

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING
7:30pm 24th July 2017, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:

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

Absent:

Mr C Cave
Ms G Collins
Mr M Harris
Dr P Jackson
Mr A Johnson
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland

In attendance: the Clerk, Dr J Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes).

Hb.17.69 – Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cave, Collins, Harris, Jackson, A Johnson, Semple and Sterland.

Hb.17.70 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb.17.71 - Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2017, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb.17.72 – Exclusion of the press and public

There were no relevant items.

Hb.17.73 - Matters arising

- a. Hb17.52b - East Entrance to Village relocation of bins. Because of recent ill-health this job is still outstanding but will be done soon.
- b. Hb17.52d - Permissive Path in Belmont Hill. This matter is ongoing.
- c. Hb17.28h - Visit of Bristol City Council officer to discuss Park and Ride. No reply has been received from Bristol City Council (BCC) to recent letters about arranging a meeting to discuss the PC ideas re the Park and Ride for example using the site for events at Ashton Gate, which currently cause congestion at the east end of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Mayor's office and if there's no response, to the West of England's Metro Mayor.
- d. Hb17.43a - Loan of VAS to Wraxall and Failand. The Clerk will wait for Wraxall and Failand PC to contact her about the Vehicle Activated Sign.
- e. Hb17.67e - Bridleways. The Chair has spoken to the resident to tell her that she can ride her horse on the Festival Way from Yanley Lane to Ashton Court, and that she can explore new bridleways, although it was noted that landowners may be reluctant to consider them.

Hb.17.74 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management

- a. Update on flooding issues and to agree any action. No new information.
- b. Freedom of Information request to North Somerset re flooding data. Cllr Sterland is reviewing the latest information sent by North Somerset Council (NSC).

Hb.17.75 - Footpaths

a. To receive working group report and to discuss any proposals. Cllrs Lansley and McQuillan met to discuss footpaths. There are currently five footpath volunteers, and Cllr Lansley will organise a get-together shortly. It was noted that landowners are responsible for keeping the route visible and not obstructing or endangering users, but that NSC owns a large number of the footpath structures across the Parish - i.e. kissing gates – and undertakes their maintenance. NSC cannot provide a maintenance kit for ad hoc repairs to its structures by volunteers but may consider contributing to their costs for minor repairs. It was noted that landowners should be notified when the repairs are being done. Cllr Moorcroft has reported that the footpath gate on the west side of the Festival Way near the cattle bridge crossing was damaged several months ago to NSC but it has not been repaired yet. The Clerk will write to NSC to ask that it is mended.

b. Dawson Walk update and to discuss if the PC wants to investigate an alternative approach to the issues. Greenbelt, the organisation responsible for the maintenance of Dawson Walk, has repaired some of the damage to structures there. However, one resident recently fell over and broke her arm due to chicken wire not being securely fixed. The Clerk will let Greenbelt know about the trip hazards, and that there is still damage to the walkway that has not been repaired. A discussion of possible ways of working with Greenbelt will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

c. To discuss maintenance required on footpath behind Gardners Walk. NSC is looking at this but it is Taylor Wimpey's land and the Clerk will ask them to clear it.

d. Refreshments for meeting with footpath volunteers. It was RESOLVED to create a hospitality budget of £50 per year, to allow councillors to provide refreshments for volunteers undertaking work on behalf of the PC. Proposed by Cllr Lansley, seconded by Cllr Hardingham. All in favour.

Hb.17.76 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

a. Report on Heaven Scent Garden. The report was circulated to councillors and its content noted. The Chair, who visited the area recently, said it looks good.

b. Update on consecration of further part of burial ground. Dates are with the Diocese. The Clerk will ask suitable companies to provide a quote for tidying the borders around the Burial Ground before the consecration. It was RESOLVED to authorise up to £300 to be spent on this job, and if the quote is higher, the Clerk will liaise with the Chairs of Highways and Council before commissioning the work. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Scoones. All in favour.

c. Correspondence re hedge and tree cutting. Cllrs Mrs Mackwood and Wilkinson will visit a resident to discuss the dead hedge adjoining his property, and its replacement. It was agreed that the Clerk will get quotes for featherboard fencing and a hedge in the area.

d. Wild flower area. The Church has written to the PC to say that it will aim to tidy up the wild flower area in the churchyard and asked for the issue to be reviewed in six months.

e. Request for memorial bench. The committee agreed that a memorial bench can be placed in the burial ground as requested by the resident, probably on the northern side of the south wall on a concrete base with the PC assuming responsibility for the maintenance of the bench after five years. Specific details will be worked out with the resident.

f. People sleeping rough in the Churchyard. The Church asked for the PC's help in moving people on who were sleeping rough in the churchyard. The village's Beat Officer was contacted and offered to deal with the issue.

