

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING
7:30pm 2nd October 2017, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:

Mrs B Mackwood - Chairman
Mr C Cave
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris
Dr P Jackson
Ms L Lansley
Mr S McQuillan
Mr N Moorcroft
Mrs J Pullin
Mr I Scoones
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland
Miss M Uppington
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:

Ms G Collins
Mr A Johnson
Mrs S Hughes
Mr J Thomas

In attendance: the Clerk, Dr J Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes), and two members of the public. One left at 20.26, the other at 21.22.

Before the meeting a resident of Yanley Lane spoke to councillors about traffic problems in her area.

Hb.17.93 – Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Collins and Thomas.

Hb.17.94 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb.17.95 - Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2017, copies having been circulated, following amendment of a section of Hb.17.79 to read "The bank has not been mown since early May." were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb.17.96 – Exclusion of the press and public - There were no relevant items.

Hb.17.97 - Matters arising

- a. Hb17.73a – East entrance to village relocation of bins. Cllr Moorcroft has removed the dog bin attached to the interpretation board and installed a new one a short distance away.
- b. Hb17.73b – Permissive Path in Belmont Hill. No update.
- c. Hb17.73c – Visit of Bristol City Council (BCC) officer to discuss Park and Ride. No response has yet been received from BCC officers about a meeting to discuss the Park and Ride, despite intervention from the Mayor's office. The Clerk will write again to BCC to emphasise that the Park and Ride is in Long Ashton Parish and that the PC is therefore a stakeholder and should be consulted about any proposed changes there.
- d. Hb17.75a – Repair of footpath gate. This has been delayed for two months to allow the construction of a new gate to allow easier access to the bridge by all groups.
- e. Hb17.75c – Maintenance behind Gardeners Walk. The Clerk has contacted Taylor Wimpey and maintenance in the area has been carried out.
- f. Hb17.76e – Memorial Bench update. The Clerk has yet to meet with the resident to discuss his request for a memorial bench in the churchyard.

- g. Hb17.85 – Road closure notices. The Clerk will ask North Somerset Council (NSC) to attach maps to all road closure notices it sends.
- h. Hb17.88 – Planting on Arch Bank update. Cllr Lansley will draft some text for a sign to be erected on Arch Bank to inform residents of the planting that's been done there.
- i. Hb17.91c – NSC response re yellow lines outside the Drs Surgery. Following NSC reply that they will not consider painting any further double yellow lines in the parish, including outside the doctor's surgery on Keedwell Hill, until 2019/20, the Clerk was asked to request a copy of all traffic orders that include double yellow lines in Long Ashton and Leigh Woods, and will ask NSC if the yellow lines would be considered if the PC were to pay for them.
- j. Hb17.91d – NSC response to request to clear vegetation between Long Ashton and Cambridge Batch. NSC will arrange for this clearance to be done.
- k. Hb17.91e – NSC parking enforcement team response re parking in Glebe Road. The team visited the area to enforce parking restrictions the day after they were informed of parking difficulties there.

Hb.17.98 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management

- a. Update on flooding issues and to agree any action if required. Cllrs Cave and Moorcroft are in regular contact with NSC about the issues but there is no update yet.
- b. Freedom of Information request to North Somerset re flooding data. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask NSC the inundation map to be updated, as the topography of the valley has changed because of the construction of the South Bristol Link Road. NSC should also want up-to-date information for emergency planning. Cllrs Moorcroft and Sterland will also speak to their contacts at NSC about the matter.

Hb.17.99 - Footpaths

- a. To receive working group report and discuss any proposals including funding for replacement posts. Cllr Lansley met with seven footpath volunteers and several areas of work identified. It was RESOLVED to spend up to £500 on general repair of footpath posts, signage and gates. Proposed by Cllr Lansley, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour and it was also RESOLVED to spend up to £200 so that downloadable maps of the parish footpaths can be put on the PC website. Proposed by Cllr Lansley, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour.
- b. Dawson Walk update and to discuss possible ways of working with Greenbelt. There are still broken boards in Dawson Walk, which Greenbelt - the company responsible for maintenance of the area - believes are due to vandalism. However, it was noted that recent repairs had been done in a piecemeal fashion, and that the damage could therefore be down to wear and tear. Cllr Lansley, who - amongst other residents - was injured in a fall in Dawson Walk, will ask NSC to for details of the section 106 money given to Greenbelt.

