

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING

19:30 4th June 2018 - Jubilee Pavilion

Present:

Mr N Moorcroft - Chairman
Mrs B Mackwood (to 19.40)
Mr C Cave
Ms G Collins
Ms S Hardingham
Dr P Jackson
Ms L Lansley
Mr S McQuillan
Mr I Scoones
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland
Mrs J Pullin
Miss M Uppington (from 20:15)

Absent:

Mr A Batt
Mr A Cartman
Mr M Harris
Mrs S Hughes
Mr A Johnson
Mr J Thomas
Mr A Wilkinson

In Attendance: Dr Janet Turp (The Clerk), Mrs T Warren (Assistant Clerk, minutes) and 1 member of the public.

Hb18.43 - Election of Chairman

There were two nominations for chairman. Cllr Moorcroft was proposed by Cllr Scoones and seconded by Cllr Cave and Cllr Mrs Mackwood was proposed by Cllr Hardingham and seconded by Cllr Moorcroft.

Cllrs Mrs Mackwood and Moorcroft left the room.

Following a vote Cllr Moorcroft was elected as Chairman of the Highways and Burial Ground committee for the next municipal year or until such time as a new chairman is elected having received more than half the votes cast.

Cllrs Mrs Mackwood and Moorcroft returned to the room.

Cllr Moorcroft duly accepted the Office of Chairman. Cllr Mrs Mackwood thanked the committee for its support but felt frustrated at what she had been able to achieve because of the lack of support from North Somerset Council (NSC). Cllr Moorcroft thanked Cllr Mrs Mackwood for her sterling efforts as Chairman of the committee in the last year.

Cllr Mrs Mackwood left the meeting.

Hb18.44 - Election of vice Chairman

There were no nominations to serve as vice Chairman and it was agreed to defer this until the next meeting to give Cllrs the opportunity to consider the role. The Chairman asked younger members of the council to think about the role to help with long term planning.

Hb18.45 - Apologies for absence

Cllrs Harris and Wilkinson. Miss Uppington apologised that she would be late.

Hb18.46 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations.

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

Hb18.47 - Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th March 2018 copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb18.48 - Exclusion of the press and public

There are no items on the agenda requiring exclusion of the press and public.

19.42 The meeting was adjourned to allow a member of the public to speak about road safety issues in Yanley lane.

19.46 The meeting re-started

Hb18.49 - Matters arising

- a) Hb18.26b – Tree planting; the management agreement for the SBL exchange land has not yet been received from NSC. It was agreed to ask for this information under Freedom of Information.
- b) Hb18.20 – Dog Bins; update and agreement as to how bins are to be replaced. It was noted that replacement dog bins have been received but the replacement is not easy. The bins that need replacing have been identified but the posts also need to be checked to see if they need replacing which the Chairman offered to do. Removal of the old bin in Lampton Road had been attempted but needed more robust tools, a resident will be asked to help. It was agreed to seek a contractor to replace the bins and posts.

Hb18.50 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management Update

- a. Flooding issues and to agree any action if required; It was noted that the underpass has flooded again making it six times in 18 months. This flooding was identified as a 1 in a 100 years event in the flood modelling. It has been reported to NSC. It was thought that the speed of run off from the attenuation ponds may be making this worse and that the arrangement for restricting the flow should be modified. NSC has plans to raise the ground level in the underpass but this is limited by its height. It was agreed that NSC should be pressed for this to go ahead and a site visit arranged with Alex Fear (NSC) and the Executive member. It was reported that a gravedigger thinks that the SBL has affected water levels in the burial ground. Further information would be sought.
It was noted that recent heavy rain had caused a large rip in the tarmac at the bottom of Providence Lane and drain covers to lift by the Doctor's surgery on Rayens Cross Road and in Lovelinch Gardens and that some drains were blocked on the main road.
- b. The report of the meeting with NSC to discuss the FoI response had been circulated and there were no questions. Further emails had been exchanged regarding reinstating the field levels. Alex Fear has confirmed by email that the aim is return the area to its original level, however, soil is still on the site and it was felt that the aim had not been achieved. NSC has said that the footpath posts, which point in the wrong direction, would be corrected and Cllr Moorcroft will check that they are.
- c. Response from Environment Agency to query re the flood alleviation scheme. The EA have responded to say they are unaware of the scheme. It was the understanding of the PC that planning permission had been granted, in around 2000, with the condition, imposed on the Environment Agency's insistence, that a bund and flood alleviation scheme be built. This does work to some extent as it was noted in recent heavy rainfall that the brook only rose to half of what it used to, but the design parameters are unknown. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the Environment Agency again to ask why they required the bund and flood alleviation scheme to be built and what recommendations they would have made about its construction and why they did not adopt it. The PC would also like to know why previous flood modelling ignores the bund noting the close proximity of the school and housing. It was suggested that

Greenbelt Services do not maintain this site as well as they claim to and that the bund is beginning to silt up.

