

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

(Formerly HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND)



19:30, 27th January 2020, Jubilee Pavilion

Present – Mr S McQuillan – Acting Chairman
Ms L Anderson
Mr A Cartman
Mr C Cave
Ms C Fagg
Ms S Hardingham
Ms L Lansley
Mr O Lloyd-Jones
Mr P Jackson
Mr A Johnson (until 20:04)
Mr D Johnson
Ms R McAllister Kemp
Ms C Sellars
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent: -
Ms S Barnes
Mr M Harris

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp, Assistant Clerk, Tracy Warren (minutes), Cllr James, Mike Riggall, NSC Parish Liaison Officer (from 20:35) and 1 member of the public.

Public Participation - Prior to the formal meeting a resident spoke to express his opinion on the effect of the lack of conditions on the documentation around the dedication of the PROW across Peel Park.

Hb19.128 - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Harris.

Hb19.129 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb19.130 - Minutes of the previous meetings

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Highways and Burial Ground Committee meeting held on 2nd December, previously circulated, be accepted as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Hb19.131 - Exclusion of the press and public

There were no items that necessitated exclusion from the press or public.

Hb19.132 - Chair's Comments

– Cllr McQuillan confirmed that Cllr Semple had resigned from the Council and therefore as Chairman of the Environment Committee and thanked him for his contribution. Cllr McQuillan will also be resigning from his role as Vice Chairman due to a potential conflict of interest with his role as NSC Ward Cllr. The new Chairman and vice Chairman will be appointed at the next committee meeting.

Hb19.133 - Matters arising

- a) Hb19.116 – Following the agreement of Council to the change of name of the Committee from Highways & Burials to The Environment Committee, it was agreed that the Terms of Reference should be reviewed at the next committee meeting.
- b) Hb19.124; memorial plaque – Manshed have restored the plaque and it will shortly be reinstated.

It was agreed to bring forward the item 'Parking'.

Hb19.134 - Parking

- a) Leigh Woods Parking Scheme – a letter has been received from NSC re how the consultation on the scheme should be carried out. It was RESOLVED that the response to this letter be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the two Leigh Woods Cllrs. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour. Concern was expressed on the effect the scheme, and other schemes proposed by NS, may have on parking in Long Ashton.
- b) NSC Parking review concerns – Cllr Cave noted that NSC are seeking to introduce harmonised schemes throughout NS and believes that this may not be appropriate in all areas, for example its introduction in Nailsea may result in a detrimental effect on local businesses. The consultation will need a response before 4th March so it was agreed to bring the item to the Planning Committee on 10th February.

20:04 – Cllr A. Johnson left the meeting

Hb19.135 - Road safety

- a) Kingcott Farm – The speed survey results were discussed and it was noted that the 85th percentile is under 40 mph and that NSC do not believe that it would be cost effective for a 30 mph limit to be introduced as it would require extensive traffic calming measures. Cllr Cave is discussing the possibility of improving access and the footpaths with the landowner and looking into the provision of an additional bus stop and will continue to be the point of contact and provide an update to the next meeting. It was noted that the elderly people warning sign has not yet been erected and it was agreed the Clerk will contact NSC to chase this matter.
- b) Hollis Close – Following meetings with residents and NSC, Cllrs Semple and McQuillan have drafted a response (circulated to Cllrs) to NSC's safety audit and it was requested that any comments on the draft to be made via the Clerk. It was RESOLVED to delegate the finalising of the response to NSC to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr McQuillan. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.
- c) Yanley Lane humps – Some residents believe the humps have not been restored to their original height. Cllr McQuillan has asked Highways to confirm that the humps are the correct height (ie in accordance with national guidelines and NS policy) and awaits a reply.
- d) Speed watch – It was RESOLVED to agree that the PC will pay for the room hire for speed watch meetings. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.
- e) Providence Lane – A resident has written expressing concern about the safety of Providence Lane. Cllr Hardingham agreed with the resident concerns and noted that the PC had been campaigning for 20 years to have a 20 mph limit on the road. It was agreed that the Clerk write to reassure the resident that the PC consider this road should be a priority within the 2nd stage of the VES due to the lack of footpath and vulnerable residents using the road.
- f) From resident requesting raw data from speed surveys – the clerk will supply this information if she has it.
- g) From resident re Theynes Croft zebra crossing – the request for additional school warning signs in this area was noted, but that different signage had been included in the TRO. It was agreed to respond to the resident to confirm that the TRO for this area has been agreed with NSC and provide a link to this information.

