

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING
7:30pm 27 November 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 one member of the public until 20:47.

Hb.17.118 – Apologies for absence

None.

Hb.17.119 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations.

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

Hb.17.120 - Minutes of the previous meeting

It was agreed that Hb17.103 should be changed to read "The footpath volunteers are *asking the PC* to produce *temporary* signs giving information about what to do with Himalayan Balsam." Following this change the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb.17.121 - Exclusion of the press and public - there were no relevant items.

Hb.17.122 - Matters arising

Hb.17.97b – Permissive Path in Belmont Hill. The Chair is due to meet the landowner to shortly and signage to mark the path is in place.

Hb.17.97c – Visit of Bristol City Council officer to discuss Park and Ride. Despite contacting a Bristol City Council (BCC) officer several times, with the email copied to the mayor's office, there has been no response to the invitation to meet with the PC to discuss Long Ashton Park & Ride. The Chair will phone BCC's Park & Ride team.

Hb.17.97d – Repair of footpath gate. North Somerset Council (NSC) is due to repair the footpath gate by the new South Bristol Link Road (SBLR) soon.

Hb.17.97f – Memorial Bench update. The family are happy with the proposed location in the burial ground and the matter is progressing.

Hb.17.97g – Road closure notices. NSC have confirmed that it is not possible yet to routinely provide the PC with maps for each of its road closures, although it hopes to be able to do this in the future.

Hb.17.116 – NSC response re road resurfacing. NSC has informed the PC that Fenswood Road is due to be resurfaced in 2018/19 and Rayens Cross and Chestnut Roads in

2020/21. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to NSC to ask how it prioritises its road resurfacing work, and councillors will ask residents who complain about the state of the roads to report it to NSC online.

Hb.17.123 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management

a. Update on flooding issues and to agree any action if required.

There has been no recent flooding in this area, although it was noted that rainfall has not been unduly high. Owners of land by Ashton Brook have cut back growth next to the watercourse, although NSC has yet to do so. Cllrs Cave and Moorcroft are awaiting updates from NSC about various matters, including the opening of the rapid transit, the bridge over Colliters Way, the departure of contractors from the Park and Ride and flooding of the SBLR underbridge.

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

NSC's reply to the PC's Freedom of Information request about flooding has highlighted some technical issues, including how planning for the original flood management system was implemented. It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange a meeting between NSC representatives and councillors to discuss these matters.

c. Response to request to update inundation map. NSC will update the Clerk when it has a response from the design consultant on this matter.

Hb.17.124 - Footpaths

a. To receive working group report and discuss any proposals.

Cllr Lansley has been asked NSC to provide A0 sized copies of maps showing the village footpaths and is discussing the provision of online footpath maps with NSC, and will also discuss other possible options with the Clerk. She is also organising woodchip to be deposited on part of the village circular walk after residents complained about a particularly muddy area.

b. Dawson Walk update and to discuss possible ways of working with Greenbelt.

Greenbelt, the organisation responsible for maintaining Dawson Walk, has replied to the PC's letter asking for discussion about how Dawson Walk is being looked after. It claims that the area has been damaged by vandalism and one of the options they suggested was possibly transferring the land to the PC. The PC does not believe that the deterioration of the area is solely down to vandalism. There are concerns about taking on Dawson Walk as it would be very expensive to maintain and in its current state has significant liabilities. It was agreed that the PC will not consider taking responsibility for the Flood Attenuation System (FAS) or for the green spaces on Theynes Croft, but that the Clerk should reply to Greenbelt to ask about the extent of the land it was considering transferring and how much it would offer as a maintenance payment.

c. Parsonage Road footpath. The PC has applied for a footpath between Parsonage Road and Festival Way to be designated a Public Right of Way and NSC has agreed to consider this application out of sequence. A resident, who has been in discussion with the landowner about it becoming a permissive path, attended October's Highways meeting to inform Cllrs about the issue but left before his letter could be considered, has asked the PC to request that NSC responds to the landowners offer. Cllrs noted that were the route made a permissive path, the landowner could then close it, or deny access to it for any period of time. It was agreed to approach NSC for advice.