Hb18.51 – Footpaths

- a. Cllr Lansley gave a working group report, confirming that work on the kissing gate at the bottom of Toboggan Hill will be carried out. The University have agreed to pay for these improvements.
- b. Peel Park footpath to agree position in light of letter from North Somerset - It was RESOLVED that the PC will no longer ask the footpath to be a permissive path and to agree that it should be designated as a Public Right of Way. Proposed by Cllr Cave and seconded by Cllr Jackson. Agreed with one abstention.
- c. Dawson Walk update and response from Greenbelt – Greenbelt have surveyed the boardwalks and they are assessing the possibility of removing them. They say they have cleared the trash screen and made arrangement to regularly review it and to do further works when water levels have receded. They noted the comments of the PC re appointment of contractors but advised that was an operational matter. It was agreed by the PC that no further action be taken at this time.
- d. Parsonage Road footpath; a response has been received from Persimmon confirming they are keen to work with the PC and requesting a copy of the model permissive path agreement.
- e. Digital footpath maps; Update from Cllr Lansley confirmed that the Seven Streams walk, which appeared in the NSC Life magazine, has been digitally mapped and will soon be available on the website.
- f. Footpath gates; Cllr Lansley confirmed that she has spoken to the landowner who needs the gates on 12/9 repaired to allow livestock movements and is willing to contribute to the repair. Other landowners will also be contacted. It was noted that there is a footpath budget that could be used to help fund gate repairs/replacement. Cllr Lansley agreed to talk to NSC and the landowners.
- g. Himalayan Balsam; It was noted that this may not be as bad as in previous years and that that reports of this can be made to the Chairman.

Hb18.52 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard.

- a. Children's Funeral Fund for England – the Government's plans to set up a fund so fees for children's funerals could be waived were noted and further information awaited.
- b. Report on Heaven Scent Garden. There was no formal report on the garden although Cllrs who had been in discussion with the group reported that there is declining support for the group and those remaining are struggling. It was agreed that Cllr Lansley contact them to see if further volunteers could be found and to ask the group to formally advise the PC as to what minimum input is needed, financial and manually, to allow this garden to continue. It was noted that a change in mowing procedures may help. A report should be requested for the next council meeting on 25/06/2018, so that the situation can be reviewed at the next Highways & Burial meeting on 06/08/2018. The agreement between the PC and the group states that the ground would be returned to its original state if the project failed.
- c. To discuss quote for tree work; - It was RESOLVED that the quote (GTC4595) received for work on the Walnut, Portuguese Laurel group, Lime and Oak, for £290.00 was acceptable and that the work should go ahead. Proposed by Cllr Cave and seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.

20:15 - Cllr Miss Uppington joined the meeting

Hb18.53 - Road safety issues

- a. Vehicle Activated signs; Cllr Sterland presented the latest data analysis and noted that there is a fault with the date recording giving gaps in the dates. It was noted that speeds are higher at the Guide HQ than at the other end of the village. Analysis of the entry

speeds seems to support a traffic calming scheme in the village. It was agreed that cameras be left in current positions for a further two months and then moved to new locations to increase awareness of the 30mph zone. Cllr Cave will assist in moving the cameras when required.

- b. Yanley Lane – NSCs plans for Yanley Lane were discussed. Although the plans were acceptable, the cost of £9,844.69 (requiring a PC contribution of £5844.69) to raise the crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists and amend the three humps and the gateway were much higher than the cost originally suggested to the PC when it agreed to make a contribution. It was noted that the humps now required work due to their effective height being lowered by the resurfacing (by NSC) of Yanley Lane and that there was a health and safety aspect to consider with a local school close by. Sustrans paid for the Festival Way pathway and may have funds available which could be used. It was agreed that the PC is still willing to make a contribution but not at the level requested and that if funding cannot be found for the suggested design, for example from Sustrans then the PC asks that as a minimum the humps are reinstated to their original level before re-surfacing
- c. Parking in Lovelinch Gardens. A resident has concerns about parking. Inconsiderate parking means that it is often difficult to pass through Lovelinch Gardens or for the disabled bay to be used or for residents to exit from their drives which is very stressful for residents. The resident provided supporting photographs. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to NSC asking that they contact the resident and consider asking parking enforcement to monitor the site.
- d. State of Fenswood Road – Cllr Cave confirmed that this issue has been raised with NSC and he will follow it up. It was noted that residents should report issues on the NSC website to encourage areas to be investigated by NSC.

Hb18.54 - Festival Way – No items for information.

Hb18.55 - Biodiversity

Cllr Lansley noted a decrease in swallows and an increase in dead hedgehogs and asked what more could we be doing to encourage biodiversity and suggested a working group. It was noted that the NDP requires developers to conserve or improve biodiversity and having fences instead of hedges and increasing number of sports fields affects biodiversity and that this issue is raised when the PC comments on planning applications. It was also noted that there have been mowing changes to Chancellor's Park to help with biodiversity. Cllr McQuillan offered to set up a working group to link groups interested in this issue and agreed to draft a terms of reference and to report back to the PC.