Hb19.136 - Village enhancement

- a) Leigh Woods Village Enhancement Scheme; working group report - none at this time.
- b) Long Ashton Village Enhancement Scheme working group report; Cllr Hardingham provided the following report (previously circulated):
“Since the last meeting, there is little progress to report. The date for starting the works is to be confirmed, although it is still hoped to be March/April 2020. Two responses

have been received by NSC to the statutory consultation on the TRO; one resident has helpfully picked up that the parking restrictions outside the Bird in Hand and Cohens needs to also restrict loading and unloading during school access hours. It is believed that there is a quick process for amending the TRO, so it is hoped that this will not delay the works. The other comment requests extension of the 20mph limit. While many of us on the working group are in favour of this (and indeed have been motivated by this aim from the start), it is believed that VES 2 will be the time to consider this in detail, and to ensure sufficient funding. For now, the 20mph limit to be introduced in the shopping area will be a useful trial and well understood by drivers in that location. Plans are going ahead now for the planter outside the PO. The working group needs to meet to consider fresh organisation and direction, in particular to follow up urgently the requirements for the Piccolo's forecourt. New members of the working group are welcome."

Cllr Hardingham added that the working group would welcome new members and following 5 years of work on the VES it is time for her to resign as chair of the working group. On behalf of the PC Cllr Jackson and the Chairman thanked Cllr Hardingham for her work on the VES.

Hb19.137 - Footpaths and Cycle paths

- a) Footpath report - Cllr Lansley gave an update. There are 5 or 6 volunteers, who work on the footpaths, but they are no longer young and it was suggested that it is widened to be an environmental volunteers group and contact is made with local environmental groups. It was agreed to add this to the CAN agenda and can be highlighted on their stand at the next Village market. Issues with overhanging branches in Brocks Lane were noted. Street lights in Brocks Lane need repair and the Clerk has informed NSC.
- b) Peel Park footpath – NSC have confirmed the footpath has been designated as a PROW. It was agreed to contact NSC to see if it was significant that no restrictions were marked on the map.
- c) Festival Way - Bench for walkers; 3 quotes for fitting the bench have been requested.

20:35 – Mike Riggall, NSC Parish Liaison officer entered the room and was introduced to new Cllrs.

- d) From resident re footpaths on the Theynes Croft Estate; A resident has reported all the work that needs to be done on these footpaths. He copied it to NSC and it was agreed that it is NSC's responsibility.
- e) From resident re furniture on Peel Park – previously addressed in earlier items.
- f) From resident re Festival Way diversion – A resident highlighted several issues with the footpaths in this area. Cllr Lansley has had no further information from the Public Rights of Way Officer on their plans for a diversion of a footpath to access the Park and Ride site. Cllr Lansley will copy the historic correspondence to Cllrs McQuillan and Cartman so they can take this matter forward.
- g) From resident re horse riding on the Festival Way

20:49 – the meeting was suspended to allow a resident to speak to clarify his request.

20:51 – meeting reconvened.

A resident has written to point out an issue with horses being ridden between on the Festival Way between Brook Close and Northleaze School and asks that the PC support the erection of signs to show no horse-riding on that section. It was RESOLVED to write to NSC in support of the request. Proposed by Cllr Cave and seconded by Cllr Jackson. Carried with 2 abstentions.

Hb19.138 - Environmental Management

- a) Ashton Brook and Flood Management – No Update at this time. Cllr Cave noted that the modifications promised to prevent flooding of the underbridge have not been

carried out and it was agreed that the Clerk will write to NSC to chase this item, copied to Cllr McQuillan.