Hb.17.125 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

a. Report on Heaven Scent Garden. "On the morning of Sunday 29th Oct, a group of eight volunteers gave the meadow the last cut of the year. We were heartened to see groups of plants still in full flower and in other areas, a whole variety of seed heads that we collected before we started work. We strimmed and mowed for two hours until the grass was short enough to leave for winter. We had been offered the use of a 'sit on' mower, but as it was quite large (and heavy) we had no means of transporting it to the site. We did have the use of a large van, but no ramp strong enough to take the weight of the machine – so near, yet

so far! The autumn raspberry canes in the 'soft fruit area' were still in berry. The group picked some, before Ian started to prune them back. We all agreed the crop had been magnificent since mid-Summer.

So once again, the 'bee meadow' has been put to bed and the project has completed its sixth year. We feel that we would like to encourage more people to join us. It doesn't need a huge commitment of time or energy, but we all feel we have learnt a lot from the experience. During the winter, we are joining other LA growing groups to promote the many projects underway in our village now. Our first display, showcasing The Heaven Scent Garden, Long Ashton Growers (LAGS), The Grow-it-Group (GIG), The Community Garden, The Community Orchard and the Community Cafe Garden, will be at the LA Cinema screening of 'Seed' on Sat 18th Nov. Di White will give a short talk before the film to encourage new volunteers. We also intend to do a similar event at the Feb. Village Market. We thank you once again, as it is with the help and support of the Parish Council, that so many of these exciting projects have been able to 'sprout wings'."

b. Correspondence re hedge and tree cutting. A resident has written to Liam Fox MP to complain about the effect of a PC tree and hedge on his garden. The Chair and the Chair of Council will visit the resident to discuss his concerns.

Hb.17.126 - Road safety issues

a. Vehicle Activated signs. Data from the PC's Vehicle Activated Sign near Wild Country Lane at the western end of the village reveal a large number of vehicles, 100 over 40 days, entering the village at over 60mph. Data from the sign on Yanley Lane indicate that the SBLR and Hartcliffe Way openings and closures have had no long-lasting impact on traffic flows along Yanley Lane. Cllr Semple will help Cllr Sterland to move the camera from Yanley Lane to a post on the main road, to explore the traffic flows closer to the centre of the village.

b. A370/B3130 junction. The Chair is discussing the problems with the new junction with NSC, and investigating how it could be made safer. NSC had provided plans showing the revised road lining. The PC still believes the junction is unsafe.

c. Safety of Weston Road at Gatcombe Farm turn off. There have been two serious accidents in this area in two months. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to NSC to ask it to consider installing new signs to warn road users of the junction. It was noted that since the opening of the SBLR, more motorists are driving through the village - especially when the SBLR is congested, making the main road potentially more dangerous.

The meeting was closed at 20:25 to allow a member of the public to speak, and opened again at 20:26.

d. Speed limit changes. Cllrs Hardingham and Mrs Mackwood are awaiting a response from the Chair of Abbots Leigh PC about collaboration on speed restrictions on Clevedon Road. Wraxall & Failand PC is also working on the issue.

e. Longwood Lane/Providence Lane/B3128 junction – Report from Quarry Liaison meeting. The quarry is planning to widen Longwood Lane at the Clevedon Road junction, and put in street lighting, to allow easier access for quarry lorries. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask NSC for an analysis of the cause of accidents at this junction, as it is not clear whether the proposed changes will improve road safety. It was also agreed that the Clerk will ask NSC to consult the PC before it makes any decisions about the future of the junction and noting that the PC remains opposed to a permanent closure of Longwood Lane.

f. Hollis Close. NSC's Highways department would prefer to retain the motor vehicle prohibition order on Hollis Close. However, residents would like zig zag lines, pavements and a 'Keep Clear - School' sign to be reinstated at the top of the road which would require removing the traffic order. Cllr Cave and residents are in discussion with NSC, who seem to be moving towards the residents view. Any work will not be done until next financial year.