Hb18.56 - Village Enhancement Scheme

Cllr Hardingham confirmed revised plans were received last week for safe crossing arrangements at Brocks Lane. These plans omit a raised table between Brocks Lane and Yeo Lane (as it would have to be placed at an angle which is difficult for buses) but tactile paving and single yellow lines remain. A 20mph speed limit in the village was discussed and this, in the retail area, is part of the long term strategy. It was agreed that a meeting of the working group will take place to review the plans and to consult with local residents and businesses, probably in the autumn.

Hb18.57 - Bristol City Council plans for Park and Ride

- a. Response from Bristol City Council to PC confirming that the PC will be kept informed and consulted about any changes – noted.
- b. News item re no solution to match day parking – noted.

Hb18.58 - Items raised at Annual Parish meeting for consideration

- a. Flooding at top of Providence Lane; Cllr Cave confirmed this issue has been raised with NSC Highways dept. Cllr Sterland also reported that this is also an issue in Longwood Lane and Cllr Cave will talk to NSC Highways about this too.
- b. Northleaze School clock- It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Knightstone Housing about the repairs to the clock and also them to trim back the hedge obscuring the information sign at the bus stop.
- c. Flooding at junction of Chestnut Road and Long Ashton Road – Cllr Cave confirmed this issue has been raised with NSC.
- d. Path opposite the doctor's surgery – It was noted that the barriers are now removed but the bamboo growing out of the pavement is still a hazard. It was agreed that the Clerk contact NSC to ask them to resolve the issue.
- e. Tree Keedwell Hill – It was noted that concerns were expressed about visibility being reduced by the tree on the bend. This will be reviewed if thought to be a problem.

Hb18.58 – Gullies. No further progress.

Hb18.59 - SBLR and MetroBus

A public meeting of the joint scrutiny panel, of which Cllr Cave is a member, is to be held on 06/06/2018 to look at the Metrobus project. Cllr Sterland asked that the cost-benefit ratio is confirmed.

Hb18.60 - Cycle Forum – No Report.

Hb18.61 - Leigh Woods - Parking issues and yellow line progress.

Cllr Cave confirmed that progress is being made and there is potential for a scheme to be put in place by the end of the year.

Hb18.62 - Correspondence

- a. From resident re response re Yanley Lane – the resident's views were noted, it was confirmed that speed surveys have been agreed to allow changes to speed limit to be considered and the Clerk will send the resident the speed reports.
- b. From resident re state of path between Fenswood and Keeds Lane – Cllr Cave confirmed that the maintenance of the path has been raised with NSC.
- c. Littering Consultation – Government consultation noted. Cllrs would reply individually if they were minded to do so.
- d. From NSC re closure of Portbury Hundred – information noted.
- e. From NSC re signage for Barrow Gurney pub – NSC have confirmed that they think it appropriate for the sign to be erected. The PC is not happy that the sign will be within Long Ashton Parish and may affect Long Ashton pub business. It was agreed that the Clerk should write NSC to say it is appalled by the decision causing visitors to be directed away from the village.
- f. From NSC confirming path extinguishment order – information noted.
- g. From resident re motorbikes on Festival Way – the presence of motorbikes was noted but was thought that this had improved recently.
- h. From resident re horses on Festival Way – It was agreed that the Clerk contact Sustrans to ask that signs be made clear that no horses are allowable, being excluded from the permissive path agreement with the landowner.
- i. From resident re bad parking and driving – the resident's concerns were notes and the Clerk will respond confirming that the PC is trying to address some of these issues through the Village Enhancement Scheme and giving details of how to contact the VES group.
- j. From resident re fly tipping and possible solution - a resident had written to the suggesting that the PC help with its removal by providing bags for volunteers to collect fly tipped rubbish and a collection point. It was agreed to respond to the resident that

although the PC understands that the suggestion is made with the best of intentions, the PC cannot endorse clearing of fly tipping waste by residents, in the absence of a full risk assessment due to the health and safety issues. However, Plastic Free Long Ashton will be organising litter picks in the village and the resident could contact them to offer his services and to remind them that if fly tipping is reported to NSC it is usually cleared quickly.

Hb18.63 - Other Items for Information

- a. Bus stop by RBL – It was noted that cars have to come to a halt in both directions when the bus is at the stop.
- b. Overgrown hedges – it was noted that hedges overgrowing onto pavements is an issue around the village and residents should be reminded to cut back hedges in the next newsletter.
- c. Bin and recycling collection days – A comment was made that the new bin collection arrangements do not seem logical. Time will be given to see if the new system works and discussed again if there are difficulties.

Hb18.64 - Letters written by clerk under delegated authority - none

Date of next meeting – 6th August 2018

21:40 - Close of meeting

Comments by resident on road safety in Yanley Lane

It was confirmed there has been much correspondence with regards to the height of the speed humps and the extension of the 30mph zone from Yanley Farm and noted that the chippings had not been swept up after re-surfacing which was delaying the re-painting of the white lines. It was noted that at least 15 dwellings and Long Ashton Business Park are in this vicinity. The PC noted that the speed surveys previously agreed by the PC had not yet been carried out and Long Ashton Business Park was now fully occupied and the cricket ground is used three – four times per week with many children using this site.