

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

19:30, 25th November 2019, Jubilee Pavilion

Present: - Mr D Johnson (Chairman)
Ms L Anderson
Ms S Barnes
Mr A Cartman (from 19:36)
Mr C Cave
Ms C Fagg
Ms S Hardingham
Ms L Lansley
Mr P Jackson
Ms R McAllister Kemp
Mr S McQuillan
Mr M Semple
Mr T Weir (from 19:36)

Absent: -
Mr A Johnson
Mr M Harris
Mr O Lloyd-Johnson
Mr A Wilkinson

During public participation, a resident spoke to talk about how the Parish Council works for him and Ms C Sellars, a prospective Councillor introduced herself.

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr Janet Turp and Mrs Tracy Warren, Assistant Clerk (minutes), Mike Riggall, Parish Liaison Officer, NSC (from 20:36) and 1 member of the public.

19:48 – The formal meeting commenced.

C19.177 – Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Harris, Lloyd-Johnson and Wilkinson.

C19.178 – Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

C19.179 – Exclusion of the press and public

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

C19.180 – Chairman’s remarks – none.

C19.181 – Parish Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September following a minor amendment to correct a street name from ‘Long Ashton Road’ to ‘Weston Road’ and the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October, both having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. All in favour.

C19.181 – Matters arising for information.

- a) C19.129g - Bank mandates – The Nationwide mandate has been updated and the other bank mandates are in the process of being so.
- b) C19.165 - Bristol City Council Consultation on Cumberland Basin; it was noted that residents will be significantly affected by works; NS Cllrs agreed to take this matter forward.

C19.182 – Vacancies

It was RESOLVED that Ms Cait Sellars be co-opted as a Cllr onto the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Anderson. All in favour.

20:00 - The meeting was suspended to allow Cllr Sellars to sign the Acceptance of Office.
20:01 - Cllr Sellars joined the meeting and the meeting restarted.

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

C19.183 – Planning Committee reports

The reports of the Planning Committee of the meetings held on 16th September and 14th October were adopted. Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.

C19.184 – Highways and Burial Ground Committee reports

The reports of the Highways & Burial Ground Committee of the meeting held on 7th October subject to amendment by the committee, was adopted. Proposed by Cllr Semple and seconded by Cllr Anderson. All in favour.

C19.185 – Finance and General Purposes Committee report

It was noted that the meeting on 21st October agreed to discontinue the Community Grant, as very few members of the public attended the decision meeting and to include the £1500 in the small grants budget. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the meeting held on 21st October was adopted subject to amendment by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.

C19.186 – Declaring a Climate Emergency

- a) It was RESOLVED to amend the Council's climate emergency declaration to state "This council recognises the climate and ecological emergency that exists..." Proposed by Cllr Lansley and seconded by Cllr Fagg. Motion carried with one abstention.
- b) LA CAN meeting. The first 'LA CAN' meeting held on 13th November was noted to be positive with a good attendance. The next meeting is on Wednesday 27th November; Cllr Lansley agreed to attend on behalf of the PC and report back at the next meeting. A meeting with LA CAN and PC representatives has yet to take place.

C19.187 – Council for the 2020s

- a) Workshop – notes have been previously circulated.
- b) Vision statement and council plan - Cllr D. Johnson has started drafting the documents and will circulate them to Cllrs for their comments. They will also be available on the LAPC website for public comment.
- c) Review of Action Plan - The Action Plan for 2019/2020, previously discussed in April was reviewed. It was agreed that the proposed actions are still relevant and no changes were made. The Chairman thanked Cllr Hardingham and the Clerk for their work on the report.
- d) North Somerset Parish and Town Councils group - The Clerk and Cllrs Barnes and D. Johnson attended the previous meeting for which minutes are awaited. It was agreed that the Clerk send apologies on behalf of the PC for the next meeting on 3rd December.
- e) North Somerset Council summit meeting report - Cllr Anderson's report had been circulated. It was noted the meeting had good facilitation by NS Cllrs with topics including focus groups, efficiencies of working, community engagement, commitment to sustainability and climate change. NS Cllrs agreed to take to NSC the request from Cllrs that dialogue on youth groups and wider networks should be shared.

