

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
19:30, 15th January 2018, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:-

Chairman - Mr A Wilkinson
Mr A Cartman
Mr C Cave
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M E Harris
Dr P Jackson
Mr A Johnson (from 19:32)
Mr D Johnson
Mrs B Mackwood
Mr S McQuillan
Mr N Moorcroft
Mrs J Pullin
Mr I Scoones
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland
Mr J Thomas
Miss M Uppington

Absent:-

Ms G Collins
Ms S Hughes
Ms L Lansley

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp and Mrs V Lacey (minutes).

C.18.00 - Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Batt, Collins, Lansley and also from Mr M Riggall - North Somerset Council (NSC) Liaison Officer and Cllr Kate Stowey - NSC Ward Councillor.

C.18.01 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

C.18.02 - Exclusion of the press and public

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

C.18.03 - Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ashley Cartman to the PC.

C.18.04 - Parish Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, previously having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.18.05 - Matters arising

a. C17.188b Table Tennis Table or similar. It was acknowledged that there is a lack of outdoor leisure facilities available for young people at the east end of the village, but that a table tennis table may not be an appropriate solution as its use is fair weather dependent.

Cllr A Johnson joined the meeting at 19:32.

It was agreed to look at other options, with a view to building up a fund to provide more than one feature on an appropriate site at the eastern end of the village. The Clerk will ask NSC, as landowner, their views on the possible use of the green space near Copford Lane. There are also green spaces on Theynes Croft. Cllr Moorcroft will also investigate further.

- b. C17.188c Safe place scheme. No update - this will be closed unless Cllr Collins has further information.
- c. C17.188f Theynes Croft Car park. The existing sign in the Theynes Croft car park will be replaced to show the PC's responsibility. The clerk will meet the contractor on site to discuss the cost.
- d. C17.188g Presentation re Weston Sustainability & Transformation Plan. No reply has been received to the acceptance of the offer of a presentation on this subject.
- e. C17.201 Youth organisation involvement in tree mapping exercise. The Guides have responded to say that they'd be interested in taking part in a tree mapping exercise. The Scouts have yet to respond and an alternative contact will be tried. Once the volunteers are in place, councillors will ask for help from the Forest of Avon Trust.
- f. C17.213 Audley Redwood welcoming. Cllrs Hardingham, Harris, Mrs Mackwood, Lansley, Miss Uppington and Wilkinson will go to a coffee morning at Audley Redwood on Thursday 15th February to welcome new residents. Cllr Hardingham will ask Cllr Lansley to provide welcome packs.
- g. C17.217b Reply from resident re relocation of dog bin. It was noted the resident is not completely happy with the PC response to his comments. He will be consulted before the bin is repositioned.
- h. C17.217f Response from Pill and Gordano PC. There has, as yet, been no response to the PC's confirmation that it would be interested in a joint approach to NSC over yellow lines.

C.18.06 - To appoint Cllrs Batt and Cartman to Committees

Cllrs Batt and Cartman were appointed to the Highways and Burial Ground and Planning committees.

C.18.07 - Planning Committee Reports

The reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6th November and 11th December were adopted, proposed by Cllr Miss Uppington and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour. The report of the meeting held on 8th January will be considered at the next Council meeting.

C.18.08 - Highways and Burial Ground Committee Report

The report of the Highways & Burial Ground Committee meeting held on 27th November was adopted, subject to any alterations by the committee. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Mackwood, seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour.

C.18.09 - Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee

It was noted that Cllrs Hardingham and Jackson and Cllrs Cave and Mrs Pullin as PC appointees to the Youth Club Management Committee and Long Ashton Community Association (LACA) respectively, have dispensations to allow them to take part in discussions and vote on matters concerning these bodies.

Cllr Jackson has a pecuniary interest in the following agenda item and left the meeting at 19:40, taking no part in the discussion or vote.

- a) It was RESOLVED to approve the previously circulated budget as recommended by F&GP on 18th December. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.

