

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL



COUNCIL MEETING

19:30 – 16th November 2020

Held remotely by video conferencing

Present: Mr D Johnson (Chairman)

Ms L Anderson

Mr A Cartman

Mr C Cave

Mr J D'Alesio

Ms C Fagg

Ms S Hardingham

Mr P Jackson

Mr C James

Mr A Johnson

Ms L Lansley

Mr O Lloyd-Jones

Ms R McAllister Kemp

Mr S McQuillan

Ms J Purkiss

Ms C Sellars

Mr A Wilkinson

Absent:

Mr M Harris

In attendance - The Clerk, Mr Scott Jacobs-Lange, Dr Janet Turp (minutes) and 23 members of the public.

Before the formal meeting a member of the public spoke to raise his concerns about the Council, its relationship to charities and his concerns about the foundation model.

C20.130 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Harris.

C20.131 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

Interests to be declared during the meeting and no new dispensations were requested. It was noted that Cllrs Cave and Jackson have existing dispensations allowing them to take part in discussions on items relating to LACA and the Youth Club respectively so that necessary information can be provided to the Council.

C20.132 - Exclusion of the press and public

There are no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

C20.133 Chairman's remarks

The chairman proposed that the agenda item on the Public Space Protection Orders to be taken after Matters Arising and the correspondence from LA Together to be taken with the COVID items – this was agreed. He also noted how pleased he was to be able to represent the PC at the moving remembrance service on the 8th November and also that following lobbying from himself, residents and North Somerset Cllrs that Rayens Cross Road is to be resurfaced in December. The chairman also noted that it was the last meeting that the

outgoing clerk, Janet Turp will attend and thanked her for her outstanding service and running of the Council for the past nine years. Cllr Hardingham added her thanks saying that Janet was highly appreciated by Cllrs and residents and had shown patience, integrity and authority over her many years with the Parish Council and wished her a happy retirement.

C20.134 Parish Council Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting of 7th September, 28th September and 5th October 2020 (previously circulated), were a correct record and should be signed by the Chairman when possible.

Proposed by Cllr D Johnson, all in favour.

C20.135 Planning Committee reports (14th September and 12th October).

The reports (previously circulated) were considered.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the reports of the Planning Committee of 14th September and 12th October.

Proposed by Cllr Lloyd-Jones, seconded by Cllr Sellars, all in favour.

It was noted that a leaflet will be printed and delivered to all homes in Long Ashton, explaining and encouraging residents to respond to NSC's local plan consultation.

C20.136 Finance and General Purposes report (5th October).

The report (previously circulated) was considered.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the report of the F&GP Committee of the meeting of 5th October, subject to amendment by the committee.

Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr Jackson, all in favour.

C20.137 Environment Committee report (28th September).

The report (previously circulated) was considered.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the report of the Environment Committee of the meeting of 28th September 2020, subject to amendment by the committee.

Proposed by Cllr Fagg and seconded by Cllr James, all in favour.

C20.138 Matters arising from the minutes for information

C20.116 - Residual s106 money from Tydings Close – NSC have yet to respond to the clerk's request that the remaining money is transferred to allow expenditure on the skate park and tennis courts.

C20.139 Public Space Protection Orders

Public space protection orders are being renewed across North Somerset and the PC has been asked to confirm their support for renewing the PSPOs at Birdwell Rec and the Community Centre and whether it would like Peel Park to be included in the consultation on the orders. If it was added to the order it would be possible to enforce the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead in Peel Park. It was noted that the PC had received in excess of 20 emails asking that Peel Park is not included, citing the benefits of dogs being able to exercise off lead. Cllrs discussed the issues. It was noted that dog fouling is a real issue especially on the football pitch and can represent a hazard for children, that dogs can affect wildlife at certain times of the year and noting that the order would not have to be enforced all the time but could be used if there was a problem. However, the importance of residents, especially those who are elderly or less mobile and cannot access other areas, being able to exercise their dogs off lead was also recognised. It was noted that it would be possible to ask NSC to include it in three years' time if it was thought necessary. It was agreed that in any event there needed to be a campaign to reduce dog fouling in Peel Park.

It was RESOLVED not to ask NSC to include Peel Park in their consultation.
Proposed by Cllr McQuillan, seconded by Cllr James and carried.
It was also agreed to support the renewal of the PSPO's at the Community Centre and Birdwell Rec.

C20.140 Coronavirus matters

a) Steering group report, next steps and future meeting.

Cllr Johnson's report was discussed. He apologised for implying that LA Together left the network because of the formation of the CIC, he realised that was not the case. He emphasised that the aim was now to look forwards and not to revisit the difficulties of the past few months. Following wide ranging discussion about the role of the steering group and the PC it was noted that the title steering group was not particularly helpful and its remit should be widened to include other relevant groups. It was agreed that the present steering group needed to meet once more soon to finalise outstanding items. Going forward it was agreed to look at setting up some form of a community forum where the PC can meet with groups providing support, but not to lead the forum should there be support for setting it up.

It was agreed to set up a working group to look into the possible setting up of the community forum.

Cllrs Wilkinson, Anderson, McQuillan, Sellars and Cartman were appointed to the working group and the clerk asked to set up the first meeting.

b) The PC and the COVID-19 pandemic – NSC's plans for pavement widening under the re-opening the high street scheme have been consulted on with mixed response and these responses have been used to modify the proposal so there are fewer planters and no space lost outside the Chinese takeaway. It was recognised that the whole issue of disabled parking in Long Ashton needs to be considered and it was agreed that the VES group should do this in consultation with disabled people.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the revised proposal.

Proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Fagg and carried.

c) From LA Together to request funding. LA Together have written to the PC to request £600 towards the cost of insurance, a zoom licence and DBS checks. It was noted that the group have a constitution and bank account.

