

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING
19:30 8th October 2018 - Jubilee Pavilion

Present:

Mr S McQuillan – Vice Chairman (Acting Chair)
Mr A Batt
Mr C Cave (from 19:55)
Mrs S Hughes
Dr P Jackson
Ms L Lansley
Mrs J Pullin
Mr M Semple
Mr R Sterland
Miss M Uppington
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:

Mr A Cartman
Ms G Collins
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris
Mr A Johnson
Mrs B Mackwood
Mr N Moorcroft
Mr I Scoones
Mr J Thomas

In Attendance: Dr Janet Turp (The Clerk), Mrs T Warren (Assistant Clerk, minutes) and 5 members of the public.

Hb18.86 - Apologies for absence; Cllrs Hardingham, Harris, Moorcroft and Scoones.

Hb18.87 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb18.88 - Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th August 2018 copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

Hb18.89 - Exclusion of the press and public

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

Hb18.90 - Matters arising

- a. Hb18.70a – Tree planting; North Somerset Council (NSC) have yet to receive a copy of the adopted exchange land management plan for the AVTM project. The PC noted that the MetroBus is now in service and one of the planning conditions related to the adoption of the management plan. It was agreed that the Clerk write to NSC to ask, that if they do not have a copy of the adopted management plan, what evidence do they have that the terms of the management plan and therefore the planning conditions are being met.
- b. Hb18.70b – Dog Bins; No update.
- c. Hb18.70c – Flooding at top of Providence Lane
Wessex Water have visited the site and cleared a partial blockage. Improved man hole covers will be fitted to reduce the smell from the drains.
- d. Hb18.70d – Path opposite the Doctors' surgery
NSC has replied to the PC's concerns about the safety of the path saying that they have visited the site and agrees that the footpath needs repair. This has been added to the work list but NSC is unable to give any timescales for repair. NSC's Area Officer will monitor the site to ensure it continues to be safe until works are completed. It was agreed a reply will be made stating that the PC does not believe the site to be safe, that it presents a trip hazard for the frail and elderly especially as the path is close to the Doctor's surgery. Falls are particularly dangerous for the elderly and public health work hard on fall prevention and the costs of such falls should be factored into the benefit of the work and so the works should be prioritised. The PC will also ask for sight of the evidence or risk assessment that assessed the footpath as being safe.

Hb18.91- Leigh Woods - Parking issues and yellow line progress; no update

Hb18.92 - 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 scheme. It was noted that the EA have responded to confirm that as the bund is not on a main river it is not their responsibility but NSC's. The area is within Flood Zone 1. It was agreed that the PC will write again to NSC to express its concerns that issues raised previously have not been responded to and there appears to be no plan for them to be addressed. These issues include understanding the design criteria and the setting of the outfall sluice gate.

Hb18.93 – Footpaths:

- a. Working group report and discuss any proposals. Cllr Lansley gave the following report:
 - The gates LA12/5 and 12/8 parallel to the bypass have been repaired. Our contribution to costs is £200.
 - The gate at the railway bridge by Theynes Croft has now been repaired
 - The vegetation along Monarchs Way from the bypass to the A38 has been cut back where necessary.

It was noted that the Severn Streams area is muddy with bramble overgrowth. Cllr Lansley agreed to contact the owner and that the path linking Providence Lane with the Golf Course is in poor condition with hedges needing to be cut back. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the secretary of the Golf Club to request the hedges be cut.

- b. Peel Park footpath update – Correspondence from NSC confirms this will be progressed when the workload allows.
- c. Parsonage Road footpath - correspondence from Persimmon Homes and NSC; it was noted that Persimmon have suggested costs of the order of £1500 to draw up the permissive path agreement (ppa) and an extra £750 for the Highways Act Statement. They have sent the PC a copy of their preferred ppa draft model agreement. This agreement seems to place a high burden on the PC and NSC commented that it seemed 'over the top'. NSC have pointed out that its PROW committee has given authority for the DMMO application for this path to be determined out of sequence and expect this to be done next year. It is thought that the path is currently blocked. It was RESOLVED not to proceed with the Permissive Path agreement due to the disproportionate costs involved. Proposed by Cllr Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Sterland. All in favour.

Cllr Cave joined the meeting at 19:55 and apologised for his lateness.

- d. Footpath gates – as discussed in the footpaths report.
- e. Sign for Dawson Walk – ongoing
- f. Path beside 58 Long Ashton Road – This has now be cleared by the owners of no. 58.

