

**LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**19:30 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018 - Jubilee Pavilion**

Present:

Mr N Moorcroft - Chairman  
Mr M Harris  
Ms S Hardingham  
Ms L Lansley  
Mr S McQuillan  
Mr I Scoones  
Mr M Semple  
Mr R Sterland  
Mrs J Pullin  
Miss M Uppington  
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:

Mrs B Mackwood  
Mr A Batt  
Mr C Cave  
Mr A Cartman  
Ms G Collins  
Mrs S Hughes  
Dr P Jackson  
Mr A Johnson  
Mr J Thomas

In Attendance: Dr Janet Turp (The Clerk), Mrs T Warren (Assistant Clerk, minutes) and 4 members of the public.

Hb18.64 – Apologies for absence; Cllrs Cave, Collins, Jackson and Thomas.

Hb18.65 – Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb18.66 – Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Hb18.67 - Election of vice Chairman

Cllr McQuillan was elected 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. There were no other nominations. Proposed by Cllr Moorcroft. All in favour.

Hb18.68 - Exclusion of the press and public

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

It was agreed that the item on the Garden of Remembrance would be brought forward.

Hb18.69 – Garden of Remembrance;

Cllr Mrs Pullin gave the following report:

“I hadn't visited the Garden of Remembrance for a couple of years until recently when I was appalled to see how dank, dismal, dreary and uninviting it has become and this on a hot, bright strongly sunlit day. I visited at the request of some residents who are very upset at the lack of maintenance WE have allowed and because a letter written 21 months ago to this committee, complaining about the dark and muddy state, has not even been replied to despite a minute saying a meeting would be arranged with the resident and the committee chairman.

For those new to this committee perhaps I need to explain that the Garden of Remembrance was envisaged about 30 years ago as a way of interring cremated remains in an economical but beautiful space. It was dedicated in October 1992 at a time when cremations were more popular than burials, space was at a premium and our environmental thinking was ahead of most. Small shrubs were planted in the vacant areas and for many years a group of friends maintained the area, keeping it tidy. There is a shelter, with seat to allow for contemplation,

central to the plots with trees behind to give some shade, one of which is now damaging the roof of the shelter. The area covering the interred remains was to be grassed for easy maintenance, plaques are mounted on the back wall with tributes (if wished) placed on the top of the wall in line with the relevant plot. No planting in the grass is allowed.

Currently the space is completely dominated by very large overgrown trees. This month we have placed an application with NSC for pruning, removal of branches and lifting of crowns to the trees as shown on the plan. Whilst this work will alleviate the darkness of the area, this does not solve the problem of the ground. The trees have inhibited the growth of grass - in most of the areas it is just mud and where light has got to some, it is thin and patchy. Even in these hot dry conditions the ground is muddy and we know the water table is unstable in this area. The whole area needs a complete overhaul, large shrubs need severe trimming, if not complete removal in some cases and the surface of the used area needs renewing. Flowering plants have been planted into one plot and are spreading to cover other plots. Potted plants are also being left on the mud and who can argue against this with the current state of the ground? Some of the families of the current plot holders are so unhappy that there has been talk of exhumation in several plots, with justification I believe.

A suggestion has been made that the used area could be covered with a membrane topped with ornamental stones/gravel, then small tributes could be placed on individual plots. This would please some of the current plot holders and I understand they might be encouraged to group together to keep an eye on the area to maintain a tidy appearance.

It really is disgraceful that we have allowed this area to deteriorate so badly, especially so when we have spent much time appeasing a neighbour's complaint, made at the same time as the receipt of the letter mentioned earlier and when the Polish memorial adjacent to the garden is so well kept, pretty and colourful. Can we please try now, at this moment, to come to some solution and not defer this item to the next meeting?"

The meeting was adjourned at 19:40 to allow members of the public to make comment

The meeting was restarted at 19:41

It was agreed that the site is in need of improvement and tree works to alleviate darkness and allow growth of grass are in hand. It was agreed that possible solutions need to be investigated, allowing for ongoing interments. It was agreed that a working group should be set up chaired by Cllr Mrs Pullin to consult with plot owners and others, to agree the best way forward. The Clerk will write to plot owners to invite them to this working group.

19:46 the four members of public left the meeting.

