

**LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**7:30pm 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Jubilee Pavilion**

Present:

Mrs B Mackwood - Chairman  
Ms G Collins  
Ms S Hardingham  
Mr M Harris  
Ms L Lansley  
Mr S McQuillan  
Mr N Moorcroft  
Mrs J Pullin  
Mr I Scoones  
Mr R Sterland  
Mr J Thomas  
Miss M Uppington  
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:

Mr C Cave  
Mrs S Hughes  
Dr P Jackson  
Mr A Johnson

In attendance: the Clerk, Dr J Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes) and one member of the public until 20:00.

*Before the meeting David Neale made a presentation on the cycle implications of the South Bristol Link and Ashton Vale Temple Meads projects.*

Hb.17.46 – Election of Chairman

Cllr Mrs Mackwood was elected as Chairman of the Highways and Burial Ground Committee for the next municipal year or until such time as a new chairman is elected. There were no other nominations. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Pullin, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson. All in favour.

Hb.17.47 - Election of vice Chairman

Cllr Moorcroft was elected as vice Chairman of the Highways and Burial Ground Committee for the next municipal year or until such time as a new vice Chairman is elected. There were no other nominations. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Mackwood, seconded by Cllr Miss Pullin. All in favour.

Hb.17.48 - Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cave and Hughes.

Hb.17.49 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb.17.50 - Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017, copies having been circulated, were changed to reflect that Cllr Hardingham had not been present at the meeting, and had given her apologies to the Clerk. The minutes were then confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb.17.51 – Exclusion of the press and public

There were no relevant items.

Hb.17.52 - Matters arising

a. Hb17.28b - Burial Ground & Chancellors Park Tree Survey – this matter is ongoing.

- b. Hb17.28c - East Entrance to Village relocation of bins. Cllr Moorcroft has moved one bin, and will liaise with the Clerk over the installation of the second.
- c. Hb17.28d - Dawson Walk. The PC has continued to make representations to Greenbelt - the organisation responsible for the maintenance of Dawson Walk. A North Somerset Council (NSC) officer has spoken to their Company Care Line who indicated that the matter has been raised with senior management and costs are currently being assessed. The PC is very concerned about the safety of the area and will ask advice as to whether the area should be closed to the public. It wonders whether, under Health and Safety legislation, NSC can issue Greenbelt with a warning, that any damage to the area must be repaired immediately or that the area will be closed on Health & Safety grounds. If it is not repaired, NSC may have the right to have it repaired and then to bill Greenbelt for the work. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr Moorcroft should raise the issue at a meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May with Colin Medus from NSC's Highways department, and that an article about the area, including Greenbelt's contact details, should be featured in June's newsletter.
- d. Hb17.28e - Permissive Path in Belmont Hill – this matter is ongoing.
- e. Hb17.28f - Yanley Hedgerow update - Chew Valley Trees will plant some more hedgerow at the bottom of Yanley Lane outside Northleaze School in the autumn.
- f. Hb17.28h - Visit of Bristol City Council (BCC) officer to discuss Park and Ride. There has been no further contact from the transport officer although the AVTM project manager has written to explain that there is a scheme underway to provide a level boarding area with gradual slopes at the to improve accessibility at the Park and Ride.
- g. Hb17.43a - Loan of VAS to Wraxall and Failand. Wraxall and Failand PC will contact the PC at the end of June to discuss a potential loan of its Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS).

#### Hb.17.53 - To consider PC response to presentation on cycle routes

The PC discussed the presentation given by Mr Neale and his suggested cycle route additions. However, the PC was uncertain that his plans for completing the cycle path over the cattle bridge (route A) could be realised as conversations with NSC have indicated that the bridge is not wide enough for cattle and cyclists to use at the same time. Consequently, cyclists must dismount when they go over the bridge, there are gates at both ends that they must negotiate, and in wet weather, cattle muck and mud on the paths leading up to the bridge is problematic. Although any obstruction of this sort is acknowledged to discourage cyclists, it was noted that the bridge itself is only approximately 50m in length and that some cyclists use it in spite of the obstacles. Mr Neale's suggestion that areas at both ends of the bridge be tarmacked was unpopular with the farmer and landowner when suggested by the PC several years ago. It was suggested that an alternative to his route B be proposed to Mr Neale - that a cycle path be added to a public right of way near the Park and Ride. A construction track that has been used by contractors at the Park and Ride may have to be removed once work there is complete. It was suggested that the contractors are asked to leave the path in place to ensure that cyclists and pedestrians can use it to get to and from the Park and Ride. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to NSC and BCC showing the alternative route.