Hb18.94 – Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

- a. Heaven Scent Garden – The tidying work by Little Apple has been undertaken. It was noted that maintenance strimming and/or mowing is an ongoing cost and this will be monitored to ensure that it does not become significant.
- b. Trees – the planned work on some trees in the burial ground has been carried out.
- c. Garden of Remembrance; Cllr Mrs Pullin gave the following report:

“A further meeting has been held at the Burial Ground with 8 plot holders. The autumn morning could not have been warmer or sunnier, yet still we were disappointed to find that the area is no more tidy or welcoming than on the previous visit in late July. Some trees have been trimmed to clear the shelter roof but have made no difference to the entry of light. The 9 coppiced trees to the east of the shelter have made a difference to that area and serve to show what can be achieved to lighten the area. However coppicing

means that the area will be dark and overgrown again in time. The mud encountered previously, now has scrubby, weedy grass growing giving the ground an unkempt appearance.

We must realise that the time has come to consider an extreme overhaul of this garden, that after nearly 30 years a complete re-think is needed about the overgrown trees and shrubs currently in situ. Relatives, perfectly understandably, are increasingly distressed about the area in which they placed their loved one's remains and do not feel any comfort in visiting the plots. They would like to see a much more open area where they can sit, look at the expanse of the open space of the burial ground and churchyard and remember times past.

I can't emphasise enough how dismal and uninviting this area is and that it is now time to organise a revamp. It will not be done without a considerable cost, but money spent now will alleviate some future costs and encourage future use – as it stands now people will not consider it as a pleasant resting place.

The group has suggested three courses of action they would like the committee to consider as follows:-

- Firstly – All are in agreement that 6 trees need to be removed – to allow sunlight into the garden.

Until that happens there will be no improvement - the area will be dark, dreary, enclosed and unwelcoming. The spindly scrubby weed, now apparent, should also be removed, the area re-covered and kept tidy.

- The second suggested improvement – If removal of all trees is not an option, work will still be required to trees and shrubs. However it will still be a fairly dark area and past problems of grass and mud will remain. Therefore it is requested that a membrane covered with pebbles be put down.

- The final suggestion still includes drastic reduction of trees and removal of shrubs. Instead of a membrane and pebbles then the request is for the area to be covered in slabs which make future interments easier, as each can be lifted and replaced individually. Should this be considered as the way forward, some plot owners may contribute towards the cost of the slabs and would also like to place plaques on the slab under which their relative rest. Slabs would also allow small floral tributes to be placed on the owners' plots.

Common to all these suggestions is radical work to trees, removal of all high shrubs in the unused section as well as at both sides and in front of the shelter, to be replaced with low growing plants.

I do hope we will give careful thought and consideration to all suggestions to reach a solution acceptable to all”.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:06 to allow members of the public to speak.

The meeting was reconvened at 20:07

The PC agreed that the condition of the site was not acceptable but that a site visit was necessary so the various options could be looked at and should take place as soon as possible. The plot holders group would also be invited to attend. Preferred options could then be identified and costed. A Saturday morning site visit was suggested and Cllr Mrs Pullin will arrange a date and inform Cllrs and plot holders.

The PC noted there was an earmarked reserve for work on the burial ground needed following the memorial testing and that this could possibly be used for work on the Garden of Remembrance.

Cllr Mrs Pullin left the room 20:10

- d. Quote for monument testing received from Young Johnson - only one quote for the work has been received as the clerk could not identify another contractor to ask. It was agreed under these circumstances that one quote was acceptable as it seemed reasonable and Young Johnson did the work last time. It was RESOLVED to proceed with the Young Johnson quote of £525. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Wilkinson. All in favour.

Hb18.95 - Road safety issues – to discuss.

- a. Vehicle Activated signs; no data analysis is available as the signs are not recording dates accurately.
- b. To agree to the repair of the Westcotec VAS - Cllr Sterland confirmed the unit has been assessed by the manufacturer who has identified that the radar unit is faulty and a battery needs replacing. The total quote for repair with a reconditioned unit is £423.99 + VAT for the reconditioned unit or £678.99 + VAT for a new replacement.

Cllr Mrs Pullin returned 20:15

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the repair using the reconditioned unit if the repair was guaranteed for a least a year otherwise to proceed with the repair with a new unit. Proposed Cllr Cave, seconded Cllr Sterland. Agreed.

Cllr Sterland noted that the 3M unit also needs repair and would require sending back to the German manufacturer. It was RESOLVED to proceed with the repair at a cost of up to £500. If greater than this it could be done with the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr Sterland. Agreed.

- c. Yanley Lane speed monitoring results; not yet available
- d. Response from Sustrans re funding of improvements at the Festival Way crossing; Sustrans have replied saying that they do not have the resources for funding.