Hb.17.77 - Road safety issues – to discuss.

a. Vehicle Activated signs (VAS). The latest data indicates that the average speed of traffic past the vehicle activated sign on Long Ashton Road is approximately 25mph. 85% of road users drive below the speed limit when they pass the sign, but it was noted that they may

speed up at other points along the main road. The VAS currently on Yanley Lane will be moved to the west entrance to the village.

b. A370/B3130 junction. The Chair and the Clerk met with Colin Medus – head of Highways at NSC to discuss the new A370/B3130 junction layout. NSC admitted that it had not consulted with the PC about the changes to the junction and apologised. It is currently considering the results of a safety audit of the junction. NSC stated that it will not reinstate the junction to its former design; however, it will develop a plan for any changes required by the safety audit. Although it was noted that the junction was redesigned to encourage motorists to use the South Bristol Link Road to get to the airport instead of the B3110 through Barrow Gurney, a side effect has been that motorists heading towards Weston super Mare from Long Ashton must now negotiate congestion around a potentially hazardous corner, in order to get on to the A370. It was noted that villagers have been disadvantaged by the new junction and the Clerk will write to NSC to reiterate the PC's view that it should improve the situation there with the PC's preference being to reinstate the junction as it was.

c. Reducing speed limits from national on major roads in the Parish. Wraxall and Failand PC with the support of Tickenham and Abbots Leigh PCs have agreed a speed limit reduction scheme on the B3128 and B3129. The Chair of Wraxall and Failand PC has written to the PC and met with Cllr Mrs Mackwood to ask for the PC's support with new speed limits on roads between the Parishes. It was RESOLVED to support Wraxall and Failand's plans and to ask that speed limits be extended to cover the Clarken Combe from Longwood lane to Ashton Court, Belmont Hill and Beggar Bush Lane. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr McQuillan. The motion was carried with six for, and three - Cllrs Moorcroft, Mrs Pullin and Wilkinson - voting against. Cllrs Hardingham and Mrs Mackwood will liaise with Wraxall and Failand PC over the matter. It was noted that the Longwood Lane/Providence Lane/B3128 junction is extremely dangerous and mitigation has been promised for some time. A strategy to sort out this junction will be discussed at the next Highways meeting.

d. Hollis Close – to discuss North Somerset proposal and to agree representation. It was noted that NSC's consultation with local people about the proposed changes to Hollis Close has so far been inadequate. Cllrs McQuillan, Thomas and Mrs Pullin will develop a consultation document for use after the new school term starts, with a view to holding a public meeting on 12th October with NSC and local residents. The consultation document will aim to capture the views of all local residents, and will help to determine the structure of the October meeting. The Clerk will also ask NSC to present its ideas for a shared space or 'Home Zone' on Hollis Close at the meeting.

Hb.17.78 - Festival Way

A gate on the Festival Way has been padlocked by a farmer. The gate, which was installed by NSC, isn't self-closing as had initially been promised and some cyclists using it had left it open, risking cattle wandering on to the new South Bristol Link Road. NSC is arranging for a new gate to be installed.

Hb.17.79 - Biodiversity

a. Update on planting on Peel Park. Cllr Lansley reported on the progress of a pilot scheme aiming to create a biodiverse area on the northern bank of Peel Park. The bank has not been mown. In spite of the recent dry weather, several plants have grown there and there's been positive feedback about the scheme. The abundance of ragwort, however, both on the bank and locally, was noted. Local areas, such as those in Ashton Court, which have been kept untouched for biodiversity reasons have flourished, although it sometimes takes years for them to become properly established. It was agreed to discuss planting for biodiversity next to a new hedge near Northleaze School at the next meeting.

b. New trees planted by A370. There was no update to give on this matter.

c. To receive any further relevant items for information. There were no further matters to discuss.

