

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL
THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
(Formerly HIGHWAYS & BURIAL GROUND)
19:30, 10th August 2020
held remotely by video conference



Present – Ms C Fagg; Chairman	Absent: -
Ms L Anderson	Ms S Barnes
Mr M Harris	Mr A Cartman
Dr P Jackson	Mr C Cave
Mr D Johnson	Ms S Hardingham
Ms L Lansley	Mr C James
Ms McAllister Kemp	Mr A Johnson
Mr S McQuillan	Mr O Lloyd-Jones
Ms C Sellars	Mr A Wilkinson

In attendance - The Clerk, Dr JE Turp, Assistant Clerk, Tracy Warren (minutes), a prospective Cllr and 2 members of the public.

Hb19.142 - Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cave, Hardingham and Wilkinson.

Hb19.143 - Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations
Interests to be declared during the meeting and no dispensations were requested.

Hb19.144 - Minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 27th January 2020 (previously circulated) following correction of Cllr Lloyd-Jones's surname in members present, were confirmed as a correct record and should be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity. Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.

Hb19.145 - Exclusion of the press and public
There were no matters requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

Hb19.146 - Chair's Comments – Cllr Fagg noted the meeting's long agenda and suggested that, groups of Cllrs could be formed to consider any items that require more extensive discussion bringing a report back to the next committee meeting.

Hb19.147 - Matters arising for information only – none.

Hb19.148 - Terms of Reference of the Environment Committee
The draft Terms of Reference (previously circulated) were reviewed. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work on the document. Following the amendment of "To consider public transport issues" to "To promote sustainable transport", it was RESOLVED to adopt the Terms of Reference with a future review. Proposed by Cllr Anderson and seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour.

19:58 - One member of the public joined the meeting.

Hb19.149 - Committee Workshop – to review outcome and agree next steps
The document 'Workshop Outcomes and Next Steps' (previously circulated) was discussed and reviewed.

Section 1 – ‘Workshop Outcomes’ – It was noted that the areas of work identified do not fully align with the Terms of Reference areas and this will be discussed further in light of the outcomes of the Climate Action Planning Day that Cllr McQuillan attended.

Section 2 - ‘Areas of Work’ – It was noted that NSC now have a coordinator to assist with setting up Community Speed Watch initiatives and that there are four or five potential volunteers in Long Ashton for the scheme plus one or two to assist with the vehicle activated signs. It was agreed that this should be included in the remit of the Village Enhancement Schemes Working Group. A resident who is an Environmental Consultant is willing to offer her expertise as a volunteer and it was agreed that the Biodiversity group should liaise with her. Cllr McQuillan noted that John Flannigan, NSC is the contact for Tree Planting and rewilding.

Cllrs present identified the interest groups they would like to be involved with and other Cllrs on the committee would be contacted to ask which groups they wished to join. It was hoped that each Cllr would join at least one interest group. It was agreed that the following groups would be set up with the Cllrs listed.

Biodiversity and Public Open Spaces (including tree-planting, re-wilding)	Cllrs Anderson, Lansley and McQuillan
Village Enhancement and Road Safety	Cllrs Fagg, Harris, D. Johnson, Lansley McQuillan and Sellars
Cycle-paths and Public Rights of Way	Cllrs Fagg Lansley and Jackson with Chairman D. Johnson to overview
Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard	Cllr Anderson
Climate, energy generation and distribution / becoming carbon-neutral and Waterways, drainage and flooding	Cllrs Jackson, McQuillan
Noise and pollution (including litter, fly-tipping and dog bins).	Cllrs Fagg and McAllister Kemp

It was agreed that:

- The terms of reference of the revised working groups should be reviewed as soon as possible
- The Biodiversity and Public Open Spaces working group should start immediately. Cllr Anderson, with support from Cllrs Jackson and McQuillan, will arrange a meeting before the next Environment Committee meeting.
- Cllr Fagg will arrange a ‘Cycle-paths and Public Rights of Way’ (formerly Footpaths) working group meeting.
- Cllr D. Johnson will arrange a ‘VES and Road Safety’ working group meeting.

Hb19.150 - Report from Climate Action Planning Day 30th July

Cllr McQuillan attended the Parish and Town Action Day Climate Emergency Support Programme workshop hosted by Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA). Thirty-six delegates from across Avon attended the workshop facilitated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Cllr McQuillan reported that 13 areas had been identified as scope for influence to be evaluated by parish councils. The outcomes of the workshop had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was agreed that all Cllrs read these and Cllrs Jackson and McQuillan will review the document and present a draft proposal to be discussed at a workshop to which all Cllrs will be invited.

