

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
(Formerly HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND)
20:00, 28th September 2020
held remotely by video conference



Present – Ms C Fagg; Chairman
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris
Mr C James
Mr D Johnson
Ms L Lansley
Ms McAllister Kemp
Mr S McQuillan

Absent: -
Ms L Anderson
Mr A Cartman
Mr C Cave
Dr P Jackson
Mr A Johnson
Mr O Lloyd-Jones
Ms C Sellars
Mr A Wilkinson

In attendance - The Clerk Dr JE Turp, Cllrs D'Alesio and Purkiss and six members of the public.

Hb20.001 - Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Anderson, Cave, Jackson and Wilkinson.

Hb20.002 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

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

Hb20.003 - Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 10th August 2020 (previously circulated) were confirmed as a correct record and it was agreed they should be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

Hb20.004- Exclusion of the press and public

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

Hb20.005 - Chair's Comments – None.

Hb20.006 - Matters arising for information only – none.

Hb20.007 - Road safety

- a) Kingcott Farm – NSC have yet to erect the elderly persons warning sign. The Clerk will continue to remind NSC.
- b) Hollis Close – Cllr McQuillan has been unable to contact the school so a meeting has yet to take place. Cllr James suggested that there was no longer a safety issue in Hollis Close and proposed that the matter be dropped. The proposal wasn't seconded and was voted down. The PC will continue to pursue a solution.
- c) Yanley Lane humps – Cllr McQuillan has yet to be able to arrange a meeting with all the interested parties but noted there was a broader issue about the safety of the area as you have the Festival Way crossing the road there, children walking to school, footpaths and a shortcut into the village. There had been a briefing on quiet lanes which he will report back on. It was noted that there were funds available for Road Safety which were earmarked for Hollis Close at the moment but could be reallocated if they weren't needed there.
- d) A369 Safety concerns and request for 30mph limit - NSC had responded to this request by saying that the area did not meet the guidelines for a 30 mph zone. Cllr

Harris asked if he could contact NSC and explain the particular problems that this area faces. This was agreed. NSC had also offered a speed survey and it was RESOLVED to agree in principle to ask NSC to carry out a speed survey if this seemed appropriate up to a cost of £300. Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Hardingham, all in favour.

- e) Request for Vehicle Activated Sign for Leigh Woods – NSC are supportive of this and can provide help. The clerk will contact NS and say the PC are interested in finding more information about the sign and Cllr Harris will contact them. When the cost of the sign is known, funding will be discussed but it may be funded from the Leigh Woods VES.
- f) Correspondence from a residence re overgrown hedges and other issues. A resident had written complaining about a number of issues including cyclists riding more than 2 abreast and in groups. It was noted that concerns had been raised previously and the raising of the zebra crossing had been considered to at least partially address this. It was agreed to raise this through the NS cycle forum. The resident was also concerned about parking on pavements. It was noted that there was a government consultation about this at the moment and it was agreed that the PC would include an article in the newsletter highlighting the issue and encouraging residents to respond to the consultation. The resident was very concerned about overgrowing brambles and hedges and Cllr McAllister Kemp offered to accompany the resident to understand her problems. The clerk to contact the resident.
- g) From resident re speeding in Long Ashton. A resident had written observing that cars are not obeying the 20 mph speed limit and that crossing the main road at the top of Yeo Lane was hazardous. It was agreed that something more needed to be done at the Bristol end of the 20 mph area to remind people of the limit, for example banners or stickers to show the importance villagers place on the limit and a reminder placed in the newsletter. The VES working group will meet to follow this up and also to look at physical measures. Cllr James will arrange a meeting. Enforcement is also needed and Cllr McQuillan will follow this up and he also noted that establishment of the community speed watch was progressing with sites having been identified and being put to the police for approval. It was noted that a zebra crossing was not considered possible at this position as it is a crossroads but this might be worth revisiting.

20:44 The meeting was adjourned due to disruption.

20:49 The meeting was restarted on a new zoom meeting.

The resident also commented on the extremely bad state of Rayens Cross Road. It was agreed that this was in need of resurfacing and the clerk will write to NSC to say that filling in of pot holes is no longer sufficient for this road (particularly between Providence and Keedwell Hill) and it now needs resurfacing.

Hb20.008 – Parking

- a) Leigh Woods Parking scheme. Cllrs Harris and A Johnson have met with NSC. The plan is going ahead; it needs to be finally agreed by NS Councillors. There will be a consultation with a view that it will be put in place in spring 2021.
- b) Update on response to actions on Long Ashton parking issues. The clerk wrote to NS re parking restrictions outside Lampton House. NS were of the opinion that the site didn't meet the guidelines and suggested a mirror. The Clerk now has the contact details for the occupiers and landlord of the Estune business park on Pear Tree Avenue and will write to them.