20:36 – Mike Riggall, Parish Liaison Officer, NSC entered the room

C19.188 – Council Issues

- a) It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr McAllister Kemp to all Parish Council committees and to the newsletter editorial group. Proposed by Cllr Jackson and seconded by Cllr Semple. All in favour.
- b) Annual Parish Meeting – It was agreed that the Community Engagement working group will look at improving public engagement with this meeting and report back to the committee.
- c) Logo and display material – the logos agreed by the working group appointed by F&GP were presented and will be used on the banners and other material at the village market in December.
- d) Broadband contract renewal – this needs to be done before March 2020.
- e) Standing Orders working group paper. The paper had been circulated explaining that changes should be introduced by way of a trial. The main changes it proposes are to increase the public participation time before meetings to 30 minutes with guidance as to how this will be managed, that reports to council or committees by Cllrs should be provided in writing by the Wednesday before a meeting and that there will be the aim to put these (not including correspondence or other sensitive items) on the website before a meeting. The aim will be for meetings to finish by 9.45 pm. Standing orders 3e and 3f will require amendment.

It was RESOLVED that Standing Orders 3e and 3f be amended to read :

3e Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting only during the time designated for public participation. In exceptional circumstances, the chair may permit further public participation.

3f The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) above shall not exceed 30 minutes

and the public participation guidelines be adopted with effect from 1st January 2020 on a trial basis.

Proposed by Cllr Hardingham and seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.

It was agreed that the working group should meet with Cllr McQuillan to review the role of NS Cllrs within PC meetings and to report back to Council before the review of Standing Orders in April.

- f) Review of number of Councillors on F&GP – It was agreed that the minimum number of Cllrs should remain at seven. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the other committees are automatically appointed onto F&GP committee.
- g) External Auditors report – the auditors had no comments on the PC annual return.

C19.189 – Budget 2019/20

It was agreed to request that F&GP consider the previously identified council projects (the project working groups should provide figures to the clerk) to be included in the budget. It was noted that NSC have identified some of their CIL money for small projects which local councils can apply for. It was agreed that this item be added to the F&GP agenda for further discussion.

C19.190 – Community Engagement working group

It was agreed to appoint Cllrs Jackson, D. Johnson, McAllister Kemp, Sellars and Semple, to the group. A meeting date will be agreed. The Chairman asked for volunteers to join him at the PC stall at the December village market.

C19.191 – Working Groups

- a) VES working group – report will be made to the Highways & Burial Ground Committee.
- b) Library working group - a written report had been circulated. Cllr McQuillan highlighted that the group is considering 2 x 20 metre containers rather 3 x 10 metre containers as they may be cheaper but that this needs to be reviewed to see if it could work and will be addressed the next group meeting. An offer of help with the planning application has been received from a resident. Cllrs Cartman and McQuillan are investigating utilising some CIL funding to help fund the capital cost of the community library. A resident has offered to review the running costs. A copy of the terms of reference from Congresbury community library has been obtained. These will be reviewed and used as a basis for our terms of reference. We have a list of around 100 volunteers, with more still coming forward. We will be writing to them shortly to confirm the number of hours they wish to volunteer so we can begin to develop a draft rota. The library working group has been involved in discussions regarding future employment of staff by the PC and these discussions are ongoing.
It was noted that LACA feel there has been insufficient communication with them. However, a LACA Trustee attends each meeting and LACA will be consulted once an application is ready to be made.
- c) Skate Park working group - the working group met with LACA to update them on the working group activities and to discuss the Peel Park site. Discussions on the site included maintenance vehicle access and location of the park drainage pipes. It was noted that that the junior football club were looking at options to extend one of its two football pitches so that it can be used for seven-a-side. The junior football club has been asked to sketch out its thoughts to support a discussion on how both sets of needs might be satisfied. It was noted that Timo Kindred has replaced Chris Fairclough as the LACA representative on the skatepark working group. A meeting is being arranged with Clevedon Town Council to discuss their experiences in developing a skatepark.
- d) Superfast broadband working group – NSC Cllrs attended a presentation to Failand and Wraxall PC by TrueSpeed. Cllr McQuillan will investigate this option further.
- e) LULA working group - Cllr Weir gave the following report on behalf of LULA and passed on their apologies: “£1,000 has been spent approximately so far with an expected revenue from businesses of £400. Some money may need to be held in reserve for electrical expenditure next year. Two large trees are in place this year with the light switch on event to be held on Saturday 30th November. Volunteers are requested to assist with the placing of trees on Saturday 30th November”

C19.192 – Gardeners Walk Play Area

- a) It was RESOLVED to agree that on this occasion, as Wellers Hedleys were significantly cheaper than other solicitors for the work on the Theynes Croft car park lease, that the financial regulation requirement that three quotations be obtained could be suspended and that Wellers Hedleys solicitors be appointed to advise on the lease at a cost of £700. Proposed by Cllr Cave and seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.
- b) In line with the insurance for other play areas it was agreed to insure this play area for public liability and not to include insurance for damage.

