

# LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING

19:32, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:- Mr D Johnson (Chairman)  
Ms L Anderson  
Ms S Barnes  
Mr A Cartman  
Mr C Cave  
Ms C Fagg  
Mr M Harris  
Mr A Johnson  
Ms L Lansley  
Mr O Lloyd-Jones  
Ms R McAllister Kemp (from 19:49)  
Mr S McQuillan  
Mr T Weir

Absent:-  
Ms S Hardingham  
Mr P Jackson  
Mr M Semple  
Mr A Wilkinson

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr Janet Turp and Mrs Tracy Warren, Assistant Clerk (minutes) and 4 members of the public.

During public participation, a resident addressed the council about public involvement in Council meetings and Ruth McAllister-Kemp, a prospective Cllr, introduced herself.

The Chairman thanked the resident for his comments and confirmed the PC is supportive of engagement with the public.

### C19.150 - Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hardingham, Jackson, Semple and Wilkinson.

### C19.151 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

### C19.152 - Exclusion of the press and public

There were no matters necessitating the exclusion of the press and public.

### C19.153 - Chairman's remarks; none

### C19.154 - Parish Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, having been circulated and following the amendment to correct Cllr Lloyd-Jones's surname and to remove Cllr Jackson from the list of those present at the meeting, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Cave and seconded by Cllr McQuillan. All in favour.

### C19.155 - Matters arising for information.

- a) C19.129g Bank mandates – ongoing
- b) C19.145f – Amazon business account; account has been opened and in use.
- c) Being a Good Councillor training – Most Cllrs found the training worthwhile but would have liked more time to ask questions within the session.

### C19.156 - Vacancies

It was RESOLVED that Ruth McAllister Kemp be co-opted as a Cllr onto the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Barnes. All in favour.

19:46 - The meeting was suspended to allow Cllr McAllister Kemp to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

19:49 - Cllr McAllister Kemp joined the meeting.

The chairman welcomed her. It was agreed that, as Cllr McAllister Kemp had not received papers for, nor been summoned to, the meeting, she could take part in discussion but not vote.

#### C19.157 - Planning Committee reports

The reports of the Planning Committee of the meetings held on 17th June, 22nd July and 19th August, the latter subject to amendment by the committee, were adopted. Proposed by Cllr Lloyd-Jones and seconded by Cllr Anderson. All in favour.

#### C19.158 - Highways and Burial Ground Committee report

The report of the Highways & Burial Ground Committee of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> August, subject to amendment by the committee, was adopted. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Barnes. All in favour.

#### C19.159 - Finance and General Purposes Committee report

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August was adopted subject to amendment by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr A. Johnson. All in favour.

#### C19.160 - Declaring a Climate Emergency

Cllr McQuillan introduced the issues around the climate emergency and why he considered it important to act, he highlighted that there is active discussion in the community and the PC's opportunity to collaborate with other councils to work towards common goals and to be carbon neutral by 2030.

19:55 – The meeting was suspended to allow a member of public to speak.

A member of the public joined the meeting.

19:56 – The meeting was reconvened.

During discussion of the climate change issues it was noted that advice may be needed to identify sustainable 'green' actions to be taken by the PC and to raise greater awareness and the need for community engagement.

20:06 - Meeting suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

20:07 - Meeting reconvened

It was RESOLVED that:

"This council recognises the climate emergency that exists, and pledges to do whatever is in its power to make the civil parish of Long Ashton carbon neutral by 2030. To facilitate this, we will:

- Initiate and support a forum where Councillors and stakeholders can agree changes to the Council and community that help us to meet this goal.
- Place the "Climate Emergency" on the agenda of future council meetings, so that we can regularly consider all recommendations from the forum and review our progress.
- Actively support NSC's climate change strategy and work with neighbouring Parish Councils and government departments where appropriate.

Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Cartman. All in favour.

#### C19.161 – Response to the resident's comments on improving public involvement in council meetings

20:25 - The meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

20:27 - The meeting reconvened.

The importance of engagement between the PC and the community was recognised and following discussion about how public participation could in meetings could be facilitated it was agreed that Cllrs Anderson, Hardingham, Jackson and D Johnson and the clerk will look at how the Standing Orders could be amended to allow more public participation and their ideas circulated to Cllrs for discussion at the next Council meeting.

#### C19.162 - LULA presentation

Cllr Weir gave the following report on behalf of LULA and passed on their apologies: "Essentially, this will be the same format as last year with trees to be erected on shop fronts. Lights will be on trees at Keedwell Church, the Co-op and at the entrance to the village. The switch on date is proposed for Saturday 30th November 2019. I am co-ordinating with the organisers of the Christmas Fair which is on the same date. I have been approached by both LACA and the Village Market about a large tree in the LACA car park; the Market is willing to fund a tree. As the event is getting a little bit bigger each year, we have been considering moving the switch-on event to the Community Centre. I would like to get more trees in the village wrapped along the main route throughout the village, but I'm hoping to appeal to homeowners to fund their own trees. A linked 24 day window advent is currently in the thinking stages.

Shop trees are to be funded by shops but this will be invoiced in November for payment up front.

Expected expenses:

- New lights for Lovelinch shops as they were destroyed in the winds last year.
- One large tree outside Lovelinch shops if shops are happy to have it there again this year.
- Large tree in Community centre car park, funded by LA Market.
- Lights for additional tree.

I am looking for estimates to have power fitted to the triangle in the car park of the community centre."

Cllrs supported the ideas put forward by LULA and hoped environmental measures such as planting a tree and using low energy bulbs would be taken into account. They support moving the switch on event to the LACA car park on safety grounds. LULA will be asked to submit costs to be considered by the F&GP meeting in October.