It was noted that NSC need to put its plans in writing as part of the consultation with residents.

g. Yanley Lane. NSC does not believe there are enough entrances on Yanley Lane to meet the criteria for a 30mph speed limit and stated that as the road already has signs indicating a width restriction of 6'6", additional 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs are unnecessary. The Clerk will arrange a site meeting between councillors, residents and NSC representatives.

h. Yellow Lines. NSC has given the Clerk a map of the yellow lines in the Parish. Cllrs Scoones and Semple will compare this with the lines painted and report discrepancies.

The member of the public left at 20:47.

i. Yanley Mews. NSC has told the PC that the sight lines at the junction of Glebe Road and Long Ashton Road comply with legal requirements, and that because the junction has not been changed by the recent development work there's no need for a safety audit. The PC believes that the junction has been made more dangerous by the development work, that the height of the wall has reduced sight lines for motorists exiting Glebe Road and that the junction is not a 'normal junction' which the sightlines have been judged against, because the parking and bus stop adjacent to it forces traffic coming from the west into the middle of the road. The pavement, to be laid within the area of the new development, present in the original plans would have improved visibility and access; however, it transpired that the pavement could not be laid without reducing the width of the highway. The PC notified NSC of the problems in the area at the time, but without result. It will write to NSC's CEO to outline the procedural failings in this and other matters, and to ask what can be done to remedy the situation.

Hb.17.127 - Festival Way

A footpath gate on Festival Way next to the new SBLR is due to be repaired by NSC by the end of November.

Hb.17.128 - Biodiversity

a. To discuss planting for biodiversity next to the hedge on Yanley Lane near Northleaze School. Native willow plants will be planted in the hedge in March 2018.

b. To receive any further relevant items for information. A planting scheme for the western village gateway will be considered as part of the Village Enhancement Scheme (VES).

Hb.17.129 - Village Enhancement Scheme (VES) working group

Cllr Semple was appointed to the VES working group. The group is due to receive concept designs from NSC, from a brief submitted in April 2016, by Christmas.

Hb.17.130 - Theynes Croft car park

A draft sign for the Theynes Croft car park is with NSC for comment. The car park is covered by the PC's insurance policy for public liability and it was agreed not to insure the car park itself for damage.

Hb.17.131 - Tree Works

An arboriculturalist commissioned by the PC to conduct a survey of its trees in the Burial Ground in 2016 has revisited one of the cherry trees, which showed some signs of decay and has concluded that it poses an acceptable risk and does not need felling. The clerk will get quotes for the tree works required in the churchyard/burial ground. It was noted that a cherry tree by the entrance to the church is lifting the footpath and will be looked at.

Hb.17.132 - Gullies

Several councillors have not yet completed their reviews of the Parish's gullies. The Clerk will send the information received to date to NSC.

Hb.17.133 - SBLR and MetroBus

It was noted that the new MetroBus service represents an opportunity for integration between bus services - and that it would be useful for local buses to use the AVTM terminus to allow the area to provide a hub allowing local people to move easily from buses to the MetroBus and vice versa.

Hb.17.134 - Cycle Forum - the minutes of the last cycle forum have been circulated.

Hb.17.135 - Leigh Woods

Cllr Harris gave the following report: NSC has rescheduled a meeting about Leigh Woods Society's proposal for restricted bays and car parking to 11th December at 2pm. The parking situation in Leigh Woods is unchanged - the area is still extremely busy, with Bannerleigh Road particularly congested recently. Pedestrians are regularly unable to use the pavements because of parked cars.