Hb.17.80 - Village Enhancement Scheme working group

Following the Chair and Clerk's meeting with the head of NSC Highways Dept., NSC has agreed to prioritise its work on the Village Enhancement Scheme. The working group is therefore expecting initial concept designs between October and Christmas 2017. Additionally NSC has a budget to develop a design for the east entrance to the village and the working group will ensure that appropriate consultation about any changes takes place. The working group is continuing to develop its own plans for seating at various points in the centre of the village, and is also working on details of a 20mph zone. Ultimately, once it receives concept designs from NSC, the working group bring the plan to Full Council for approval.

Hb.17.81 - Theynes Croft car park

The Clerk will write to the PC's solicitor before finalising the lease, to ensure that the wall to Church House is not included in the area covered by the lease.

Hb.17.82 - Tree Works

- a. To agree to assessment of cherry tree. The Clerk will arrange for further inspection of a cherry tree in the churchyard which has already lost a few branches.
- b. Update on progress. Four companies have been asked to provide quotes for work on the PC's trees on Chancellors Park.

Hb.17.83 - Gullies

All outstanding gully surveys should be returned to the clerk before the next Highways meeting on 2nd October.

Hb.17.84 - SBLR and MetroBus - There was no information to report.

Hb.17.85 - Road Closures

Diversions created for recent road closures seem to have been unnecessarily long and the signage confusing. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask NSC to include a map showing the road closure and diversion with its road closure notices.

Hb.17.86 - Cycle Forum - There was no report to give.

Hb.17.87 - Leigh Woods - There was no report to give.

Hb.17.88 - To consider quote for planting on Arch Bank

The quote received for this work was considered inappropriate and too expensive. A resident has offered a proposal for planting in the area and this will be investigated.

Hb.17.89 - Yellow lines on Keedwell Hill

The PC sympathises with a local resident who has yellow lines painted outside his house, and no off-street parking. However, the effect of reducing the length of the lines was considered but thought it would reduce the safety of the road and any changes would have to be done under a road traffic order costing £3,000, so it was agreed not to pursue a change to the lines.

Hb.17.90 - Clearance of growth on pavements/walls on Long Ashton Road between B3128 and the telephone exchange

It was RESOLVED to ask NSC to provide a quote for clearing growth on the pavements and walls in this area. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Hughes. All in favour.

Hb.17.91 - Correspondence - to consider listed correspondence and to note any other

- a. From National Plant Monitoring Scheme. NPMS are looking for people to monitor areas for plants. There is only one area within the Parish, on Rownham Hill, that hasn't been adopted. No action is necessary.
- b. From resident re double yellow lines. The Clerk will reply to the resident to say that unfortunately the PC cannot have yellow lines painted outside her house.
- c. From resident re parking across dropped kerbs and double yellow lines. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to NSC to challenge its decision to refuse to paint yellow lines outside the surgery.
- d. From resident re brambles. The Clerk has written to residents with overgrown hedges that are obscuring pavements on the main road, and will write to NSC about obstructions to the cycle path and footpath on Weston Road, between Long Ashton and Cambridge Batch.
- e. From resident re parking Glebe Road. The parking situation here has not improved and is exacerbated by building work at the junction of Long Ashton Road. The Clerk will inform NSC's parking enforcement team about the situation.
- f. From resident re weeds. The Clerk will write to NSC to suggest that it clears the weeds around Ashton Court before the Balloon Fiesta.
- g. From resident re traffic arrangements for Balloon Fiesta x 2. Noted.
- h. From North Somerset re road closures for Balloon Fiesta. The Clerk is awaiting a response from First Bus about the bus schedule during the Balloon Fiesta.

Hb.17.92 - Other Items for Information

- a. Letters written by clerk under delegated authority. The Clerk has written eight letters to householders asking them to cut back overgrown hedges and a letter to NSC about its plans for Hollis Close.
- b. Planters by dentist. The dental surgery has agreed to take responsibility for these.
- c. Tidying the area outside the dental surgery. The owner informed a Cllr that he intends to have the area between the surgery and the main road sprayed to remove the moss and growth there. The Clerk will write to ask a nearby resident to cut back his hedge.

Date of next meeting – 2nd October 2017

Meeting closed at: 21.57