#### Hb18.70 - Matters arising

- a) Hb18.49a – Tree planting – update and response from NSC re management agreement. It was noted that the trees planted on the SBL exchange land at the end of last season have now all died and an undertaking had been received that these would be replaced. A copy of the draft management agreement has been received and a copy of the adopted plan awaited.
- b) Hb18.49b – Dog Bins. Replacement of some of the bins will start soon.
- c) Hb18.58a – Flooding at top of Providence Lane – Cllr Cave is in current talks with NSC on this issue. Cllr Scoones noted that when the pumps are running, water overflows from the foul sewer manholes at the top of Providence Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to both NSC and Wessex Water to advise them of this issue noting that the Tour of Britain will come through this area.
- d) Hb18.58b – Gunston House clock – It has been confirmed that the clock will be repaired.
- e) Hb18.58d – Path opposite the Doctors' surgery. The Clerk has written to NSC asking them to rectify the problem but no reply has yet been received. Whilst the path shows some improvement there is still bamboo growing up through the surface.

f) Hb18.62h – Horses on the Festival Way – Sustrans have erected new signage informing users that horses are not allowed on the Festival Way from Yanley Lane toward Ashton Court. This prompted a call from a member of a horse organisation asking why horses were being banned and submitting a Freedom of Information request to see the original correspondence. It was explained that horses have always been excluded as this was a condition of the permissive path agreement with the landowner. It was noted that members of the PC had tried to make it an all users path but the landowner had the final decision.

#### Hb18.71 - Ashton Brook and Flood Management

- a) Update on flooding issues and to agree any action if required; no update.
- b) Updated response from Environment Agency (EA) to query re the flood alleviation system - further information has been sent to the EA to help them answer the PC's questions on the bund and FAS.

#### Hb18.72 – Footpaths

- a) To receive working group report and discuss any proposals.

Cllr Lansley gave the following report:

- Gates parallel to bypass on LA12/5 and 12/8 are being repaired - estimated costs quoted approximately £200 ie 50/ 50 with NSC.
- Gate at railway bridge Theynes Croft – this is still broken, the landowner has been invited to have it repaired
- Gate LA12/2 – Flax Bourton – back of Coroners Court, across the railway line to Clevedon road is broken. This needs repairing because of danger to children and animals running out on to busy main road – cost will be £53 to LA – Flax Bourton will share the cost.
- Footpath Working group to meet Wednesday 8 August to cut back vegetation along Monarchs Way close to Barrow Big Wood LA12/6

b) Peel Park footpath - the PC noted correspondence from a resident unhappy that the PC wishes to retain the motorcycle inhibitors which he states do not meet the appropriate access guidelines. However, motorcycles have caused nuisance to residents bordering the park and damage in the past. It was agreed that the PC will ask to keep the existing inhibitors and noted that there have been no complaints about access. The PROW officer at NSC will start work on the agreement as her work demands allow.

- c) Parsonage Road footpath – update and to agree action.

The PC noted correspondence from Persimmon advising that their solicitors fees for sorting out the permissive path are likely to be about £1,500 along with a 'Highways Act Statement' at a further cost of £750. Persimmon's solicitors have redrafted the model agreement including the removal of Persimmon's responsibility to maintain the path during the course of agreement. These fees seemed very high and the PC have been asked to suggest what they would feel was a fair cap on the fees. It was agreed that a response would be sent stating that the model agreement is accepted by most landowners and therefore the PC cannot see why the re-draft is necessary. NSC would be asked about the Highways Act Statement and whether it is necessary. The PC agreed to suggest a cap of £750.

d) Digital footpath maps – little progress has been made as NSC graphics department have been unable to provide the expected help. It was agreed to see if routes could be plotted using NSC's Earthlight mapping system and then sent to NSC. It would be useful to understand why NSC has been unable to help.

- e) Footpath gates – see Hb18.71 (a).

f) Sign for Dawson Walk. A reply is awaited from the resident who suggested the sign about the design.

g) Path beside 58 Long Ashton Road – the footpath beside the property is being badly affected by overgrown hedges and the handrail is also overgrown. The PC noted that this is a steep, well used footpath. The landowner was advised about this and has responded acknowledging the hedge is overgrown but advising that permission will be sought from NSC to trim it back. It was agreed by the PC will reply stating that as the hedge is growing outside their property line it is

the landowners responsibility to cut it back to that line and should not need the involvement of NSC planners. It has got to the stage that this needs to be done without delay.