It was RESOLVED to grant LA Together up to £600 for the above items.

Proposed by Cllr Cave, seconded by Cllr McQuillan and carried.

C20.141 Council matters

a) To note decisions made by the clerk under delegated authority since 7th September.

The decisions to arrange repairs to the swings in Kings Croft, booking training for Cllrs and Staff, entering into mobile phone contract and the purchase of computers were noted.

b) Annual Parish Meeting – Mrs Peaches Golding has agreed to speak at the meeting.

c) To appoint Cllrs Purkiss and D'Alesio to committees and working groups.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Purkiss to the Environment Committee and Cllr D'Alesio to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Cave, all in favour.

d) Website and accessibility regulations – quotes for a new compliant website are being sought. It was agreed that any quotes can be considered by F&GP in December.

e) Parish Council Office - to agree IT strategy and equipment purchase. Laptops and mobile phones have been bought for the clerk and community engagement officer.

It was RESOLVED to purchase an Office 365 subscription for both machines at a cost of about £250/year.

Proposed by Cllrs James and seconded by Cllr Cartman, all in favour.

f) Chairman's move update – the chairman still does not have a date for his move and plans to stay in post until then.

- g) External audit – a clean report has been received from the external auditor so no action is required.
- h) To agree in principle to employing temporary staff. It was agreed that in view of the long term absence of the assistant clerk that cover is needed to take the minutes at Council and Committee meetings until she returns. It was noted that funds were available in an earmarked reserves if there were insufficient funds in the staffing budget.

It was RESOLVED to delegate to the clerk in consultation with the chair of F&GP to source cover to take minutes at meetings at a reasonable rate.

Proposed by Cllr Hardingham, seconded by Cllr McQuillan, all in favour.

- i) To agree resolution identifying HSBC as a provider of banking services to the PC and to agree signatories.

It was RESOLVED to ask HSBC to continue an account in its name with Cllrs James, Jackson, Hardingham, Fagg, Cave and Harris as signatories to authorise payments with the clerk to countersign and all other instructions to remain the same.

Proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Cave. All in favour.

- j) It was confirmed that as it would not be representing itself that the PC's payment towards the PCAA legal costs in opposing the expansion of Bristol Airport at the public inquiry would need to be made under s137. Cllrs recognised that there would be benefit to residents of the Parish if the airport expansion failed to happen as there would be no increase in noise pollution, reduced use of Long Ashton residential streets for airport parking, and reduced congestion on roads around the village. It is also consistent with the PC's climate emergency declaration.

It was RESOLVED that the PC, under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should provide £1000 to PCAA to assist with their legal costs in opposing further expansion of Bristol Airport which, in the opinion of the council, is in the interests of its inhabitant and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

- k) To agree items for F&GP to consider including in draft budget. It was agreed that if any Cllrs had items that they wanted included in the budget they should inform the clerk.

C20.142 To receive reports from Youth Club and LACA.

- a) Youth Club - Cllr Jackson's report (previously circulated) was noted as follows:
"The youth club re-opened in a club room setting in October using the temporary arrangements of the Griffin Lounge and the Sports Hall. Pre-booking arrangements were put in together with protection measures and social distancing. One session for the juniors and seniors was held before lockdown 2 was announced. At announcement of lockdown 2, the NYA status was uplifted to Red. As a result of negotiations between the NYA and the Government, an agreement had been reached that detached youth work can continue but that open access youth work must be put on hold, and that there should be a focus on engaging with vulnerable young people. A review by the management committee has considered the factors in particular the revised guidelines, the safety and security of the staff and young people. The decision has been made to put the club-based sessions on hold for the month of November during which time two sessions per week will take place in a detached session (engaging seniors and the more vulnerable group) with the third session online (engaging with the juniors).

Thanks are given to the Community Association for their help and support during this difficult period for young people and all, and especially to Sally and Carl for their enthusiastic approach to making the environment as good as possible given the constraints we have to work in."

- b) LACA – Cllr Cave reported that prior to the second lockdown two thirds of users, though with reduced numbers, had returned to the community centre but there was little use at weekends. The café is continuing to provide a take away service and is covering its costs. The sports hall floor has been replaced, the tennis courts are being resurfaced and the boiler replaced. The changing rooms and showers are in need of refurbishment. Staff are being furloughed and a support grant has been applied for from NSC. The trustees will need to decide whether to re-open in December. It is thought that LACA has sufficient funds to last it to the end of the financial year but will need support from the PC going forward. LACA will keep in frequent contact with the PC.

It was noted that the grant application from LACA will need to be received by the end of November though it was recognised that this would not be straightforward. Cllr Wilkinson had visited the community centre and looked at the maintenance plan and would discuss his findings with the trustees.

C20.143 LACA constitution – to receive report from working group and to agree position.

The report, together with the response from LACA, was noted and it was agreed that some Cllrs will meet with LACA to discuss and a report to be made to the next Council meeting.

C20.144 Keedwell Triangle project - to receive report and agree project and funding.

Cllr Lansley explained the proposal to improve the green area at the junction of Keedwell Hill and Orchard Road to make it more garden like by planting bulbs and possibly trees and shrubs.

It was RESOLVED to support the project and to purchase bulbs and plants as requested by the group up to a maximum of £340.

Proposed by Cllr McQuillan, seconded by Cllr Wilkinson, all in favour.

C20.145 Conclusion of Meeting

As it had nearly reached 10:00 the chairman proposed that the meeting should be closed and all outstanding items be considered at an additional meeting to be held on Monday 23rd November at 7:30 pm. This was agreed and the meeting closed at 10:00pm.

Dates of next meetings: Additional meeting on Monday 23rd November; next scheduled meeting is Monday 18th January 2021.