

# LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

## HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE 19:30, 2nd December 2019, Jubilee Pavilion

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Present – Mr M Semple: Chairman | Absent: -        |
| Ms S Barnes                     | Mr A Cartman     |
| Ms C Fagg                       | Mr C Cave        |
| Ms S Hardingham                 | Dr P Jackson     |
| Mr M Harris                     | Mr A Johnson     |
| Ms McAllister Kemp              | Mr D Johnson     |
| Mr S McQuillan                  | Ms L Lansley     |
|                                 | Mr O Lloyd-Jones |
|                                 | Mr A Wilkinson   |

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp, Assistant Clerk, Tracy Warren (minutes) and Cllr Sellars.

Public Participation – A member of the public had pointed out that brambles overhanging the pavement opposite Piccolos had injured a visually impaired person. The Clerk will write to the residents of the properties in this area and to NSC to ask that the overgrowth is cut back.

Hb19.111 - Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cave, Jackson, D. Johnson, Lansley and Wilkinson.

Hb19.112 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations  
Interests to be declared during the meeting and no dispensations were requested.

Hb19.113 - Minutes of the previous meetings  
It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Highways and Burial Ground Committee meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November, previously circulated, be accepted as a correct record and these were signed by the Chairman.

Hb19.114 - Exclusion of the press and public  
If any members of the public or press were present they would have been excluded from the item discussing 'Village Orderly and Gardener pay' as this is a staffing matter.

Hb19.115 - Chair's Comments – proposal for operation of meetings.  
The Chairman noted that he is satisfied that the changes to Standing Orders and guidance on public participation agreed at the council meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> November (to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020) meant that no specific proposals were needed for this committee.

Hb19.116 - Committee name  
Hb19.94 - Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend to Council to change the name of the Committee to 'The Environment Committee'. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham and seconded by Cllr Semple. Motion carried with 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

Hb19.117 - Matters arising  
a) Hb19.95b – Seat in bus stop opposite Lovelinch Gardens – now in place.  
b) Hb19.103a – Job information – the circulated document was discussed and it was agreed that it should be uploaded to the website.

c) Hb19.103c – Speed sign information; the circulated document was discussed and it was agreed that it should be uploaded to the website.

#### Hb19.118 - Items to be passed to F&GP to be included in the 2020/2021 budget

- a) Speed Watch - Cllr McQuillan reported that he and Cllr Cave attended a constructive meeting with volunteers, the Police and the coordinator of Nailsea's speed watch, to discuss setting up this initiative within the Long Ashton. Equipment, training and insurance will be provided by the Police. It was requested that £100 is included in the budget for health and safety clothing such as High Visibility jackets, for volunteers, if not provided by the Police. It was noted that Leigh Woods have tried to initiate this scheme for some time and could possibly be included in the Long Ashton scheme.
- b) VES and Road Safety; it was considered that some money needed to be available for further road safety initiatives (noting that the VES consultation showed support for increasing the areas in the village that have a 20mph limit) and the second stage of the VES.
- c) Climate Emergency Declaration; it was considered that there needed to be some budget to facilitate the development of a strategy but that there were no projects ideas that needed funding now. It was noted that there is £2000 in earmarked reserves for tree planting. project ideas will need to be developed, and these will be developed over the next year for

It was agreed to request the following items be passed to F&GP to be included in the 2020/2021 budget:

- Road safety; 20mph road limits and VES stage 2 - £5,000
- Speed Watch - £100
- Climate Change - £500

#### Hb19.119 - Road safety

- a) Vehicle Activated signs – It was RESOLVED to agree to expenditure by the Clerk up to £200 on 2 new batteries. Proposed By Cllr Semple and seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour.
- b) Kingcott Farm – It was noted that the position of the speed survey has been agreed by residents and NSC, and can now proceed.
- c) Hollis Close – Cllrs McQuillan and Semple have met with residents and Cllr McQuillan is having further conversations with NS Highways dept. about further works to improve safety. The Clerk was asked to recirculate the safety audit report carried out by NSC to all Cllrs and Cllrs Semple and McQuillan would prepare an update to circulate to all Cllrs.
- d) Yanley Lane humps – these have been reinstated by NSC though there have been resident complaints that they are not high enough. Cllr McQuillan is in conversation with NS Highways about this.

#### Hb19.120 - Parking

- a) Leigh Woods Parking scheme - Cllr Harris noted the parking scheme is hoped to be launched in 2020 following further consultation. Pay & Display ticket machines are part of the scheme.
- b) Lovelinch Gardens parking restrictions – NS has placed an order for the works and it is hoped they will commence in March 2020.

#### Hb19.121 - Village enhancement

- a) Leigh Woods Village Enhancement Scheme – Cllr Harris noted that the group have recently met and will meet again in the New Year. Topics for discussion included verges, footpaths, pavements, speeding in North Road and Abbots Leigh Road, benches and planters.
- b) Long Ashton Village Enhancement Scheme working group report - Cllr Hardingham gave a brief summary of works and confirmed that phase one of the VES is now on Skanska's (NSC's contractor) list and due to start in March 2020 and further discussions about the

area outside Piccolos are taking place to finalise proposals. An update about the VES has been added to the VES page on the website.