Hb19.151 - Road safety

- a) Hb19.135a - Kingcott Farm – The elderly persons warning sign is still to be erected and the Clerk has contacted NSC on this matter. The provision of a safe connection

between the footpaths in the area was discussed and agreed that the Cycle-paths and Public Rights of Way working group will take this forward.

- b) Hollis Close – a meeting has yet to take place.
- c) Yanley Lane humps – a meeting has yet to take place..
- d) Disabled Parking Bay: Lovelinch Gardens – There have been comments on social media about the need for a disabled space in Lovelinch Gardens. NSC's original advice was that they considered the additional space for a disabled bay to be unnecessary as it would take the space of two standard bays. It was agreed that as the current arrangements had not been tested as businesses in the area had been closed due to Covid-19, the VES the road safety working group would review the situation in three months' time by liaising with local businesses and the community.
- e) A369 Safety concerns and request for 30mph limit – Cllr Harris reported an increase in the speed of traffic on the A369 between Beggar Bush Lane and Rownham Hill since the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a safety concern as there are entrances to properties along the road and pedestrians, residents and mountain bike riders crossing from Ashton Court to North Road. There is a 30 mph limit in Abbots Leigh and on Rownham Hill. It was RESOLVED to approach NSC to request a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the A369 from the junction with Beggar Bush Lane to Rownham Hill . Proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by McAllister Kemp. All in favour. The Clerk will copy the correspondence to Cllr McQuillan in his role as Ward Cllr.
- f) Request for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for Leigh Woods – Cllr Harris reported there are no VAS on the A369 in Leigh Woods to inform motorists of their speed. Given the residential exit/entry points around North Road and noting that a temporary VAS signs in Abbots Leigh had effectively reduced speeds, it was agreed that the PC will write to NSC to ask its view on VAS on the A369 near North Road. Cllr Harris noted that an electric point is available if a solar signs was not suitable.
- g) A request for a Zebra Crossing by Church Lodge, where Long Ashton Road meets the B3128, has been made by a resident. It was noted that the area has previously been looked at by the VES working group which identified it as needing redesign. It was agreed that the VES and Road Safety working group should look at it again, with the assistance of Cllr McQuillan who believes that NSC may also be looking at the area. He will check with NSC as to what they are doing.

Hb19.152 - Parking

- a) Leigh Woods Parking scheme - Cllr McQuillan reported that changes to the Scheme are in further consultation and a recent meeting had taken place to outline changes in the Leigh Woods area.
- b) Long Ashton parking
 - Resident's concerns about parking in Bramley Copse, Pear Tree Avenue – The PC recognised the resident's concerns noting that allocation of parking spaces in the business units resulted in some spaces being unused but other office users having to park on nearby roads. It was agreed to write to all businesses in the business park and the landlord again and to request a copy of their Sustainable Transport Plan and ask them to park with consideration for nearby residents.
 - Lampton House – a member of their staff has written pointing out that parked traffic causes poor visibility for drivers exiting Lampton House. It was agreed that the Clerk write to NSC to outline the issue, noting that NSC had previously asked the PC for suggestions where double yellow lines are needed and copy the email to the Ward Cllrs.
 - Zebra crossing near the Co-op and nearby Disabled Space – The Clerk has responded to the resident to advise how the disabled space operates. His concerns about parking generally in the area will be included in the 'VES and Road Safety' working group's review of the area.
- c) From Guide Dogs for the Blind – A resident has forwarded the Guide Dogs for the Blind's February 2020 review document 'Blocked in: the impact of pavement parking' which calls on the UK Government to publish its review of pavement parking and bring

forward proposals for a new law on pavement parking. It was noted that the report was very thorough and agreed that Cllr McAllister Kemp liaise with the 'VES and Road Safety' working group in publicising some aspects of the report on social media in order to assist residents who are blind or vulnerable.

Hb19.153 - Village enhancement.

- a) Leigh Woods Village Enhancement Scheme working group report and to agree any action required – no update at this time.

Long Ashton Village Enhancement Scheme working group report and to agree any action required - Cllr D Johnson reported that the PC has been successful in its bid to NSC's 're-opening the high street safely' fund for street planters to be placed to extend the pedestrian areas between the 'Bird In Hand' and the Co-op. and that NS would provide the planters and the soil. Cllr D. Johnson noted that NSC and its Highways Officers are happy to explore this issue further and have suggested a small section of the short stay parking outside the takeaway, be removed to allow for a temporary disabled parking bay. It was thought that three temporary planters should be placed outside Piccolos which would also address issues raised in the VES. It was agreed that the PC liaise with businesses and residents and that any proposals are referred to the VES and Road Safety working group to take forward in liaison with Cllrs Cartman and McQuillan as local NS Ward Cllrs.

