

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS AND BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING

19:30, 5th August 2019, Jubilee Pavilion

Present – Mr M Semple - Chairman
Ms S Barnes
Ms C Fagg
Dr P Jackson
Mr D Johnson
Ms L Lansley
Mr S McQuillan
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:-
Mr A Cartman
Mr C Cave
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris
Mr A Johnson
Mr O Lloyd-Jones

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp, Assistant Clerk, Tracy Warren (minutes) and 6 members of the public.

Before the formal meeting a resident gave a presentation on Closed Churchyard maintenance.

Hb19.67 - Election of Chairman (Cllr McQuillan in the chair)

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Semple be appointed as Chairman of the Highways and Burial Ground committee for the next municipal year or until such time as a new Chairman is elected. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Jackson. There were no other nominations so Cllr Semple was appointed as Chairman All in favour.

Hb19.68 - Election of Vice Chairman - It was RESOLVED that Cllr McQuillan be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Highways and Burial Ground committee for the next municipal year or until such time as a new Vice Chairman is elected. Proposed by Cllr D. Johnson and seconded by Cllr Barnes. There were no other nominations so Cllr McQuillan was appointed as Vice Chairman. All in favour.

Hb19.69 - Apologies for absence

Received from Cllrs Cave, Hardingham, Harris and A Johnson.

Hb19.70 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb19.71 - Minutes of the previous meetings

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Highways and Burial Ground Committee meeting held on the 3rd June, previously circulated, be accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Hb19.72 - Exclusion of the press and public

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

Hb19.73 - Matters arising

- a) Hb19.49a – Management agreement - no response has been received from North Somerset Council's (NSC's) planning department regarding the monitoring of planning conditions in the exchange land management plan.
- b) Hb19.49b – Seat in bus stop opposite Lovelinch Gardens - an alternative quotation is being sought as the seat is yet to be fitted. It was RESOLVED to give the Clerk authority to proceed with a quote of up to £100 for fitting the seat. Proposed by Cllr Semple and seconded by Cllr Fagg. All in favour.

- c) Hb19.49d – Additional dog bins/emptying replacement of dog bins. The extra Monday emptying of four bins has begun but will be monitored as the contractors noted that some bins were not full. The replacement dog bins are to be fitted shortly.
- d) Hb19.63d – Letter re play area – response from resident. The resident has written wanting reassurance that the installation will be confined to the agreed area. It was agreed to respond to the resident to give assurance that both the PC and NSC will monitor the installation for boundary encroachment. A Purchase Order is currently awaited by the contractor before an installation date is agreed.

Hb19.73 - Leigh Woods Parking scheme

- a) Parking Scheme update - the scheme is moving forward with some minor amendments to address resident concerns.
- b) Leigh Woods Village Enhancement Scheme working group report – no report at this time.

Hb19.74 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management;

Bristol Water has written to say that they are not legally able to provide flood inundation maps but they are available on the Environment Agency (EA) website. It was agreed to write to the EA to ask for reassurance that the maps have been updated since the building of the South Bristol Link road.

Hb19.75 – Footpaths

- a) Cllr Lansley gave a short report stating that volunteers have carried out a working day successfully clearing the lower footpaths on the Golf Course but that more volunteers are needed.
- b) Peel Park footpath – no update.
- c) NSC has confirmed that the footpath from Parsonage Road to the Festival Way has now been dedicated as a PROW.

Hb19.76 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard.

- a) Remedial work on monuments; the newer monuments have been identified and stonemasons will be written to and advised of those monuments requiring remedial work.
- b) Heaven Scent Garden – no update.
- c) Garden of Remembrance – completed tree works are having a beneficial effect on the light available to the garden which will continue to be reviewed. Some residents with family members in the Garden have written to thank the PC for works completed and requested clarification on what tributes are acceptable in the area and how this will be enforced. This item will be discussed at the next Highways & Burial Ground Committee meeting.
- d) Theft from Burial Ground – A mower belonging to a volunteer has been stolen from the Beir shed. A resident has offered to donate a petrol mower to the PC and the Clerk will liaise with the resident and the volunteer. Security measures to prevent future theft will be investigated.
- e) Request to put bench in burial ground: Cllrs have visited the burial ground and felt that there is insufficient space for a bench by the Garden of Remembrance but did identify two possible sites. It was agreed to write to the family buying the bench offering the two alternative positions. Another resident has offered to buy a garden bench he saw advertised for the burial ground. It was agreed to reply thanking them for their offer but to say that unfortunately there are no further suitable places in the Burial Ground at present.
- f) Children's Funeral Fund – this has been set up by the government and means that fees will not be charged for cremation or burials of children under 18 or those stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy, with fees being met by the Children's Funeral Fund. It was agreed the PC will wait for further information before any action is taken.