#### Hb19.122 - Footpaths and Cycle paths

- a) Working group report – no report at this time.
- b) Peel Park footpath – no update at this time.
- c) Festival Way; bench for walkers

It was RESOLVED agree to delegate authority to the Clerk to obtain quotes and proceed with works at an expenditure up to £400, for collection, transport and fitting of the bench. Proposed by Cllr Semple and seconded by Cllr Barnes. All in favour.

#### Hb19.123 - Environmental Management

- a) Ashton Brook and Flood Management – the Environment Agency have replied re the inundation maps to say that the reservoir flood maps are being updated and new maps for the Barrow Tanks are expected to be available from March 2020 upon request.
- b) Biodiversity – no information at this time.
- c) Tree planting in the Parish – it was recognised that tree planting is important to the PC. A resident has written about the stalled planting on the Exchange Land by the Park and Ride and it was agreed to respond to confirm that tree planting in the Parish is being pursued this may not be on the exchange land.
- d) Noise from the SBLR - Cllr McQuillan reported that new tree planting will be undertaken by NSC contractors in 2020 and that they are considering whether to look at the feasibility of sound attenuation measures.
- e) North Somerset Council rewilding consultation - NSC are running a consultation suggesting areas (owned by them) for rewilding to enable wildlife to flourish. There are no areas in Long Ashton included in the consultation. It was agreed that the NS information be made widely available on the PC's social media. A map of the parish will be displayed at the December village market asking residents for suggestions of areas that could be considered for rewilding. It was agreed that the Clerk respond to the NSC invitation to PCs to attend a meeting about the project to confirm that 2 Cllrs will attend the meeting and to advise that LAPC is happy to host the event. It was noted that Cllr Lansley has expressed a desire to attend.

#### Hb19.124 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard.

- a) Remedial work on monuments – ongoing.
- b) Heaven Scent Garden – A report from the volunteers described the limited work being carried out and suggested that this is year nine of the ten year agreement. It noted that the plaque from the tree planted in remembrance of a Girl Guide was removed for restoration some time ago and has yet to be replaced. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Men's Shed to remind them about it.
- c) Mower – on-going.
- d) Review of burial fees – The current fees, which were last changed in April 2019 were presented. It was RESOLVED to make no changes to the fees in April 2020 and to review them next year for April 2021. Proposed by Cllr Semple and seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour.  
It was agreed to look at the conditions applied by other PC's regarding remedial works to monuments.
- e) Request for bench in burial ground – it was agreed that the Clerk respond to the resident to say that the PC is reviewing its policy on benches in the burial ground and will contact them further when the review has occurred. Cllr Barnes, Fagg and Semple agreed to make a site visit to the burial ground to audit the benches.
- f) From resident re hedge in burial ground – the resident has requested permission to tidy up the hedge adjacent to his property at his own cost. It was agreed to respond to the

resident to give him permission to tidy up the hedge, as long as no extensive work is carried out, at his own cost.

#### Hb19.125 - Correspondence

- a) From NSC re new PROW (Public Right of Way) Officer – Noted.
- b) From a resident noting that the poor parking in Fenswood Road often results in pavements being blocked, residents being unable to access their drives and would limit access for emergency vehicles if required and therefore was requesting double yellow lines along one side of the road. The committee was sympathetic but noted that NSC guidelines meant that it was unlikely that they would agree to the lines but agreed that the Clerk should write to the local police asking them to visit the area to look at the parking.
- c) From resident expressing concerns about the safety of the Theynes Croft zebra crossing, especially about its visibility, the speed of cars in the area and that many of those who use it are vulnerable adults or children. It was agreed that the Clerk respond to the resident to inform him about the works that will be happening in the area of the zebra crossing following the VES consultation in March, the safety of the area will continue to be reviewed and that the PC is continuing to review NSC's policies on 20 mph speed limits to see if these can be increased.
- d) From Wessex Water – sewer works around Gurney Roundabout including on the Festival Way were noted.

#### Hb19.126 - Other Items for Information

Four letters were written by the Clerk under delegated authority to residents in Weston Road and Lyvedon Way regarding overgrowth of shrubs and bushes.

#### Hb19.127 - Village Orderly and Gardener pay

It was noted that the village orderlies are paid the Living Wage Foundation's 'Living Wage' and the gardener is paid on point 10 of the NJC pay scales.

It was RESOLVED to agree to increase the hourly rate for the village orderlies in line with the revised Living Wage to £9.30/hr and to increase the gardeners pay in line with the increase to point 10 of the NJC scale once this has been published. Proposed by Cllr Semple and seconded by Cllr Hardingham. All in favour.

Meeting closed at: 21:45

Date of next meeting – 27th January 2020