Hb.17.136 - To identify and agree items to be passed to F&GP to be included in the 2018/19 budget

Cllr Lansley will explore what budget provision is needed for the footpath group. It was RESOLVED to ask Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) to consider the following provisions:

- £500 to replace a gate in the churchyard (footpath budget);
- £1,500 for two weed sprays. Proposed by Cllr Cave, seconded by Cllr Scoones. Motion carried.
- significant sum for the VES project. £3,000 for a traffic calming scheme for Yanley Lane. It was noted that the PC could match fund a scheme with NSC. Proposed by Cllr Cave, seconded by Cllr Moorcroft. Motion carried.

Hb.17.137 - Review of burial fees.

It was RESOLVED that no changes will be made to burial fees. Proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington, seconded by Cllr Sterland. Motion carried with two abstentions.

Hb.17.138 - Balloon Fiesta to discuss response from organisers re debrief meeting.

It was agreed that the main items that need discussing at the debrief meeting are residents parking permits, parking, the unplanned closure of the A370 and the amount of rubbish deposited in the Parish.

Hb.17.139 - Litter Strategy for England

The PC will suggest to NSC that the waste contract is amended so that the recycling collectors' key performance indicators provide an incentive to clear up material which has been blown or dropped from recycling bins. It was noted that staffing issues have affected recent rubbish collections.

Hb.17.140 - Tree Planting

It was RESOLVED that the PC will ask permission from NSC to allow the PC to plant trees on the exchange land by the Long Ashton Park & Ride. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour. The Clerk will write to the Guides and Scouts to ask if they would be interested in carrying out a tree mapping survey on behalf of the PC.

Hb.17.141 - Correspondence

- a. From resident re PC reply to letter re Fenswood Road. The Clerk will write to NSC to ask it to bring forward its planned resurfacing of Fenswood, Chestnut and Rayens Cross Roads.
- b. From resident re speed limit information along Long Ashton/Weston Roads. The PC will not ask NSC to consider repeater speed limit signs along the main road, as they believe

signs to be illegal and roundels unnecessary, given road users' knowledge of the Highway Code. The Clerk will reply to the resident's letter.

c. From Resident re H bar on Keedwell Hill near Drs car park and dog mess on lane. It was agreed that the PC would support a resident's application if one was made to NSC for an H bar to be painted on Keedwell Hill where the lane behind the surgery exits onto Keedwell Hill.

d. From resident re difficulty using a mobility scooter in Birdwell Road. The residents email has been passed to the Co-op.

e. From resident re lines on Yanley Lane, position of the VAS and weeds on roadside. Cllr Moorcroft will update the resident on the PC's response to these issues. Cllr Sterland will investigate whether the VAS can be moved close to the top of Glebe Road and NSC will be informed that the lines on Yanley Lane are wearing away. It was noted that weeds growing at the edge of pavements and roadsides can cause holes in tarmac which can then break up the tarmac after frost.

f. From PCAA re comments for Joint Transport Study. Noted. The Joint Transport Study will not be available for comments until early 2018.

g. From resident re paths across the Viridor site and Peel Park. The Clerk will write to NSC to ask for an update about the paths across the Viridor site. It was confirmed that the PC would prefer the path through Peel Park to be a permissive path rather than a public right of way as it will give the option of temporarily closing the path if spraying or other operations being carried out within the park make it necessary. The Clerk will update the resident.

h. From NSC re Nitrous Oxide Level testing. NSC will consider the sites suggested by the PC when reviewing their testing regime.

Hb.17.142 - Other Items for Information

There were no other items to discuss, and no letters written by the Clerk under delegated authority.

Hb.17.143 - Village Orderly and Gardener pay

It was RESOLVED to increase the pay rate for the village orderlies and gardener from £8.45 to £8.75 per hour (3.5%), from April 2018. Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Hardingham. All in favour.

Date of next meeting – 29th January 2018

Meeting closed at: 21:57