

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL



COUNCIL MEETING

19:00 – 17th February 2020, Jubilee Pavilion

Present:- Mr D Johnson (Chairman)
Ms L Anderson
Mr C Cave
Ms C Fagg
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris
Mr P Jackson (from 19:18)
Mr O Lloyd-Jones
Ms R McAllister Kemp
Ms C Sellars
Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:-
Ms S Barnes
Mr A Cartman
Mr C James
Mr A Johnson
Ms L Lansley
Mr S McQuillan
Mr T Weir

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr Janet Turp and Assistant Clerk, Tracy Warren (minutes).

C20.018 - Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs James, McQuillan and Weir.

C20.019 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

Interests to be declared during the meeting. A dispensation was requested by Cllr Cave for items relating to the War Memorial and Churchyard Trust. It was RESOLVED to grant the dispensation requested so that the necessary information on the churchyard could be provided to Council when discussing the memorial design issue in Burial Ground.

C20.020 - Exclusion of the press and public

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

C20.021 - To discuss the NALC consultation paper on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments

Cllrs Anderson, Fagg and McAllister Kemp had considered the issues around the Home Office consultation and prepared a report to Council, highlighting their concerns not only with the proposed legislation but also with the drafting of the questionnaire. They feared that the legislation would risk criminalising travellers, homeless people and other sections of the community and aggravating the existing problems that travellers face in accessing services to which they are entitled and did not tackle the underlying issue of inadequate access to authorised sites. It noted that the police thought existing powers are adequate. Cllrs pointed out that from the other side it was quite a financial burden on landowners to remove travellers at present. Following discussion it was agreed that though the present system for removing encampments is flawed the PC did not see criminalisation as the answer.

It was RESOLVED to respond to NALC on question 18 only, as follows:

“The PC has not responded to the other questions because they are poorly framed and badly worded, making it difficult to give an unambiguous response. However, although existing arrangements without a doubt need improving, we think these proposals are not the way forward and should be withdrawn because:

- Police powers are adequate once a court order has been obtained.
- They fail to tackle the underlying issue of inadequate access to authorised sites

- They risk criminalising travellers, homeless people and other sections of the community
- They risk aggravating the existing problems the travellers face in accessing services to which they are entitled.”

Proposed by Cllr Fagg and seconded by Cllr Lloyd-Jones. All in favour.

19:18 – Cllr Jackson entered the room.

C20.022 - Problem parking in Church Lane

Parsonage Farm has contacted the PC noting that poor parking at the entrance to Church Lane makes it impossible for the milk lorries at times to access the farm adversely affecting their business. It was agreed that the Clerk write to NS to inform them of the issue and asking what can be done. It was suggested that a notice on the wall may help.

C20.023 - Memorial design issue in Burial Ground

A memorial recently erected in the burial ground has a portrait on the stone which contravenes PC guidelines and the stonemason had not included the portrait in his request for permission for the stone. It was agreed that, as others had been refused permission to have a portrait on the stone, a retrospective exception cannot be made. The stonemason will be informed and the Clerk and Cllr Anderson will talk to the purchaser of the memorial. It was agreed that a review of the burial ground guidelines will be discussed by the Environment Committee.

C20.024 - Any items for information

Correspondence from resident re a manhole cover on Keedwell Road – a resident was injured as a result of slipping on a manhole cover. Several Cllrs had looked at the cover and it was agreed that the Clerk write to NS to advise the PC feels that the manhole cover poses a safety issue and to ask that nearby covers are also inspected.

Date of next meeting: Monday 16th March 2020

Meeting closed at 19:36