Cllr Jackson rejoined the meeting at 19:50

- b) The impact of increasing the PC's precept, especially when NSC is expected to increase their element of the Council Tax by up to six per cent was discussed. However, it was concluded that a just less than inflation increase was justified and that if the precept did not keep pace with inflation there may well be the need for a large increase in precept at some point in the future. It was therefore RESOLVED to set the precept at £158,000 representing a 2.8% rise in the Band D tax. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.

c) To discuss provision made for "Battle's Over".

As Cllrs Cave and Mrs Pullin are members of the Battle's Over planning committee they took no part in the vote.

At the December meeting F&GP recommended that £1,500 be made available to the organisers of the Battle's Over, a World War commemorative event being planned for 11th November 2018, to cover immediate costs. The organisers have indicated that this would be spent on a deposit to secure bookings through an events management company. Whilst this was thought acceptable, it was agreed that the organiser should be asked to take out insurance to protect the deposit. It was RESOLVED that the £1,500 be made available to the Battle's Over, subject to insurance. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mackwood. All in favour. Provision has been made in next year's budget for a further donation of up to £3,000 and this will be discussed at F&GP when the organisers have more information about their plans.

d) The report of the F&GP committee meeting held on 18th December was adopted.

C.18.10 - Long Ashton Community Association

Cllr Pullin reported that there had been no trustees meeting since her last report but the matters raised in her last report are ongoing.

C.18.11 - Community Safety - Local Action Team

Cllr Cave gave the following report: Cllr Scoones and I are qualified on Speedwatch and are going to get it going again. Please let either of us know if you want to get involved. I've had several meetings with NSC's Highways department to discuss plans for Longwood Lane. The owner of Durnford Quarry has plans both to change the quarry entrance and the junction at the top of Providence Lane, and as a result, it seems as though NSC may abandon its plan to close Longwood Lane to traffic. I am working with a landowner at the top of Belmont Hill to try to improve the sight line for motorists coming out of the car park there. The next PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting is at 7:30pm on 14th February.

C.18.12 - Youth Provision Report

a. Youth Club Report.

During 2017 we saw an increase in anti-social behaviour around the village in various locations and not limited to around the community centre. The youth club has discussed this with a number of stakeholders including LACA and the Police. And has responded by making one of the youth club sessions, Wednesdays, a detached session where the youth workers go out on the streets and engage with young people. Although evenings have been both dark and cold the youth workers have engaged with a good number of young people on the streets in the early weeks of this project. Some of these young people we know but we have also met other young people and engaged with them. We have spoken with young people hanging around the Community Centre as well as the Co-op. We have walked around Dawson Walk, Theynes Croft, Long Ashton Road, Weston Road, Rayens Cross Road, Yeomeads, Lovelinch Gardens, Lampton Road, Keeds Lane and also Chancellors Park. Thursday sessions are going well and we have continued doing street dance and cooking and crafts. The youth workers are currently talking to Birdwell and Northleaze schools and both are happy for them to go along and talk to years 5 and 6 at assembly. The street dance has been very popular and one of the key activities to engage with young people and encourage them to be active together with the softer skills including team building. Given that grants funding from North Somerset Council through the Network has now closed, we see it as now critical that we resolve future funding for street dance. On Monday evenings we are finding a current clash with after school activities at Backwell School, and we are exploring whether a Tuesday evening works better for the current group of young people.

Community engagement and putting something back into the community is important to the youth club. Probably the highlight of this in 2017 was the graffiti project at the Community

Centre culminating in the prominent art work at the end of Club Room depicting key aspects of Long Ashton history. Also in 2017, young people were very engaged in preparation of the autumn fundraising event; making cakes, manning stalls and performing in the stage. I wanted to touch on involvement of young people in fundraising. This is not so easy particularly at the lower age range around 10-12 years, we have had some success at the older age around 14 years where we have a small number of young people that, for example, were engaged in helping out in the preparation of the December market and at the market itself in early December which raised over £120 for the youth club. We will continue to explore where young people can support fundraising. We should not forget of course that both young people and parents alike do support funding of the youth club through the subs which raises up to £2000 over a year. The youth club held an open evening in December which is used to engage with parents and guardians and also helps with fundraising. It was good to see a number of Councillors support this event.

b. Children and Young People's Network Report.