20:14 - Two residents left.

Hb19.77 - Road safety issues - Vehicle Activated signs

It was noted that the existing signs had not always performed well and the Chairman agreed to speak to the resident who previously managed the signs to ascertain the amount of work needed

to capture the data from them and for their maintenance. Further options will be considered when this information is available.

20:23 - Meeting adjourned to allow a resident to speak.

20:26 – Meeting reconvened

It was noted that whilst the VES consultation showed that residents wanted an extension of the 20mph limit through the village, NSC were not keen to implement this widely at this time and data from existing speed cameras confirm that 90% of vehicles observe the speed limit.

Cllr McQuillan is looking to implement Community Speed Watch and is waiting for a date for a police training evening. A few volunteers have offered their time.

20:29 – Meeting adjourned to allow a resident to speak.

20:30 – Meeting reconvened

It was noted that NSC policy is being reviewed which may be helpful for the PC going forward.

Hb19.78 - Autospeedwatch; to consider additional information and agree a way forward.

The roadside unit costs £295 to purchase and £85 per year for data analysis. The cameras do not display vehicle speed but allow vehicle plate recognition for Police engagement with speed offenders; however it was noted that Avon and Somerset Police do not currently support this system. An alternative system offered by TWM Traffic is also available. It was agreed that this will be considered when the PC position on its existing speed signs has been decided.

Hb19.79 - Hollis Close

Cllr McQuillan gave a short update to confirming that NSC are planning to carry out a safety audit of the site in August, this will then be discussed with them together with the plans originally agreed and NSCs funding position, its original aims for the scheme and any proposed amendments. It was noted that the safety audit may be of limited use, being carried out outside of school term. It was noted that there is a new Executive Member for Highways at NSC.

- a) The head teacher of Birdwell School has replied to the PC to say “As a school we are not happy with the current layout and we were always opposed to all of the work that has been done. We didn't want the kerb taken away in the first place but this was done during a summer holiday without our knowledge. So we are in agreement with the PC.”
- b) Letter to NSC to agree how to progress; a letter has been drafted but will be modified if necessary after completion of the safety audit.

Hb19.80 - Festival Way

- a) Bench for walkers – the bench has been ordered.
- b) Cycle crossing at end of Festival Way; following Sustran’s identification of this crossing as being dangerous, NSC are considering options at the site which will be opened to consultation.
- c) NSC is looking at providing a path to access the Park and Ride from the Festival Way. Although the current wooden walkway link to the Park and Ride is frequently overgrown the PC would want it to remain open. Cllr Lansley will ask the Rights Of Way officer for clarification and suggest the existing path remains open.

Hb19.81 – Biodiversity; no update.

Hb19.82 – Village Enhancement Scheme working group

The working group has had various meetings including one on site with a NSC Highways engineer. They are hoping to have plans and costings to put to the Council meeting on 9th September for final approval, so this would enable the work to be done this winter. The main shift has been that the double yellows on the main road outside Piccolo’s will be retained, so that an “island” can be created behind them. This will allow a clear pedestrian footway but does require some careful calculation because of the slope. A resident has found some concrete planters and

is investigating whether these can be loaned to the PC to trial their placement outside Piccolos as an alternative to barriers, to discourage car parking inside the double yellow lines.

Hb19.83 – Lovelinch Gardens parking restrictions

- a) To agree if, in light of correspondence, modifications need to be made to the plan and how the scheme should be consulted on? - It was noted that parking has recently increased along Lovelinch Gardens and the surrounding area, with resident complaints of poor parking. The current proposed scheme of yellow lines was discussed with consideration to extending the yellow lines.

21:03 - Meeting adjourned to allow a resident to speak.

21:06 - Meeting reconvened

Following the resident's concerns about increased commuter parking and inconsiderate parking by the café customers the PC noted that the planned yellow lines should discourage commuter parking and RESOLVED to write to 'The Old Library' café owners to ask them to encourage their customers to park considerately. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan, seconded by Cllr Fagg. All in favour.

21:08 - Meeting adjourned to allow a resident to speak

21:09 - Meeting re-convened

It was RESOLVED to ask NSC to proceed with the current plan with a future review of the scheme. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Wilkinson. The motion was carried. It was agreed the effectiveness of the scheme should be monitored with enforcement being key and NSC enforcement officers will be asked to give Long Ashton priority.