- b) Biodiversity – Cllr Lansley noted that a response has been sent to NSC on their rewilding plans. Cllr Lansley has met with CAN to discuss plans for further rewilding in the parish. A meeting will take place with the University.
- c) Tree planting and small public spaces in the Parish – Cllr D Johnson noted that identifying areas for planting is ongoing with no sites identified by NSC in their rewilding plans but Highways land could be considered. Cllrs Fagg, James and Lansley will meet to identify potential planting sites. Cllr D. Johnson will chase a response from Avon Wildlife Trust with regards to tree planting in the autumn.
- d) Noise from the SBLR- update. NSC highways have informed Cllr McQuillan that the cost of 400-500m of attenuation fencing will be approximately £50,000. It was agreed that the Clerk write to NSC to request that this cost be included in their pinch point scheme and also to investigate if funding could be obtained from the Airport environmental fund for noise attenuation.
- e) North Somerset Council rewilding consultation – discussed in items above.
- f) From resident re management of Parsonage Farm which they believe is leaving animal waste on the footpaths in and around the farm and may be a risk to watercourses. It was agreed the Clerk will write to Environmental Health to inform them of the resident's concerns.
- g) GB Spring Clean – Cllr McAllister Kemp suggested that the PC take part in this nationwide campaign during 29th March to 20th April. It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for F&GP committee and in the meantime Cllr McAllister Kemp and the Clerk will liaise with NSC to find a suitable date.
- h) Dawson Walk boardwalk – It was noted that a sign has been erected by the walkway warning users to take care.

Hb19.139 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard.

- a) Remedial work on monuments - ongoing
- b) Heaven Scent Garden – nothing to report at this time.
- c) Mower – no update at this time.
- d) Review of policy re benches - Cllrs Fagg and Barnes are yet to visit the burial ground.
- e) Offer of donation (previously circulated) – An offer of a donation towards the upkeep of the Burial Ground has been made and the gardener complimented. It was agreed to respond to the resident to suggest that the donation be put towards the planting scheme proposed by the gardener.
- f) Request to reserve plots in the burial ground - the PC policy is that plots cannot be reserved in advance and the reasons for the policy explained. It was agreed not to make an exception for the five plots requested.
- g) Contributions to the Churchyard Trust – it was agreed that this item be deferred until Cllrs had met with the trustees.

Hb19.140 - Correspondence

- a) From resident re flooding in Yanley Lane – It was agreed to forward the correspondence to NSC for their attention cc Cllrs Cartman and McQuillan.
- b) From resident re parking on Pear Tree Avenue – The Clerk has forwarded the resident's correspondence to the Police; the PCSO has agreed to contact the resident regarding the obstruction issues.
- c) Re Ashton Gate Concerts – The concert on 9th June was noted.
- d) From NSC re Longwood Lane detailing the work that Tarmac is going to do around the junction with Clarken Combe. This was noted. It was pointed out that mud on roads can be reported to the police.
- e) From Surveillance Camera Commissioner re ANPR use – the commissioner warns against the use of systems that use number plate recognition and are not compliant with the Protection of Freedom Act.

- f) From resident complaining about the condition of the dog bin in Folleigh Drive and suggesting it should be moved – The PC view is that this bin is well used and it was agreed not to re-site it. However, it was agreed that there are bins that need replacing and it was RESOLVED to purchase 3 new bins. Proposed by Cllr McQuillan and seconded by Cllr Fagg, all in favour. It was agreed to respond to the resident to confirm that replacement of the bin would be considered after a condition survey of all the bins had been carried out.
- g) From resident asking why the Park & Ride continues not to be available for parking for events. It was agreed to write to the NSC Cllrs to request information about the ownership and parking restrictions at the Park and Ride.
- h) From resident re gullies – identifying some that need work and suggestion for an additional gully. NSC has received the suggestions from the resident and in the first instance it will be left with them. It has previously been noted that a review of gully maintenance by NSC is needed.
- i) From resident re Kingcott Farm suggesting the junction sign be moved closer to the entrance – it was agreed that the Clerk write to NSC for advice.
- j) Signage to Long Ashton from A370 – it was noted that there are no signs for Long Ashton from the A370 and agreed to put this item on the next Environment agenda.
- k) From resident suggesting that the Burial Ground gardener clean the concrete plinth on the farm side of the kissing gate leading from the burial ground was discussed but was not considered part of the gardener's role. His request that the Village Orderlies work on Thursdays to clear up after the bin collections was also discussed but the bins are emptied on several days and it was considered unreasonable to dictate the hours of work chosen by the Village Orderlies as they are very part time. The Clerk will write to the owners of Parsonage Farm with a request that they clean the area. It was agreed to thank the Village Orderlies for their good work.

Hb19.141 - Other Items for Information

- a) Letters written by clerk under delegated authority – none.
- b) NSC have made bid for £1.8 million from the government to improve the Long Ashton by-pass. It was noted that sound mitigation should be included in this program of work and Cllr McQuillan agreed to raise this with NSC.

Meeting closed at 21:45

Date of next meeting – 30th March 2020