

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING
7:30 pm 29th January 2018 - Jubilee Pavilion

Present:

Mrs B Mackwood - Chairman
Mr A Batt
Mr A Cartman
Mr C Cave
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris
Mrs S Hughes
Ms L Lansley
Mr S McQuillan
Mr N Moorcroft
Mrs J Pullin
Mr I Scoones
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland
Miss M Uppington
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:

Ms G Collins
Dr P Jackson
Mr A Johnson
Mr J Thomas

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr J Turp and Ms E Price (minutes)

Hb18.01 – Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Collins and Jackson.

Hb18.02 – Declarations on Interest and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb18.03 - Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th November 2017 copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb18.04 - Matters arising

HB17.122c – Repair of footpath gate. The gate has still not been repaired and there has also been vandalism on the cycle gates by Colliters Way and the gate before the footpath bridge is broken. Clerk to inform Elaine Bowman of North Somerset Council (NSC). Alex Fear of NSC advised that the landowner has been asked to re-erect the fence on the underpass. The repair of the gate in the churchyard is in the budget for next year.

Hb17.116 – NSC response re. road surfacing priorities. A link to a page on the NSC website was provided explaining how NSC prioritises road resurfacing.

Hb17.126 – Hollis Close. This is being returned to its original state.

Hb17.140 – Tree planting. The Forest of Avon has started strimming by Colliters Way in preparation for planting in February half term. They will infill with saplings. As for the area beside the Park and Ride it would appear that NSC do not own the exchange land but may not be averse to tree planting on the part they have control over if the appropriate department within NSC and the landowner give permission. This dialogue will be continued. The committee was surprised that NSC do not own the land and will write to NSC to confirm what is planned.

The Scouts and Guides are interested in helping with the tree mapping project. Permission will be sought from landowners before the surveys take place.

Hb18.05 – Ashton Brook and Flood Management

The underpass has flooded twice since the last meeting. It appears that there is no intention for the size of the brook to be increased, which the PC believes is needed to stop the underpass flooding. It is thought that Greenfield run-off rate that the floodwater modelling used has not been achieved as the ditches drain too quickly into the brook. A meeting is being set up with Alex Fear.

Hb18.06 – Footpaths

To receive working group report and agree any action if required - The Footpath Group has had some success with work done on the path from Keeds Lane to Providence Lane. Woodchip was laid on the path which is on a slope and rocky. Some has been washed down by rain, however it has filled some holes and the path is not as waterlogged. Foliage has also been cut back to reveal signage. The remaining woodchip will be laid when the weather is drier. The group has a wheelbarrow and buckets which require storage. The Clerk will ask Sarah Leong if there is anywhere on the LACA site where the PC could put a small shed. Friends and neighbours of Tony Hibbett, who was a leading member of the footpath group and wrote guides to many local walks, are hoping to purchase a bench for 'Toboggan Hill', in his memory.

Dawson Walk update and to discuss response from Greenbelt – Following the letter from the PC asking which land Greenbelt may be interested in transferring and the sum that would accompany the transfer, Greenbelt have replied that they are not interested in transferring the land. There has been further damage to the boardwalk and Greenbelt is costing the repair. It has been observed that Greenbelt uses contractors from a long distance away to repair damage which is expensive. It was agreed that the clerk should write to them to suggest local contractors are used. Rubbish is accumulating on the grills of the bund and the flood alleviation scheme has silted up, increasing the height of the stream. The scheme needs regular maintenance. Clerk to write to Greenbelt and copy Doug Barker and Elaine Bowman at NSC.

Parsonage Road footpath - advice has been received from NSC that a permissive path across the field can be pursued without affecting the Definitive Map Modification Order. NSC does not have the capacity to be involved but is happy for the PC to progress it. All agreed.

Digital footpath maps – There are footpath walks available on the PC website but without accompanying maps. The digital team at NSC are trying to map them but are not finding it easy. It was suggested that one of the gps recording apps like Strava could be used. NSC is hoping to feature one of Tony Hibbett's walks in 'Life' magazine.

Hb18.07 - Closed Churchyard and Burial Ground

Report on Heaven Scent Garden – Nothing to report this month. Work will begin after the grass is cut in March.

Meeting with resident re hedge and tree cutting – The PC met a resident living close to the Burial Ground and agreed to try and reduce the visual impact of the walnut tree on his view without reducing too much the amenity from the churchyard. He also experiences problems with cars blocking Church Lane, however, the committee was unable to help.