#### Hb.17.54 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management

NSC has replied to the recent Freedom of Information request to say that it does not have the data asked for but will ask Bristol Water and Atkins if they have it. It was noted that information about the hydrology of the area was referred to by NSC at a public hearing during the planning of the South Bristol Link Road (SBLR). Cllr Sterland will review the references included in the Environmental Report on the SBLR construction, with a view to asking specifically about these.

#### Hb.17.55 - Footpaths

a. To appoint footpath co-ordinator. The Chair thanked Cllr McQuillan for his work as footpath co-ordinator. Cllr Lansley was proposed by Cllr Mrs Mackwood and seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington and there being no other nominations was appointed. It was noted that

NSC's current lack of resources means that the PC's footpaths are not being maintained as well as in the past. The Chair will discuss the matter at her meeting with Mr Medus on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The Clerk will write to NSC to ask for a footpath maintenance pack, including nuts and bolts and other materials for gate repairs.

b. To receive working group report and to discuss any proposals. There was no report. Cllr McQuillan will assist Cllr Lansley in producing the next footpath report.

#### Hb.17.56 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

a. Report on Heaven Scent Garden. None. Apologies were received for a lack of report.

b. Update on consecration of further part of burial ground. Dates are being finalised. The Chair will let the Clerk know when she cannot attend a consecration ceremony.

c. Correspondence re hedge and tree cutting. Some of the PC's trees and hedges at the Burial Ground seem to have been cut back. Cllr Moorcroft will take some photos for review at the next Highways meeting while the Chair is still planning to visit a resident in the area to discuss his request to cut back hedges and trees there.

d. Wild flower area - the matter will be discussed at the Church's next PCC meeting. Brambles are now growing up through the gravestones in the wild flower area.

#### Hb.17.57 - Road safety issues

a. Vehicle Activated Signs. Cllr Sterland gave the following report: One of the PC's two Vehicle Activated Signs has been moved from outside 45 to 149 Long Ashton Road. Data from the sign indicates that although the majority of motorists abide by the speed limit, there are instances of excessively high speeds. Data from the sign on Yanley Lane shows that the number of motorists using the lane has dropped significantly since the opening of the SBLR. It was suggested that the VAS be moved to monitor the volume of traffic over the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June Volksfest and Dig for Victory weekend. There are concerns that buses find it difficult to get through the village because of motorists parking on the main road particularly at the east end of the village on days when there are football or rugby matches at Ashton Gate. It was noted that the Hamilton-Baillie report suggested that the east entrance to the village could be narrowed allowing a designated parking area which should help buses. A stop and wait scheme was also discussed. It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Mackwood and Moorcroft would draft a letter and questionnaire to be sent from the clerk to residents at the east end of the village, to canvass their views before holding a meeting of interested parties.

b. A370/B3130 junction. This matter will be discussed at the Chair and Cllr Moorcroft's meeting with Mr Medus on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

c. To agree a further Cllr to attend meeting with Colin Medus. There were no volunteers.

d. Cyclists not stopping at zebra crossings (Cllr Thomas). It was RESOLVED to investigate the practicalities of raising the zebra crossing outside the Co-op to help reduce traffic speeds. Proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour. It was suggested that the June newsletter could include a consultation with residents about the matter.

#### Hb.17.58 - Festival Way - There were no relevant items.

#### Hb.17.59 - Biodiversity

a. Update on planting on Peel park. There will be a trial planting of wild flowers on the northern bank of Peel Park, to help attract pollinators to the area. Concerns were expressed about the effect of brambles spreading in the area on maintenance costs.

b. New trees planted by A370 to help screen the new South Bristol Link Road have died. NSC is due to report to the PC on its plans to replace them. An old oak nearby also seems to be in decline.

c. Birdwell School Academy has received a £10,000 grant to create a mini nature reserve between the school and Dawson Walk.