Hb.17.100 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

- a. Report on Heaven Scent Garden. There will be a detailed report on the Heaven Scent Garden at the Highways and Burial Ground Committee meeting on 27th November. The Heaven Scent Garden team is looking to recruit new members.

A member of the public left at 20:26.

- b. Update on consecration of further part of burial ground and work undertaken. The consecration has taken place. At £420 the clearance of the area beforehand cost more than the £300 delegated to the clerk so the approval was sought from the Chairs of Highways and Council before commissioning the work
- c. Correspondence re hedge and tree cutting. The Chair and the Chair of Council are due to visit a resident to discuss erecting a fence between his land and the PC's.

- d. To agree to purchase of plot markers for the newly consecrated area. It was RESOLVED to buy new plot markers, costing around £400, for the newly consecrated part of the Burial Ground. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington. All in favour.
- e. To agree to letters being written to plot owners to remove plants. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to owners of Burial Ground plots, to ask them to remove shrubs planted or placed there, as they interfere with mowing.

Hb.17.101 - Road safety issues

- a. Vehicle Activated signs (VAS) – No new traffic data was available as the sign on Yanley Lane has recently had a flat battery and a replacement Allen key was needed to relocate the VAS – this has now been obtained.
- b. A370/B3130 junction. The PC is concerned about NSC's poor interaction with the PC on this matter. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to NSC to emphasise the PC's disappointment in NSC's failure to follow due process in that it did not consult with the PC before the junction was changed and that subsequent promises to be informed about planned changes following the safety audit have not been met. The PC would like to know what NSC are going to do to make sure this doesn't happen again and also what has been done/is planned as a result of the safety audit.
- c. Speed limit changes. The Chair is in discussion with the Chair of Abbots Leigh PC about new 40mph speed limits down Belmont Hill and Clarken Coombe.
- d. Longwood Lane/Providence Lane/B3128 junction. Cllrs Cave, Scoones and Miss Uppington will explore this matter more fully with Durnford Quarry at the next meeting Liaison group meeting and report back to the committee. The matter will be kept on the agenda.
- e. Hollis Close. A site meeting was held with a NSC Highways engineer who was told that parents of children on the Birdwell School Academy site are keen to have the pavement reinstated at the top of Hollis Close, and that the pavements there are widened. The officer will consider the comments, develop plans and report back. Work will be carried out in the next financial year.
- f. Hollis Close Public meeting. A public meeting about the proposed changes to the junction at the top of Hollis Close will be held on 12th October, facilitated by Cllrs McQuillan, Thomas and Mrs Pullin. Cllr McQuillan will let local residents know about the meeting, and it will be promoted on social media.
- g. Yanley Lane. Congestion in the area is exacerbated by HGVs driving down and trying to turn in Yanley Lane. It was RESOLVED to request that 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs should be erected at the top of Glebe Road, at the top of Yanley Lane, at the junction of Yanley Lane and Bridgwater Road, and where Glebe Road meets Yanley Lane. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Pullin, seconded by Cllr McQuillan.

The meeting was closed at 21:02 to allow a member of the public to speak. The meeting opened again at 21:03.

It was RESOLVED to request that the 30 mph zone be extended to Yanley Farm. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should write to NSC's Highways and Planning departments to query the height of the wall being built along the new development at the junction of Long Ashton and Glebe Roads which, it's believed, will unacceptably reduce visibility at the junction.

Hb.17.102 - Festival Way

Cllr Moorcroft gave the following report: A gate is being manufactured to allow pedestrian and cyclist access on to the cattle bridge. The bridge, however, has not been cleaned by the landowner and is therefore extremely dirty. The Festival Way crossing over Yanley Lane will be reinstated following road resurfacing there, but speed bumps are disappearing because of the new road dressing. Foliage obscuring some of the signs on Festival Way

should be cut back by NSC. The clerk to inform NSC about the need to reinstate the speed bump and clear foliage.