- b) To consider provision of a disabled space; it was noted that the disabled parking space in Lovelinch Gardens was regularly blocked by poor parking but as it is resident requested space rather than a blue-badge space, enforcement is difficult. NSC has suggested the provision of a new enforceable disabled (blue badge) space on the road (rather than in the bay) and confirmed that the existing space in Lovelinch Gardens could be upgraded. It was agreed to revisit this when more information about the existing disabled space is available.

Hb19.84 – Consultation on Bristol City Council Clean Air Options

It was agreed that the PC does not need to respond to this consultation.

Hb19.85 – Notice Board repairs

An inspection of all the noticeboards has been carried out by a contractor and a report and quote for their repair awaited.

Hb19.86 – Tree planting

Following the suggestion of a community engagement initiative to be set up for residents to nominate areas for tree planting and for volunteers to assist in planting and after-care, it was agreed this be added to the next newsletter. Cllr D. Johnson agreed to look into groups that can assist and he will circulate a draft article for the October newsletter to Cllrs for comment. It was noted that the PC had hoped to carry out planting in the exchange land by the Park and Ride but the management plan is still awaited.

Hb19.87 – Small public spaces in the Parish (Cllr D Johnson)

It was suggested the PC identifies who owns and is responsible for these spaces and whether planting can take place on them. It was noted that the Community Orchard group and residents have a paper map of old apple trees and that they may be able to assist. This information could be added to the PC's digital map of the parish. It was noted trees are still to be planted in Peel Park.

Hb19.88 – Correspondence

- a) From resident re planters; Cllr Lansley agreed to respond to the resident to note that businesses are helping to fund planters as part of the VES and therefore shouldn't be approached for on-going contributions at this time.
- b) From resident re concerns about safety and parking in Hollis Close – these were covered in the agenda item on Hollis Close.
- c) From resident re the bad parking on Lovelinch Gardens – this was covered in the agenda item about parking restrictions in the area.
- d) From residents re maintenance at the Theynes Croft Estate; several residents had contacted the PC with complaints that the Theynes Croft estate open areas were not being maintained to a reasonable standard. This is the responsibility of Greenbelt Services. It was agreed that residents should be advised to contact Greenbelt directly. It was noted there are biodiversity arguments for reduced grass cutting but the needs of residents should be considered.
- e) From resident re Highways issues expressing the opinion that the PC acted unlawfully when it agreed to pay NSC to alter a fence on a PROW. The Clerk has replied to the resident to note that the work was to stop dogs running into the road and was done under the General Power of Competence. He also asked whether the motorcycle inhibitors in Peel Park had been adapted to allow Trumper mobility scooters to pass through. It was noted that mobility scooters have been seen using the area but as the width of the identified scooter is 720 mm it needed to be checked whether these could pass through the inhibitor.

21:51 - Meeting adjourned to allow a resident to speak to clarify his letter.

21:54 - Meeting reconvened

- f) From resident requesting that the PC look into installing CCTV in Long Ashton to combat fly tipping and car thefts. This was discussed but the committee was not in support of the widespread installation of CCTV in the Parish. It was noted that NSC will install cameras in problem areas of fly-tipping.

21:55 - Meeting suspended to allow a resident to speak

21:56- Meeting reconvened

- g) From resident asking the PC to decide whether it supports the diversion of public transport during the Balloon Fiesta or not. It was agreed that the PC responds to note it is sympathetic to the resident's concerns but notes that the restrictions imposed are for a short time period.
- h) From resident re 25th March minutes – duplicate of e) above.
- i) From resident re traffic calming - Church Lodge to Cambridge Batch and Cambridge Batch to Belmont Hill; a cyclist who lives in the park homes on Clevedon Road has contacted the PC with concerns about the safety of roads around the park homes site and also generally through Long Ashton asking for traffic calming and better signage. Cllr Lansley has further information on the problems which she will circulate and can be discussed at the next meeting.

21:58 - A member of the public left.

- j) From resident re Yanley Lane – it was agreed to respond to the resident that further to the March meeting, monies were removed from the budget for Yanley Lane as some works were due to be completed by NSC and others could not be done, and reallocated to enable works to improve safety at the zebra crossing near Theynes Croft.

Hb19.89 – Other Items for Information - Letters written by clerk under delegated authority.

- a) Greenbelt has been written to regarding areas requiring maintenance.
- b) NSC has been written to regarding a dead tree

Meeting closed at 22:02

Date of next meeting – 7th October 2019