#### Hb18.73 Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard.

Cllr Scoones declared an interest in the following and took no part in the vote.

a) Heaven Scent Garden – update and to discuss revised mowing regime.

The Clerk met with the Heaven Scent group and Little Apple gardening services who maintain the grass in the rest of the area. It was suggested that some of the area could be returned to grass and if Little Apple could do the yearly strim and maintain the grass footpaths in the remaining area then the Heaven Scent group could cope with the planting and looking after the fruit bushes, which it would like to retain. A quote has been received from Little Apple at £375 for the work and to trim the hedges on the boundary. Discussion took place as to what constitutes the enhancement of biodiversity against a visually tidy area but it was agreed that it would be beneficial to biodiversity to retain some of the best features of the area and that the suggestion was a reasonable compromise. The ongoing costs would be further investigated. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Little Apple for the work. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour.

b) To consider increasing fees for entries in the Book of Remembrance. Due to increased costs, mainly in carriage, the present charges made by the PC for entries in the book of remembrance don't cover the cost of the entry when there is only a single entry to be added. It was RESOLVED to increase the charges, so costs are covered, as follows,

Maximum 3 lines £85.00

Maximum 5 lines £95.00

Maximum 8 lines £110.00

Proposed by Cllr Sterland and seconded by Cllr Moorcroft, all in favour:

c) Trees – the application for work on trees in the burial ground is with NSC. None of the trees are in a consecrated area so a faculty from the diocese has not been applied for. A resident has asked for branches overhanging their garden to be cut back and this is included in the application.

#### Hb18.74 - Road safety issues

a) Vehicle Activated signs – latest data analysis.

Reports showed that whilst the average recorded speed is within the speed limit at Hobwell Lane and about 5 mph above near the Guide HQ the daily maximum speeds can be between 60 and 80 mph. Cllr Sterland noted that the date on the Westcotec machine sometimes reverts to 1970 and he has taken advice from the manufacturer. If it continues the signs may need to be returned.

b) Yanley Lane – response from NSC.

NSC do not have the resources to approach Sustrans for funding of the Yanley Lane scheme and therefore have said that maintenance teams will be asked to rectify the height of the existing humps when resources permit. It was agreed that the PC will approach Sustrans directly and ask if they can make a contribution. Cllr Harris confirmed that the Leigh Woods has a new speed watch group which needs some further police involvement and questioned whether PC Faithfull is still our beat manager.

#### Hb18.75 - Festival Way.

It was noted that there are lots of brambles and the bankside needs trimming. It was agreed to contact NSC to request this area be cleared.

#### Hb18.76 – Biodiversity

a) To receive any relevant items for information. Cllr Lansley confirmed a draft 'Statement of Intent' is being drafted and will be shared with Cllrs prior to the next committee meeting when it will be discussed.

b) Update on working group. Cllr McQuillan confirmed that the suggestion of the group has been positively received by local organisations and he will draw up terms of reference to be considered at the next committee meeting.

#### Hb18.77 - Village Enhancement Scheme

Following a meeting of the VES working group, Cllr Hardingham and Cllr Sterland met with NS Highways to discuss the latest plans. NSC has confirmed that the area at the Brocks Lane junction can be marked by a different colour on the road. There are two options for a 20 mph limit the first is a simple speed limit where signs only are required which can be used if the average speed is less than 25mph or alternatively, if the average speed is higher, traffic calming measures such as build-outs would need to be used as well. To support this, two speed surveys are required to provide the necessary data at an acceptable quality at a cost of approximately £200 each. It was RESOLVED to pay NS to proceed with the speed surveys. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson. All in favour.

The present scheme includes squaring off the Birdwell Lane junction to make it easier for pedestrians to cross but NSC will have to undertake an HGV tracking test to ensure that the junction would then still be usable by HGVs. The site should have a dropped kerb and tactile paving on both sides. Alternatives may be considered if the tracking tests are not supportive.

Cllr McQuillan's resignation from the working group was noted and the appointment of Cllrs Batt and Moorcroft to the group agreed.