To consider request for a specific plot – It is PC policy to fill burial plots in order. A resident has requested a specific plot in the new garden of remembrance as he considered it appropriate for his wife. The council discussed the issues, and were sympathetic to the request but had concerns that this would set a precedent making management of the burial ground difficult. It was RESOLVED to adhere to PC policy and to deny the request, which was carried with one abstention.

Hb18.08 - Road safety issues – to discuss.

Vehicle Activated signs. The 3M sign has been moved to the west of the village and the Wescotec sign to Hobwell Lane. Despite a data error Cllr Sterland has managed to interpret the Wescotec data and presented information about traffic volumes measured by the signs. Although there may be difficulty comparing data originating from the different signs, it would appear that traffic in Yanley Lane has reduced since the South Bristol Link opened though the data may be skewed by the fact that Hartcliffe Way was closed until September.

A370/B3130 junction – A meeting was held with Bill Hole and Ian Wilson from NSC who agreed that the consultation process had not been carried out correctly and that the modelling had not considered vulnerable road users. It was agreed that work needs to be done to make the junction safe for vulnerable road users and to reinstate pavements. Signs warning of Horse Riders will be erected. NSC to do costings and show the drawings to the PC.

Safety of Weston Road at Gatcombe Farm turn off response from NSC. There have been several accidents in the last six months not all involved physical injury so NSC is not aware of all of them. The sign and light damaged in the last accident are being followed up by NSC. NSC is not convinced that extra signage would solve the problem but could be considered if the PC would pay. A sign west of the junction may be erected. Clerk to write to David Bailey at NSC.

Speed limit changes / Longwood Lane/Providence Lane/B3128 junction – NSC have confirmed that they are not going to delay their speed limit changes on the B3130 and B3128 to allow other roads to be included in the order. It is hoped that the other changes can be done subsequently and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to NSC to say that the PC supports Abbots Leigh PC proposals. NSC has written offering a meeting to discuss the Longwood Lane junction - Cllrs Sterland, Hardingham, Cave and Wilkinson to attend.

Yanley Lane report of meeting. Two Cllrs and a resident met with a NSC highway engineer. Residents would like the 30 mph speed limit extended. NSC have suggested two speed surveys be carried out at a cost of £300 which will allow a proposal to be made. It was proposed by Cllr Moorcroft to spend £300 on the NSC survey, seconded by Cllr Cave. Unanimously agreed. The speed bumps have been reduced in height due to the resurfacing. NSC has suggested that these could be replaced with speed cushions and roundels. Speed cushions cost £500 to £700 each. Clerk to write to suggest that NSC pay for some of the cost. It was also suggested that where the Festival Way crosses Yanley Lane, a raised section may be needed to indicate it is a cycle path. PC to write to Sustrans and David Bailey at NSC.

Yellow Lines – report on survey by Cllrs Semple and Scoones. The Cllrs reported on their findings. In many places the conditions of the lines is poor with end bars missing, and some lines tarmacked over. The Clerk will pass the information to NSC. Leigh Woods's lines are all up to date.

Hb18.09 - To consider request for grit bin and update on grit bins.

There has been a request for a new grit bin in Raymore Rise. However, given the proximity of two others was agreed that the PC would not fund a new bin there. NSC have suggested that they will no longer provide new grit bins or replace damage ones after the end of this financial year due to the cost of filling them. The developers at the Yanley Mews have contacted the clerk to confirm they will replace the bin that disappeared when their development work started.

Hb18.10 - Fly tipping Clarken Combe – to discuss requesting bollards

The verge where the footpath crosses Clarken Combe is a magnet for fly tipping. This could be discouraged if the “no parking” restriction at the bottom of Clarken Combe was enforced and it was agreed that the introduction of bollards by this area would discourage parking and therefore fly tipping. Clerk to write to NSC to request that bollards are installed. There seems to have been a general increase in fly tipping which may not be helped by new charges at NSC recycling centres. It was suggested that householders being able to deposit five bags of rubble without charge rather than the one allowed at the moment may help and it was agreed that the clerk should write to NSC requesting this.

Hb18.11 - Festival Way

There is leaf detritus on the floor which is dangerous to cyclists. Clerk to write to NSC and ask for it to be cleared.