21:02 Cllr Purkiss left the meeting

- c) From NSC re request for parking restrictions. This will be considered by the VES working group though it was noted that the guidelines are very restrictive.

- d) From resident re parking on Chancellors Park. The clerk to respond detailing the actions above.

Hb20.009 – Village enhancement.

- a) Leigh Woods Village Enhancement Scheme working group report and to agree any action required. No further update.
- b) Long Ashton Village Enhancement Scheme and Road Safety working group report and to agree any action required. Substantially covered above. Information on the progress of the “Reopening the High Street” bid was given. NSC is waiting for Govt. approval of their plans. It is frustratingly slow. Following discussion re the merits of the NS scheme vs the PC suggested scheme and also the possibility of planters outside the Bird in Hand it was agreed that Cllr D Johnson would chase NSC and also talk to the owners of the Bird in Hand. It was agreed to wait for NSC bid to go through and in the meantime to work on the VES. The planters outside the Post Office will be in position soon.

Hb20.010 – Footpaths and Cycle paths

- a) Report on the results of a footpath survey and to discuss and to agree response. This survey was undertaken to inform the response to NSC. In 10 days 207 responses were received. These showed that footpaths are an important part of village life, they are well used for getting to school and the circular walk is particularly popular. Requests included better signposting, resting places, safer road crossings, less litter and the cutting back of vegetation and links to places such as Tyntesfield. 91 people wanted to be kept informed about the paths. It was suggested that there should be a LA Rights of Way forum with quarterly meetings and also walk/talk/act meetings. Cllr Fagg will lead on this. A village rights of way improvement plan was also suggested. It was noted that there were no footpaths in the village of Leigh Woods.
- b) Draft response to NSC re consultation on the Right of Way Improvement Plan to discuss and agree response The draft had been circulated listing six items.

21.18 meeting suspended to allow a member of the public to speak

21.21 meeting resumed

It was RESOLVED to approve the draft response and to send it to NS proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Hardingham, all in favour.

- c) Access to Peel Park for wide buggies etc. to discuss. A resident posted on Facebook that they couldn't get their double buggy into Peel Park from Keeds Lane. It was noted that there is a planning condition that motor cycle inhibitors to be placed at the entrances. Options are to widen them, replace them or remove them.

21.24 Meeting suspended to allow a member of the public to speak

21.26 Meeting resumed

It was agreed that Cllr Fagg would look at the options and bring a report back to the next meeting.

- d) Dawson Walk to consider Greenbelt response and to agree a way forward. Greenbelt has written to confirm they are getting the boardwalk fixed and suggesting their contractor could meet with the PC. The clerk has responded to say a video meeting with greenbelt themselves would be preferred.
- e) Access to Ashton Court from Longwood Lane – update. The clerk has written to Bristol City Council asking for a pedestrian gate and dog bin by this entrance but has had no reply as yet.

Hb20.011 – Environmental Management

Report from the Biodiversity and Public Open Spaces working group and to agree any actions. The report was noted and the committee supported the working group in their proposal to produce an action plan.

Hb20.012 – Climate Change and related issues

- a) Report from lead Cllrs to discuss and agree any actions – no report
- b) To agree date for Climate workshop – Cllrs Fagg and McQuillan to propose a date.
- c) Ashton Brook and Flood Management - Update on flooding issues – no update.

Hb20.012 – Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

- a) Report from lead Cllr (Cllr Anderson) – to be provided at next meeting.
- b) Remedial work on monuments and Heaven Scent Garden no update at present.
- c) Review of policy re benches – the churchyard is very crowded and there might be other places where these could be. Cllrs to think about suitable sites.
- d) To agree to tree survey in churchyard/burial ground/Chancellors Park. It was agreed to get quotes for a tree survey and it was RESOLVED to delegate to the clerk authority to spend up to £700 on the survey. Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr McQuillan, all in favour.

Hb20.013 – Correspondence to note any not included above

A letter has been received from a resident asking to plant a tree in the burial ground and/or Peel Park. It was agreed to talk to the tree officer about the suitability of the suggested tree and if appropriate to pursue further.

Hb20.013 – Other Items for Information

Letters written by clerk under delegated authority. A letter has been written to a farmer reminding him that an electric fence on his land on a footpath needs to be modified to protect the public.

End of meeting 21:37

Date of next meeting – 30th November 2020