#### C19.163 - Council Workshop

The report from the workshop (circulated) was presented. Whilst the workshop was considered useful in determining objectives, it was agreed that further work was required to identify an overall strategy and vision for the PC, to work out how to take forward the objectives identified and to make sure Leigh Woods is included. It was agreed to hold a three hour evening workshop before the end of 2019.

#### C19.164 - Children's Centre

- a) Report from Children's Centre Partnership Group meeting. Cllr Fagg gave a short report noting that it was suggested that the services provided by the Children's Centre had a low uptake which was contested. There is to be a new service provided by the Children's Centre team at the new Toddler group in Church House, but it was unclear whether it will just provide signposting to other services or whether there would be professional input. These services will continue to be monitored.
- b) To appoint representative to the Children's Centre Partnership Group – It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Anderson to the group. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Fagg. Motion carried.

21:02 - Meeting adjourned to allow a member of public to speak on services available in Long Ashton for new mothers.

21:07 - Meeting reconvened.

c) To discuss provision for young children and to agree any actions.

It was agreed that unmet needs should be raised with NSC. It was agreed that Cllr Anderson should visit the new service to be provided at Church House to see what professional input is to be provided and to also feed this back to the PPG (patient participation group).

#### C19.165 - Bristol City Council Consultation on Cumberland Basin

Cllrs noted information available is not satisfactory as it only provides road layouts with no context of other issues such as housing provision. It was agreed that a formal response to the consultation will be made stating that this is an important matter to the residents of Long Ashton as it affects the roads they (and most residents of North Somerset) use to enter the city, that the present consultation process is inadequate, that the PC and residents of Long Ashton and Leigh Woods should be formally consulted in a meaningful way and this needs to be taken into account in any future consultation.

#### C19.166 - Council Issues

a) The dates of meetings for 2020 were agreed.

b) External auditors report – not yet available.

c) Clevedon TC have written to suggest the formation of an association of town and parish councils within NS, with the purpose of agreeing mutual areas of interest and co-operation on service and support provision within the area and inviting the PC to send representatives to an exploratory meeting. It was agreed that Cllrs Barnes and D Johnson and the Clerk should attend.

d) NSC have arranged a Town and Parish Council summit meeting to demonstrate the new administration's intent to work with towns and parishes to make life better for residents and discuss broad issues. It was agreed that Cllrs Anderson and Lloyd-Jones would attend and that a summary of the Clevedon TC meeting would be provided to them.

e) Committees - to agree status of non-members at committee meetings; this item was deferred to the next Council meeting.

f) Quotes for installation of bench and seat – As the original contractor can no longer fix these a new quote has been obtained. It was RESOLVED to accept the new quote at £150 to fit the seat in the bus shelter and £350 to fit the new bench and remove the old one at the Kings Croft play area. Proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Anderson. All in favour.

g) PC stands at Apple Day the November Village Market;

Cllrs Anderson, Barnes, Lansley and Weir agreed to attend Apple Day. A stand has been booked at the December market as none were available in November.

It was agreed that the report from LACA would be taken after the Library Working Group report.

#### 19.167 - VES working group

The VES working group report (provided by Cllr Hardingham) having previously been circulated was reviewed. It was noted that works by the zebra crossing near Theynes Croft, in Lovelinch Gardens and on Weston Road near Wild Country Lane were now included and that further work needed to be done to ascertain what drainage may be required by a raised crossing near the Co-op Following discussion it was RESOLVED to:

1. Instruct NSC to proceed with the village centre works and the three extra items at a cost to the PC of £28,115 approx. subject to minor modifications agreed with the VES working group, up to an additional cost of £500.

2. The working group to continue discussions regarding the Piccolo's forecourt and the raised crossing outside the Co-op, and report back to the Highways Committee, the cost still to be agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Cave and seconded by Cllr McQuillan. All in favour.

#### C19.168 - Library working group

The LWG report had been previously circulated and was summarised by Cllr Fagg. The minimum space requirement for the community library would be 45 sq. metres which allows for 1000 books, two PCs and a desk for volunteers and co-ordinators. Books would be placed primarily around the edges of the room to allow for seating and activities. The budget allocation of £37,000 is insufficient to provide the 73sq. meters space required if the library was to include storage space for LACA and offices. In order to reduce costs the library could be built facing the community centre allowing the centre's toilet and other facilities to be used so they do not need to be included in the building. This would also support liaison with the mobile library. As it is unlikely that a permanent building will be built for 10 years or so options have been considered for the purchase of units that will have a longer life and a potential resale value. It was noted that:

- The aesthetics, high maintenance and poor layout of a porta-cabin prevented group activities
- A modular unit allows for a more robust building with less maintenance costs and less groundwork support
- A shipping container offers a low maintenance, robust building with a resale value at potentially 5-10% of purchase price.

Thanks were given to resident Alan Knight, Surveyor, for his work on the report.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the Library Working Group to:

- Proceed with planning permission based on a refurbished modular building / refurbished shipping containers, for a basic library building without a toilet or kitchen unless already installed.
- Work closely with suppliers to agree a specification that minimises overall costs and maximises the facilities benefits for users
- Develop the management and governance model for the community library.

Proposed by Cllr Fagg and seconded by Cllr Cartman. All in favour.

#### C19.169 – Close of meeting

As it had reached 10:00 pm it was agreed to close the meeting and that the chairman, in consultation with the clerk, would decide on a way to deal with the unconsidered agenda items.

Meeting Closed at 22:01.

Date of next meeting - Monday 25th November 2019