On the skate park – following a meeting with LACA and the junior football club on 7th November discussions have continued to explore how the football pitches and siting of a skate park can both be located within Peel Park. This is along the lines of allocating a small strip of land at the rec end immediately inside the fence of around 20 metres width, with the remainder of Peel Park then allocated to football pitches. Engagement with interested people indicates an age range from young people up to those in their thirties where skate boarding and use of cycles is of interest. This need is of course captured within the NDP. We should discuss when it would be appropriate for a more in depth discussion on this topic well ahead of any planning permission application. Preparations for the launch of the youth grant are now nearly complete; the guidelines have been prepared and agreed including identifying those youth organisations who are eligible, and points of contact have been established with most of those organisations. The grant will be launched in January with the plan to confirm the outcome before the end of March.

It is anticipated that a skate park in Peel Park could cost in the region of £50,000-£60,000, with the majority of the cost being raised by the youth groups without undue reliance on the PC. It was noted that drainage would have to be considered.

C.18.13 - ALCA NS Group

Cllr Scoones gave the following report: Although there has been no meeting of the ALCA NS Group, it continues to consult on a number of matters, including diversity.

C.18.14 - Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA)

The PCAA is due to meet on 25th January. Cllrs Moorcroft and Wilkinson will attend.

C.18.15 - Parish recycling scheme working group

The village winter refuse collection schedule has been tweeted, copied and displayed on noticeboards, in the library and post office and it is hoped that this will count as one of the activities that will allow the PC to qualify for an NSC grant. Other activities were discussed: asking the Co-op to provide a used battery collection point; installing new recycling bins around the village; educating residents regularly on what can and what cannot be recycled. It was agreed to provide some recycling information in the next village newsletter, either by inserting an NSC leaflet or incorporating it into the newsletter, and posting links on the PC website and its Facebook page.

C.18.16 - Superfast broadband working group

Although increased Virgin and BT Openreach activity has been noted throughout the village recently, many residents still do not have access to superfast broadband. Cllr Moorcroft is due to have a meeting about the issue on 16th January.

C.18.17 - Community Engagement/ Website working group

The group has not met recently, but the PC's Facebook page has been well received, generating many views and likes.

C.18.18 - Scout Group HQ Working Group

The Scouts have made a formal offer on a site for their new HQ.

C.18.19 - NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan) Review Working Group

Cllr Sterland has had recent discussions with the Woodland Trust about planting trees on land near the Park & Ride, and NSC has been approached for permission. The next NDP Review working group meeting is on 22nd January. Cllr Sterland had prepared documents providing balance to Taylor Wimpey's general claims about the Vale and also to their recent newsletter following. These were discussed and a few minor changes made. It was RESOLVED, to adopt the amended documents as council policy. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft, seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour. The Chair thanked Cllr Sterland for his efforts. Cllr Cave will investigate whether NSC can provide the PC with associated communications support.

C.18.20 - Public Art Working Group

There has been no progress on this matter since Taylor Wimpey offered the PC £24,000 for public art arising from its section 106 agreements for the Chancellors Park and Kings Croft developments. It is thought that the money will not be paid until all the remaining s106 issues, including the path through Peel Park, have been finalised.

C.18.21 - Community Resilience

Cllr Moorcroft has volunteered to be a flood warden.

C.18.22 - LULA (Light up Long Ashton)

A letter from a member of the LULA team was noted. It was agreed that LULA can use funds unspent in 2017 to prepare for this year's display. Several councillors attended the switch-on ceremony which was held in Lovelinch Gardens in December.

