It was noted that double yellow lines by the Church and Church House have faded and should be reinstated. Other pinch points are on Weston Road by Fenswood Road, where double yellow lines are also fading. The PC is disappointed that the new criteria mean that most of the lines it requested of NSC before their introduction will not now be actioned.
- c. Proposal for funding for parking scheme. See Hb17.41a).

Hb.17.42 – Village Club

The valuation has been done by Maggs & Allen, but has not been received yet so will be pursued.

Hb.17.43 – Correspondence - to consider listed correspondence and to note any other

- a. Request from Wraxall and Failand PC to borrow a Vehicle Activated Speed sign. The Clerk will reply to say that it can borrow the VAS, but not immediately, and to suggest it writes again in two months' time.
- b. From resident re dog fouling. A local resident has written to complain about dog mess on the cricket ground. The clerk has written to suggest ways of tackling the issue with chalk sprays or flags. Although it was suggested that a dog waste bin could be installed at the cricket ground, the site is some distance from the road and as such, would be difficult for contractors to empty. It was noted that another resident has also complained about the was noted too that there is no dog waste bin at the Theynes Croft end of Dawson's Walk and that dog waste bags are often hung in trees by dog owners. The Clerk will write to a resident to thank him [for his efforts in clearing the dog mess.] It was also suggested that the clerk include residents' names when their letters are considered at committee meetings, and agreed that this will be discussed at the next full council meeting on 15th May.
- c. From resident re Church Lane. NSC's enforcement team is set to check on this situation shortly. A resident of Church Lane seems to be operating a car sales business from his residential accommodation, and parking a number of cars in the area without permission.
- d. From resident re Cycle Track/Festival Way issues and NSC response. Noted.
- e. From resident requesting VO action. The Clerk will reply to the letter and refer the resident to NSC.
- f. From resident re DMMO request. Noted.
- g. From resident re Parsonage Road path blockage. Noted.
- h. From NSC re speed restriction on A38. Noted.
- i. From resident re Glebe Road. Noted.
- j. From resident re Park and Ride. Noted.
- k. From NSC re Waiting Restriction Review. Noted.
- l. From resident re SBL snagging and trees. This matter is being dealt with by NSC.

Hb.17.44 – Other Items for Information

A resident has complained about a large construction vehicle causing a dangerous obstruction at a building site on a bend in Copford Lane. The Clerk will refer the resident to NSC. The Chair expressed her hope that the PC will be able to support Bristlewand to move forwards in finding a satisfactory solution to its problem with MetroWest.

Hb.17.45 – Letters written by clerk under delegated authority

None.

Date of next meeting – 22nd May 2017

Meeting closed at: 22.05