Hb.17.103 - Biodiversity

It was agreed that a native species of willow could be added to the hedgerow on Yanley Lane near Northleaze School. The contractor due to finish the hedging will be reminded about the work.

A member of the public left the meeting at 21:22.

The footpath volunteers asking the PC to produce temporary signs giving information about what to do with Himalayan Balsam, to put up in areas where the plant is prevalent.

Hb.17.104 - Village Enhancement Scheme working group

Cllr Hardingham gave the following report: "It was November 2015 when this council agreed to pay NSC Highways £2,000 to draw up concept designs to enable a full consultation with residents and businesses. Proposals were provided to NSC by April 2016 but even then we anticipated that there would need to be more discussion to clarify and develop options. The working group had agreed then that a careful, incremental approach was needed, as any measures would be controversial with a wide range of opinions on traffic calming. We are not expecting any measures to be right first time. At our last Highways meeting, it was reported that the head of NSC's Highways department had promised that progress would be made between October and Christmas this year. Indeed, Rob Thomson has indicated that work is starting any time now, so he asked for a re-statement of priorities, which we have given him and are outlined below. This project has been stalled for so long that we did not want any further delay. We have always made it clear that the concept designs are to enable a consultation with the public in the knowledge that there may be a range of options and that different parts may have to be done in stages and some may have to wait for substantial funding. We continue to receive complaints from residents about the speed and volume of traffic along the main road, so these issues remain of fundamental importance to village life and must not be put on the back burner. Two other items have been mentioned in the last six months and I suggest that when we carry out the consultation with the public, we include the banner masts and the seating within that consultation so that the village can have a say on those proposals. The priorities given to NSC last week remain very similar to what was reported to this committee 18 months ago:

- Traffic calming in the shopping area by raising the pedestrian crossings, squaring up junctions, identifying this stretch as the village centre and other measures with the potential of a 20mph limit or zone for the future
- Brocks Lane: the lack of a safe crossing of the main road here has been mentioned by Birdwell School as a major concern but it is a challenge to square the conflicting pressures at this point so we wait to see what the highways department suggests
- Consider Lovelinch Gardens becoming one way only
- The layby outside Piccolo's: again a tricky problem to resolve safe pedestrian access, keeping reasonable parking spaces, ensuring the rubbish bin is stored away from the frontage, reviewing the surface outside the vets, but protecting the visibility for the Co-op exit.
- Wild Country Lane: we would like some measures to reduce traffic speed on the road from Gatcombe before the junction.

Once we have some confidence as to when the designs will be available from NSC, then we will work up a consultation programme."

There was some discussion about the problems at Lovelinch Gardens, in view of the residents' survey, and about the practicalities of raised pedestrian crossings. The VES working group was asked to keep the committee informed of its discussions with NSC.

Hb.17.105 - Banners at entrance to village - Discussed above.

Hb.17.106 - Theynes Croft car park

The Clerk has received the counterpart lease from NSC but has not yet received the registration document. The signage will be updated soon. The grass around the car park has been mown by NSC's contractors.

Hb.17.107 - Tree Works

The contractor commissioned to carry out work on the trees in Chancellors Park is applying for the necessary permission from NSC and aims to do the work in November. The Clerk is in discussion with a tree expert about trees in the Burial Ground, and will report back to the committee in due course.

Hb.17.108 - Gullies

The gully survey is still not complete. However, several gullies have been swiftly cleared by NSC after councillors reported them to be blocked.

Hb.17.109 - SBLR and MetroBus

It was noted that NSC is due to pay a proportion of the MetroBus project overspend.

Hb.17.110 - Cycle Forum - There was no report to give.