C19.193 – Correspondence

- a) From NSC Community Emergency Shelter’ Scheme; it was agreed to write to Churches, LACA and Girlguiding to let them know about the scheme and to advise that the PC would support them if they needed to open their facilities.
- b) From mental health crises and recovery centre – noted.
- c) From Tyntesfield PPG Chairman re baby/parent provision – this will be discussed under Children’s Centre.
- d) WERN (West of England Rural Network); it was agreed to accept the invitation to join the network.

- e) From Volksfest offering to meet with the council to discuss the 2020 event; it was agreed that unless there are significant changes to this year's event there was no need for a representative to attend a PC meeting and the Clerk will reply to that effect
- f) Kings Croft bushes; a resident complaint on lack of maintenance (not the PC's responsibility at present) was noted. The Chairman agreed to take this matter forward with the Clerk and respond to the resident.
- g) From Prolific with quote for display screen – it was agreed this matter be discussed at the next F&GP meeting.
- h) From Ashton Gate re concert on the 9th June. It was agreed this matter should be discussed at the Highways Committee meeting but there should be a plan for the dispersal of crowds at the end of the event.

C19.194 – Children's Centre - Report re Stay and Play

Cllr Anderson reported that activities are structured with three early years workers who can refer issues and monthly visits are made by nursery nurses who offer a baby weigh-in service. This service is welcome and should be continued. It was noted that the main attendance was from parents/carers with toddlers rather than babies. It was agreed that Cllr Anderson should continue to follow this up and she will visit a Children's Centre to find out what provision is provided so she can be clear what is not provided in Long Ashton. The Chairman of the PPG (patient participation group) had written to the clerk asking about the shortfall in provision and the Clerk will respond to advise that Cllr Anderson will update them at their next meeting.

C19.195 – Long Ashton Community Association

Cllr Cave gave the following report on behalf of LACA:

"Meetings between the Community Association and the PC have recently taken place and it is hoped that there is now a better understanding of the role of LACA. Our projections of the finances to 2026 have been made available so that I believe now there is a full understanding of the financial challenge ahead. Whilst we are now able to cover, in the main, our operational costs from income rather than grants, we project that necessary expenditure on capital items to maintain the facility will in the year 2022/2023 be in deficit. Whilst external grant applications may mitigate that deficit, it is not a situation that can be ignored.

The Trustees were grateful that a meeting eventually took place on the 15th of October to appraise them of the plans for a Skate Park. The Trustees felt that a much earlier consultation should have taken place. The main issue discussed was not the desirability of a skate park, which is accepted, but a suitable site. Resurfacing of our tennis courts will need to be undertaken in a couple of years' time. Currently, in order to extend the life of the current surface, the lines have been repainted rather than cleaning and repainting the courts as a whole. Reserved funds have been set aside for resurfacing, but they would not currently meet the cost. This illustrates the need to set aside reserves to meet future capital costs.

The 60th anniversary_event took place in July with excellent attendance. We discovered on the Saturday just how many bouncy castle type attractions our electrical system could sustain. Generators will be needed in future.

The main users of the club room are the cafe and the Youth Club, and unfortunately, each operation is not complimentary to the other. For instance, the café has on three days per week, to put away everything appertaining to the café and set up the following day. This is no-one's fault, but it costs in the region of £2,000 in wages. We are endeavouring to find a mutually acceptable solution that might suit both the café and Youth Club operations.

The Highway minutes for the meeting on the 5th of August suggest that there are trees still to be planted in Peel Park. LACA is unaware of this so can it please be informed of any such intention. The availability for planting further trees here is now very limited. Trees have been planted in the past without seeking permission or obtaining guidance with some positioned in entirely inappropriate places.”

It was RESOLVED to agree the appointment of Heather Moorcroft as a LACA Trustee. Proposed by Cllr Cave and seconded by Cllr Jackson. Motion carried with one abstention.

C19.196 – Parochial Charities

The Clerk has written to the charity to clarify the nature of Mrs Pullin’s appointment as a trustee.