Hb19.154 - Footpaths and Cycle paths

- a) To receive working group report and discuss any proposals. There is no update at this time due to COVID restrictions,

21:12 – meeting suspended for a member of the public to speak on the next item.

21:15 – meeting reconvened

- b) A resident has submitted a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order) to NSC for the path from the cricket ground but would like the PC to take ownership of the request, given the length of time it is likely to take. The PC noted the resident's concerns regarding the timeframe and his request that he be copied in on any correspondence with NSC and RESOLVED that the PC will notify NSC that they wish to take ownership of this request. Proposed by Cllr D. Johnson and seconded by Cllr Jackson. All in favour. The Chairman thanked the resident for his expertise in this matter.
- c) From resident with concerns re the safety of the access to Ashton Court from Longwood Lane. The access though gated has a wide ungated space which children and dogs could run through straight onto Longwood Lane. The PC agreed to write to Bristol City Council to request that a kissing gate be installed for safety purposes at this entrance and also to request a dog bin be placed on the park side of the gate.
- d) Correspondence re s130 notice served on NSC – noted. It was agreed that the Cycle-paths and Public Rights of Way (Footpaths) working group will look at the points raised.
- e) From NSC re consultation on the Right of Way Improvement Plan; An extension to October 1st has been granted.
- f) Dawson Walk to identify concerns (including letter from resident), to consider Greenbelt's response to the offer of a meeting and to agree action - Chairman thanked the Clerk and Cllr Lansley for work to date. The Clerk has written to Greenbelt to ask for a meeting to discuss the PC concerns but has not had a reply as yet. It was agreed that if there is no response by next meeting, then a further action will be considered. A resident has written to the PC regarding the use of Dawson Walk by BMX bikers who have also built ramps. It was agreed to write to the resident to advise that the PC was sympathetic to their concerns and would put it on the agenda for the meeting with Greenbelt. It was noted that the PC is unable to provide signage on Greenbelt property.

21:23 – one member of the public left the meeting.

Hb19.155 - Environmental Management

- a) Ashton Brook and Flood Management; update on flooding issues, including response from NSC re underbridge - NSC has confirmed that they will check that the SBL tree works have been completed and confirmed that the works on the underbridge have been completed.
- b) Biodiversity; to receive any relevant items for information – None currently.
- c) Tree planting and small public spaces in the Parish – Cllr Lansley noted that the triangle at Keedwell Hill has been identified as a possible area.

Hb19.156 - Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard.

- a) Remedial work on monuments – no update.
- b) Heaven Scent Garden – no update.
- c) Review of policy re memorial benches - Cllr Fagg noted that although there is room for one or two more benches, the area is crowded with many benches already in place, and that there may be other suitable sites elsewhere in the parish. This will be taken forward by the Churchyard working group and Cllrs Anderson and Fagg will visit the site.
- d) Grass cutting in the churchyard – It was agreed that the gardener's suggestion that grass cutting could be delayed to allow wild life to flourish will be looked at by the Biodiversity working group recognising the sensitive nature of the site. It was noted that the suggestion to ban oasis, plastic pots and plastic covered messages may not be appropriate but would be considered.
- e) Churchyard Trust – It was noted that following a visual inspection of the historical monuments work was identified as being needed on the Smyth memorial. A faculty application has been made to Bath and Wells and when permission is received the Trust intends to carry out the necessary repairs. Costs are to be met from Churchyard Trust funds. It was agreed to inform the Churchyard Trust, that the PC agrees to the proposed works. The Clerk will circulate the Churchyard Trust's report to Cllrs.

Hb19.157 - Correspondence

- a) From resident re gullies – A resident has written to suggesting that the PC works with NSC to ensure that gullies are cleared before they become blocked. It was agreed that the Climate group will look at the suggestions and that the Clerk write to NS to raise the resident's concerns. It was noted that it was sometime since the gully survey was carried out and it may be useful to repeat it.
- b) From resident re flooding from gullies – A resident has written to note that some drains have overflowed in heavy rain leaving toilet paper on the ground. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Wessex Water to advise them of the issue.
- c) From resident re weeds outside Ashton Court. – The ward Cllrs have raised this with NSC and will follow it up.
- d) MenShed – MenShed volunteers have repaired the kissing gate to the Churchyard.
- e) Lampton Road resurfacing – A resident has written to note that a short section of Lampton Road was excluded from the recent resurfacing works and is in a poor state. Cllr McQuillan agreed to take this forward with NSC and also noted that Elmhurst Gardens is also requiring repair to the road surface.

Hb19.158 - Other Items for Information

- a) Letters written by clerk under delegated authority – noted.
- b) Cllr Anderson thanked prospective Cllr Mr Jude D'Alesio for attending.

End of meeting 21:37

Date of next meeting – 28th September 2020