Hb.17.111 - Leigh Woods - parking issues and yellow line progress

Cllr Harris gave the following report: Since NSC's executive member for highways approved the drawing up and costing of a plan for restricted bays, Leigh Woods residents have been waiting for NSC's Highways department to present its ideas. There has, however, been no recent progress. Meanwhile, the parking situation in Leigh Woods remains the same - with parking on both sides of Bannerleigh Road, for example. Cars are often parked on the pavements, which prevents some people with disabilities, walking aids, or those pushing buggies, from walking along the pavements. Burwalls Road is also often congested with parked cars, and at weekends, North Road is particularly congested by bikers' vehicles. Local residents are getting increasingly frustrated, and many are considering contacting the executive member for an update on the restricted parking scheme. Residents are also discussing a new 30mph limit at the end of North Road leading into Abbots Leigh Road with NSC.

It was noted that the executive member's approval of the restricted parking scheme being drawn up and costed was a major milestone. The Chair sympathised with Leigh Woods residents and asked if the PC could help. Cllr Cave will continue to support the scheme and press for updates from NSC.

Hb.17.112 - Clearance of growth on pavements/walls

NSC has reduced the number of times weed spraying is carried out across the district this year and other parish and town councils have paid for extra spraying. However, NSC cannot give the PC a quote for extra spraying as its contractor has no available capacity. However, a local company, it suggested has quoted £650 for the work. Following discussion about whether the PC should commission this work it was decided that although the weed growth is unsightly, highways are NSC's responsibility and NSC should have to face the effects of its decision to reduce spraying.

Hb.17.113 - Balloon Fiesta

Letters have been received from residents re traffic management and parking. The comments were noted and will be discussed with the Fiesta organisers at the debrief meeting. The Clerk will contact organisers to request a date for the meeting, which Cllrs Cave, Scoones and Miss Uppington are due to attend. Collection of rubbish after the event and distribution of residents' parking permits are both particularly pressing issues.

It was agreed to suspend the PC's standing order, to allow the meeting to proceed past 10pm.

Hb.17.114 - Litter Strategy for England

ALCA's briefing note on the subject will be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting.

Hb.17.115 - Tree Grants

It was suggested that any grant ideas be passed to the Forest of Avon Trust. Cllr Moorcroft will report back to the committee following his meeting with the organisation.

Hb.17.116 - Correspondence

- a. From resident re benches. The Clerk has asked the Village Orderly to clear vegetation from around some of the PC's benches, after a request from a resident.
- b. From resident re fly tipping in Wild Country Lane. The committee noted the resident's letter and has noticed a significant increase in fly-tipping here and in other parts of the Parish. However, it was agreed not to ask NSC to action her suggestion to remove trees from the area to enable the fly-tippers to be more easily seen as it was felt that it wouldn't have the required deterrent effect as much fly tipping happens in plain sight.
- c. From resident asking for an update on the planned PROWs on Peel Park and the Viridor site. The committee noted the resident's letter, and the Clerk will reply.
- d. From resident re the condition of Fenswood Road. The Clerk will write to NSC to ask for Fenswood, Rayens Cross and Chestnut Roads to be added to its list of roads to be resurfaced.
- e. From resident re possibility of burying cremated remains in Peel Park. LACA manage the area and are not in favour of allowing the request and the PC, mindful that the Park is a sports field and as such not suitable for the burial of cremated remains, supports their view so regretfully cannot approve the request.
- f. From resident re Brook Close parking. Although the PC sympathises with residents of Brook Close, who have regular first hand experience of parking infringements by people dropping and picking up children from Northleaze School, it is not able to support a request for restricted parking in the area. The Clerk will reply to the residents to suggest they attend a forthcoming PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting to discuss the matter with the police.
- g. From MetroWest re plans for Portishead Rail Link. It was confirmed that the plan is still to run an hourly or slightly better than hourly service on this line with no closure of the crossing in Ashton Vale. The PC will continue to monitor the project carefully.

Hb.17.117 - Other Items for Information

- a. The Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) Annual General Meeting is at 10am on Saturday 7th October. Cllr Scoones will attend on behalf of the PC.
- b. The Clerk will write to NSC to ask it to cut back vegetation on Clarken Coombe that obscures motorists' views of the road.
- c. The Society of Local Council Clerks, the SLCC, is holding a training day in Bristol on 22nd November. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk are due to attend, along with several councillors.
- d. There were no letters written by the Clerk under delegated authority since the previous meeting.