Hb18.96 - Festival Way

- a. To receive any relevant items for information - It was noted that the cowbridge and surrounding area are essentially unusable due to cattle excrement and mud. This is hazardous to users and in particular to school children who use the path to access the church. It was agreed that the clerk will write to the farmer to ask them to clean the area and to remind them of the hazard it presents. A burnt-out scooter has been removed from the path but soot remains.
- b. To consider suggestion of a bench for walkers - Cllr Hardingham has been approached by a resident suggesting that a bench should be provided for walkers on the Festival Way possibly near the community growing area. The PC welcomed the idea and agreed that the cost of a suitable seat/bench and location be investigated by the Clerk and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Hb18.97 - Biodiversity

- a. To consider the draft "Biodiversity Statement of Intent", to discuss any changes and to adopt. Ongoing
- b. Working group - to consider the draft terms of reference to discuss any changes and to adopt. Ongoing. Cllrs Lansley and McQuillan are to meet to draft this.
- c. To receive any relevant items for information; none

Hb18.98 - Village Enhancement Scheme (VES) working group

Cllr Sterland confirmed results from the two speed surveys undertaken show the average speed as less than 25mph so traffic calming measures, such as build-outs, are not required for a 20 mph speed limit to be applied between Providence Lane and Lovelinch Gardens. Final drawings and costings are being completed. Consultation on the scheme will now take place and will include the businesses along the main road and in particular Piccolos.

Hb18.99 - SBLR and MetroBus

a. To discuss response from NSC re concerns about MetroBus

The MetroBus team have replied to the PC concerns stating that the m2 MetroBus service is a commercial service whereas the 903 Park and Ride service was subsidised and that this explains the pricing structure. NSC also replied stating that the route was changed against their advice. The issues raised by the PC will be discussed at West of England level. Cllr Cave reported that the route and fare issues have been raised at Joint Scrutiny meetings with the four local councils.

It was agreed the PC will again write to MetroBus and NSC emphasising its concern about the pricing structure and asking for information about the MetroBus use.

b. To receive any relevant items for information; none.

Hb18.100 - Cycle Forum – Report; none

Hb18.101 - Bus stop opposite Lovelinch Gardens – to discuss ways of addressing the visibility problem.

It was noted that the position of seating in the bus shelter means that approaching buses cannot be seen and as the digital bus tracking system is not 100% accurate, bus users need to keep getting up to see if buses are coming. It was agreed that the Clerk will investigate the cost of a single seat to be placed on the interior wall nearest the Estate Agents, facing the road so oncoming buses could be seen.

Hb18.102 - Hollis Close – to discuss a response to the work carried out by North Somerset Council.

The work recently carried out to Hollis Close is not as was agreed with NSC by the community and the PC. NSC have confirmed that this work has not been carried out as agreed but there is no budget for the additional £15,000 that removal of the hump and reinstatement of the kerbs would cost. However, they would monitor the area and discuss the situation when the results are available. It was agreed that the a reply will be made to NSC to express the PC's disappointment that the time and effort put to consultation with collaboration with residents, schools to come up with a solution that appeared to be acceptable to and agreed by NSC for it all to be disregarded and noting the reputational damage done. The PC is of the view that there are significant safety concerns about the junction and that monitoring needs to take place not only during the school run at the beginning of the school year (when parents tend to be on their best behaviour) but a different times of the year and day. Cllr Cave confirmed he is seeking a meeting with the Director and Executive Member to discuss the issue and to ensure that the PC and Long Ashton residents are not ignored in future.

Hb18.103 - Correspondence - to consider listed correspondence and to note any other

a. From a resident re state of gullies in Church Lane noting that the gullies have been emptied but the mud in the road means that they will soon be blocked again. It was agreed the Clerk write to NSC to ask them to clear the debris from this road.

It was agreed to put the use of Merriots field as a Caravan site on the Planning Committee agenda.

b. From a resident reporting two incidences of Himalayan Balsam. It was agreed to write to NSC Highways, to ask them to clear the area around the Park and Ride and to report the location within Ashton Court to their estates team.

c. From a resident re alternative pedestrian route to Park and Ride – The suggestion of an improved pedestrian link from the Festival Way was noted, and though it has been previously discounted by NSC will be suggested to them.

d. From a resident re road closures for the Tour of Britain; these comments were noted.

e. From a resident expressing concerns that because of its timing the speed survey in Yanley Lane might not be representative. It was agreed to respond to confirm that their comments will be taken into account when the report is considered.

- f. From a resident re the proposed retention of motor cycle inhibitors on the footpath across Peel Park – his views were noted.
- g. From resident comments on minutes; the views of the resident on decisions re Peel Park and the Parsonage Road footpath were noted.
- h. From residents re lights. Residents reported that lights in Warren Lane and Weston Road were broken. These have now been fixed.
- i. From NSC Notice of Intent - B3129 Belmont Hill, Wraxall; noted.
- j. A resident has made a formal complaint to NSC re the Balloon Fiesta road closures and copied the PC into the communication; noted

Hb18.104 - Other Items for Information

- a. Letters written by clerk under delegated authority – Four letters have been written to residents regarding hedges.
- b. It was noted that the hedges on the north side of the Warren Lane junction with Weston Road are collapsing.
- c. Road markings at the bottom of Longwood Lane have been worn away. Cllr Cave confirmed that liaison is taking place on this and an altered entrance location.
- d. Beggar Bush Lane flooding - It was noted that action taken has not been successful.

Date of next meeting – 3rd December 2018

Meeting closed at 21:24