C.18.23 - Hollis Close

It was noted that NSC's latest proposals for Hollis Close indicate that it has listened to residents' views. The Clerk will write to NSC to let it know that the PC supports the comments made by its councillors in relation to the consultation; it would like the hump at the top of the road removed, and lines and zigzags reinstated. NSC is also prepared to resurface the road and repair broken kerb stones.

C.18.24 - Councillor email addresses

Following advice on new data protection regulations, the PC agreed that councillors should use PC email addresses for council business. It was agreed that the PC's email provider will be asked to set up the necessary email addresses, at the cost quoted. Confirmation will be sought that changes for new and departing councillors can be made without additional cost.

C.18.25 - Plaque for The Village Hall as a war memorial

Provision has been made in next year's budget for a plaque to mark the fact that the Village Hall was built as a war memorial. Cllr Mrs Pullin gave information on the proposed plaque; it will be 10 inch diameter, round, green cast aluminium with a suitable inscription. As a War Memorial the Community Centre can apply for some restricted grants.

C.18.26 - Airport consultation

A draft response to the Airport's consultation on its master plan was reviewed and approved with a few additions. The Council noted that although Bristol airport is a valuable asset, and should be encouraged to become a successful business, Cardiff airport is underutilised and has good transport links and should be developed to become the airport of choice for people

living in South Wales. The PC reiterated its commitment to the green belt, and to opposing expansion into it, and noted the effect that the airport's plans would have on traffic volume. Long Ashton already suffers disproportionately from increasing traffic flows because of its proximity to Bristol and because of the lack of appropriate local infrastructure. The PC believes that the airport's expansion plans should not be considered without the airport's involvement in the development of a mass transit scheme beforehand to mitigate any resultant increase in traffic volume.

C.18.27 - Enhancing and promoting the value of the green belt around Long Ashton.

The NDP Review working group will assume responsibility for this matter, and will consider how it can work with other organisations including the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), for example, with a similar commitment to the green belt.

C.18.28 - Taylor Wimpey plans for the Vale - No update (covered in C.18.19).

C.18.29 - Recruitment of new Assistant Clerk

Cllrs Hardingham, Harris, Mrs Mackwood and Miss Uppington volunteered to join the clerk at interviews for the PC's new assistant clerk. The closing date for applications is 5th February and interviews are likely to take place the following week.

C.18.30 - Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed to invite Sue Mountstevens, Avon and Somerset's Police & Crime Commissioner to speak at the Annual Parish meeting. However as it is likely that her diary will already be full Councillors were asked to think of alternatives and inform the clerk. The format of the meeting will be unchanged from last year.

C.18.31 - Correspondence

- a. From CPRE - Consultation on the future of Bristol's parks and green spaces. The Clerk will reply to this consultation on behalf of the PC, to say that it considers Ashton Court to be sacrosanct. Councillors were also encouraged to reply individually to the consultation.
- b. From ALCA - Get involved with NALC's diversity work – to consider making a diversity pledge. The PC already has an equality policy and embraces diversity. It was agreed that the next election would provide the best opportunity to encourage under-represented groups to stand for election and so will consider how this can be achieved six months before the next election.
- c. From SAAA - Notification of external auditor appointments. P K Littlejohn has been appointed as the PC's external auditor for the next five years. No councillors reported a conflict of interest.
- d. i) From NSC - re speed limits on B3128 & ii) From NSC – re speed limits on B3130. The Clerk will reply to NSC on behalf of the PC to say that it has no objection to these formal notices about speed limit changes on the B3128 and B3130.
- iii) From Abbots Leigh PC re speed limits - A369, B3129, B3128, B3130, Portbury Lane & Weston Road. The PC's Highways & Burial Ground committee will consider this at its next meeting.
- e. From ALCA – re nominations for Royal Garden Party. Cllr Mrs Pullin was proposed as the PC's nomination to attend the Royal Garden Party.

C.18.32 - Any items for information

The Clerk asked for suggestions for the next Parish Newsletter, which goes to print on 1st February.

Date of next meeting: Monday 19th March 2018

Meeting closed: 21:20