C19.197 – War Memorial working group

Cllr Cave confirmed a new planning application had now been submitted avoiding the land being reserved by NSC Highway Department. The resultant delay may result in the missing of some grant deadlines.

21:55 – The meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak. The resident spoke to give his concerns on the War Memorial Working Group and Trust. The Chairman noted the resident’s concerns and offered to meet with the resident supported by Cllr Cave and the Clerk, before Christmas.

21:59 - The meeting was reconvened.

C19.198 – Community Safety

Cllr Cave gave the following report:

“Speed through the village is one of the current priorities with the Police set at the last PACT meeting together with robbery. The Village Enhancement Scheme is at least partly designed to achieve speed reduction. With that in mind I find it incredible that neither of our two vehicle activated signs were operated since this Council was formed until September when I took it on. As a result, two batteries were left uncharged and need replacement. The prime object of the signs is to achieve a reduction in speed through the village and they have proved very successful, particularly when moved regularly. There are eight posts installed in the village on which to mount the signs. We need to let them work for us; they operate 24 hours a day. Speed Watch whilst effective, can only be from time to time. The retrieval of data, an added benefit is that it is useful occasionally, is an entirely separate issue.

The path from Cambridge Batch to the Farm Shop was cleared at my instigation by NS a few years ago. Growth, brambles and branches are once again restricting the pavement. We should request NS through our Clerk, to do the necessary work and ask for back-up from our NS Councillors. Similarly, the path from the Park homes to Cambridge Batch needs clearing of detritus. NS has declined a request to do so and perhaps we could, through the Clerk, ask Community Pay Back to assist us.

The residents of the Park Homes also have an issue regarding the speed of vehicles past the entrance impacting on both vehicles and pedestrians exiting the area. I am grateful to Highways for their agreement to fund a road sign warning of elderly people in the road and for NS speed monitoring near the entrance. There is actually a need for speed reduction past the Belmont Hill junction judging by the number of accidents on that junction, as well as past the entrance of Park Homes.

South Bristol Link Road.

A number of issues persist as a result of the completion of this road. Flooding issues at the underbridge are in-hand, but we need to keep chasing. The increased noise as a result of the SBL impacts on the east end of our Village. This issue goes back three years and poor planting attempts by NS or their contractors to help to rectify this, has failed miserably each year. I arranged a meeting with NSC highways engineers, two residents, Cllr McQuillan and myself a month or so ago to discuss again these issues. It is agreed that a serious programme of planting will take place by professionals guided by us as to location and quantity of trees. Whilst this tree planting will help it will not eliminate unacceptable noise. Cllr McQuillan is investigating funding from NS in order to investigate costings to install baffling.

I was unable to inform you that a PACT meeting was to take place the day following the last Council meeting. I can report however, that it was well attended by 19 persons. There were complaints made to the Police regarding communication, however the message was made, and I have met Justina Lewis our PC. recently regarding the spate of burglaries that have taken place. In short, they know who the culprits are, they are mainly aged between 14 and 16, one is 12. Priorities continue as robbery and speed. I have undertaken a number of speed watch vigils and there is a problem at Wild Country Lane going out of the village as well as in. The next PACT meeting will be on 14th January 2020 with the intention of making them more frequent.”

C19.199 – Youth Matters

Cllr Jackson gave the following reports:

Youth Club

The club based sessions have been well supported since the schools returned in September with high numbers on the junior’s session on Thursday evenings. We are getting good support from parents and new young people joining on most weeks. With funding from the Co-op Community Fund to support a community project, a graffiti workshop was held at the October village market and subsequently young people and adults have supported the painting of the youth shelter. The youth club is holding a Festive Fair on 24th November as part of its annual fundraising activities.

Children and Young People’s Network

Preparations are underway to launch the annual youth grant scheme.

C19.200 – ALCA NS

The minutes of the ALCA AGM as previously circulated were noted.

C19.201 – Parish Councils Airport Association - no report at this time

C19.202 – Community Resilience – no report at this time.

C19.203 – GDPR - the ICO’s Parish Council Toolkit will be discussed at the next meeting.

C19.204 – Any items for information

It was agreed that website accessibility requirements and the NALC document on fighting loneliness will be discussed at the next council meeting and that a report from the PPG (patient participation group) will be a standing agenda item.

Meeting closed at: 22:04

Date of next meeting Monday 13th January 2020