#### Hb18.78 - Gullies - Progress on gully survey

All the information received to date has been compiled and sent to NSC.

#### Hb18.79 - SBLR and MetroBus.

It was noted that the M2 MetroBus, which replaces the 903 Park and Ride service, begins operation on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. However, because of the zoning arrangement the fares are based on, passengers travelling from the Park and Ride site will experience higher fares than those travelling from Ashton Gate. Recent Bristol Post articles reported on the opening, costs and that the service would not be suitable for high numbers of people to access BCFC for Saturday afternoon matches and not available for matches at other times. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to NSC and the MetroBus operator First Bus, highlighting the PC concerns about the positioning of the zones and the effect that the increased fares will have on the use of the Park and Ride.

#### Hb18.80 - Cycle Forum – No report

#### Hb18.81 - Leigh Woods - Parking issues and yellow line progress – update.

Cllr Harris noted that the new parking scheme is progressing. Large rocks placed on a verge by a resident to protect the grass have been removed, probably by NSC.

#### Hb18.82 - Rubbish from the Co-op carpark and around the Millstone

- a) Co-op rubbish; Village Orderlies have noted that rubbish blows from the Co-op carpark into the road. It was agreed to write a letter to the Co-op highlighting this issue.
- b) Millstone rubbish; Cigarette waste and rubbish accumulates by the millstone on Chancellors Park. It was agreed to write a letter to the businesses on the Estune Business Park asking them to remind their staff not to litter.

#### Hb18.83 - Correspondence

- a) From resident re PC response to his Fol request expressing his belief that the evidence did not support traffic calming in Yanley Lane. The comments were noted.

- b) From resident suggesting a bench outside the chemist. This was agreed to be a good idea and as seating is part of the VES the suggestion would be looked at further by the working group
- c) From MetroWest re publication of the Stage 2 consultation report; noted.
- d) From resident re Balloon Fiesta road arrangements. The resident's views on the legality of the road closures and the traffic arrangements generally were noted.
- e) Invitation to NSC Policy and Scrutiny meeting; noted.
- f) From NSC Final Notice – Hollis Close; noted.
- g) From NSC Final Notice Balloon Fiesta; noted.
- h) From NSC re surface dressing programme; noted.
- i) From resident re weed clearing. The letter was discussed and the points noted. The suggestion of including weed clearing in the VES was discussed by the VES group but not thought suitable to be included although an article could be included in the newsletter.
- j) From residents re the overgrown state of the path beside 58, Long Ashton Road; the landowner has been written to.
- k) From Ironamber re footpath beside 58, Long Ashton Road; noted.
- l) From resident re overgrown hedges. It was agreed that the clerk will write to the householders in the identified properties to request that hedges are cut back.
- m) From resident re Festival Way and Lyvedon Way noting overgrown vegetation. It was agreed to write to NSC regarding the overgrowth of brambles and weeds along the Festival Way and to the resident at Lyvedon Way regarding overgrowth obstructing the pavement.

#### Hb18.84 - Other Items for Information

- a) Long Ashton village sign at Gatcombe; it was noted that this was leaning over and the Manshed group has offered to repair the sign if the cost of materials is met by the PC.
- b) Barrow Gurney sign. NSC has replied to the letter, explaining the PC concerns, saying that they believe the signage is justified in this case. The committee is still unhappy and it was agreed that a further letter be sent suggesting that the sign be moved further towards the junction with the A370.
- c) Fly tipping in Clarken Combe another case had been reported to NSC and removed.
- d) From resident requesting changes to the bus stop by the RBL. This was discussed and it was agreed to respond that the committee felt that the bus stop should be retained in its current position.
- e) From resident re the effect of the extension of the Southville rpz to Saturdays on Long Ashton. It was agreed to respond that the PC has discussed this and is looking for a solution but doesn't think a parking zone scheme or cones would be the solution.
- f) From resident requesting an article be put in the newsletter re hedges – it was noted that this is included in most editions.
- g) From resident re a request for a replacement bollard near Ashton Court this was noted.

#### Hb 18.85 - Letters written by clerk under delegated authority

To the landowner of 58, Long Ashton Road re overgrown vegetation.

Date of next meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Close of meeting at 21:44.