#### Hb.17.60 - Village Enhancement Scheme (VES) working group

The VES working group is still waiting for NSC to provide the concept designs for the VES scheme based on its suggestions. The PC has agreed to pay for the work but the highways department has not had the resource to carry it out. The PC cannot deliver the VES without NSC input and even if the PC went elsewhere for the design work it would still need NSC to approve the designs. The Chair will discuss the issue at her meeting with Mr Medus on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It has received several letters from residents concerned about the speed of traffic through the village.

#### Hb.17.61 - Theynes Croft car park

The draft lease for the car park has been received. It was RESOLVED to write to the Church to ask if a sign could be put on Church House to ask users to park their cars in the car park. Proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour. It was also RESOLVED to change the car park signage to encourage visitors to both Northleaze School and Church House to use it. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr McQuillan. All in favour.

#### Hb.17.62 - Gullies

The survey of the gullies (drains) is proceeding. Some areas are still unsurveyed and these were allocated to Councillors.

#### Hb.17.63 - South Bristol Link Road (SBLR) and MetroBus

SBLR traffic both in and out of Bristol is regularly backing up. Princes Street Bridge is due to open soon to pedestrians and cyclists and cars leaving the city, and should eventually be opened in both directions.

#### Hb.17.64 - Cycle Forum Report - There was no report to give.

#### Hb.17.65 - Leigh Woods

- a. Parking issues and yellow line progress. Cllr Harris gave the following report: Bannerleigh Road is regularly clogged up with cars parked on pavements, and one car has been towed away. Now that more cars are parking on the road, refuse and builders' lorries are finding it difficult to get through. Leigh Woods residents have written to NSC to complain. A draft plan for restricted parking bays is with NSC for approval, and Cllrs Cave, Harris and A Johnson are due to meet Elfin ap Rees shortly to discuss it. Although Leigh Woods residents would not want pay and display machines introduced, they would accept it if restricted parking bays were to be refused by NSC. The emergency double yellow lines printed on North Road and Bridge Road have been successful from a health and safety perspective, in keeping cars from parking on the bends of the roads.
- b. Response from NS re Rownham Hill and verges. NSC has done some work on Rownham Hill which it hopes will improve the safety of the road. It was suggested that planters might help to protect verges which are being damaged by parked cars. The Leigh Woods Society is hoping to enlist NSC's support in protecting its verges and has suggested that posts be erected.
- c. To consider any request for funding for parking scheme. No specific request has been received yet. The PC has money earmarked for the Leigh Woods parking scheme.

#### Hb.17.66 - LACA Garden Consultation

LACA has been given a grant to deliver a community garden project, and has produced a questionnaire to consult users of the centre about it. The questionnaire is easier for individuals than groups to fill in, and councillors were therefore encouraged to respond individually.

### Hb.17.67 - Correspondence

- a. From NS confirming replacement of Lovelinch Gardens and Bramley Copse signs. Noted
- b. From resident re HGVs in Brook Close (copied to PC). The PC is sympathetic to the resident's concerns especially as a large number of extensions in Brook Close in recent months have increased the number of HGVs there. However, the cost of reducing the size of the Brook Close roundabout, as suggested by the resident, is probably going to be prohibitive. The PC will be interested to see NSC's response.
- c. From resident re yellow lines on Keedwell Hill. The Clerk will ask the resident for more detail, while councillors will look at the situation on Keedwell Hill with a view to discussing it at the next meeting.
- d. From resident re parking on Glebe Road by the Auto Scuderia site. Builders' lorries and other vehicles cause congestion in the area every day. The concerns were noted and it was hoped that the situation will improve when the building work is over.  
From resident re bridleways around Long Ashton. There is only one bridleway in the village, from Cambridge Batch to Belmont Hill. Various other routes, including the Festival Way and Monarch's Way, were discussed but there were concerns expressed about shared use. The Chair will speak to the resident.
- e. A letter from a resident re signage for the SBLR was noted as was the response from NSC addressing his concerns.

### Hb.17.68 - Other Items for Information

Letters written by clerk under delegated authority - none.

Date of next meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Meeting closed at: 21:50