Hb18.12 - Biodiversity

Update on planting for biodiversity next to the hedge on Yanley Lane near Northleaze School – It is still planned to plant willow withies within the new hedge.

A quote has been received from Chew Valley trees to complete the hedge planting. It was agreed that the clerk should ask if there is a price reduction for thinner planting as the PC wish to plant the withies in the hedge. It was proposed by Cllr Moorcroft that up to £385 can be paid to Chew Valley Trees to complete the planting. Seconded by Cllr Miss Uppington. Unanimously agreed.

Hb18.13 - Village Enhancement Scheme working group – report.

The PC has now received the drawings from NS Highways and a breakdown of indicative costings. There will be a meeting at the Jubilee Pavilion on Monday 26th Feb. at 7.30pm for all Cllrs so that the detail can be seen and time given to discussing the priorities. Someone from NS highways will hopefully be able to attend. After that there will be consultation with the businesses and residents; then the working group will feedback to either this committee or council with proposals.

Hb18.14 - Bristol City Council plans for Park and Ride

The Clerk has spoken to a BCC Cllr and his view is that BCC are moving towards taking over the running of the site. There are some hurdles, such as planning constraints and safe pedestrian routes, to be overcome before the site can be used for parking for matches at Ashton Gate. It was suggested that the PC lobby NSC to ask that they view any request for the planning regulations be relaxed sympathetically and noted that there is the opportunity for a safe walking route provided alongside the new MetroBus route. The Clerk to contact Peter Mann and ask for the PC to be kept up to date and fully consulted about plans for the Park and Ride and to be consulted about the extension of the Southville parking restrictions to Saturdays.

Hb18.15 - Tree Works - update on progress. – No progress.

Hb18.16 - Gullies - Progress on gully survey.

The clerk has yet to inform NSC of the results to date.

Hb18.17 - SBLR and MetroBus - No update

Hb18.18 - Cycle Forum – No report as no meeting has been held.

Hb18.19 - Leigh Woods - Parking issues and yellow line progress

The parking situation has got worse with Clifton residents parking, parking on pavements and now sleeper vans. There has also been a rise in crime recently with a burglary and two cars being broken in to. There has been a meeting to formalise the Leigh Woods Parking Restriction Zone. The plan will cost £15-20,000. It was RESOLVED that the F&GP committee should consider what contribution the Parish Council may be able to provide towards the plan. Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Cave carried with two abstentions.

Hb18.20 - Dog Bins – to discuss any issues prior to ordering replacement bins

Correspondence from a resident re siting of the dog bin at the end of Gardeners Walk was noted. Bins to replace the badly corroded bins will be ordered soon.

Hb18.21 - Correspondence - to consider listed correspondence and to note any other

From resident re parking along Weston Road – Concerns were raised about cars parked on both sides of Weston Road from Alexander May to Kings Croft. It was noted that the PC does not have powers to change this and that NSC are unlikely to judge that yellow lines are needed here. Residents with concerns about parking are encouraged to attend the PACT meeting to raise their concerns.

From resident re parking and footpaths – The resident's concerns about the PC position on repeater signs and the footpath across Peel Park were noted.

Resident re traffic calming provision – The resident's assertion that the PC cannot undertake Highways work was agreed with and the PC is working with NSC on its current plans.

From resident re pavement fouling – Noted. Clerk to contact NSC Dog Warden to inform them of the problem and to respond to the resident.

From All Saints PCC re signage – the church has asked the PC to provide a sign to warn of the uneven path into the church. Agreed.

From resident re various Highways issues – the resident made observations on the VAS readings, missing grit bin and blocked drains in Glebe Road, horses on public right of ways and "no cycling signs" It was confirmed that the grit bin is to be replaced by the developer, the Clerk will write to NSC to inform them that the drains are blocked because of the building work and to Yanley Farm about the horses. The PC has confirmed to NSC that it is happy to contribute to the no cycling signs.

From a resident re concerns about speeding in the village and what action will be taken. Cllr Hardingham to reply to explain the VES.

Hb18.22 - Other Items for Information

A resident raised the state of the A370 boundary fence. Cllr Cave to talk to NSC.

Concern that the grit bin near Tydings Close is no longer there – the clerk to check.

The next PACT meeting is on 14th February.

Date of next meeting – 26th March 2018

Meeting closed 9.45pm.