

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

19:30, 30th November 2020

(held remotely over zoom)



Present – Ms C Fagg (Chairman)
Ms L Anderson
Ms S Hardingham
Mr M Harris
Dr P Jackson
Mr C James
Mr D Johnson
Ms L Lansley
Ms R McAllister Kemp
Mr S McQuillan

Absent: -
Ms S Barnes
Mr A Cartman
Mr C Cave
Mr A Johnson
Mr O Lloyd-Jones
Ms C Sellars
Mr A Wilkinson

Also in attendance – The Clerk Mr S Jacobs-Lange, Minutes Mrs J Howell and four members of the public.

Public Participation

A resident raised issues relating to the lane o/s Birdwell Primary School and detailed a personal incident which occurred the previous week. It was reported that the no entry signs at the top of the close are being ignored by a range of parents. Cars also reported to be left idling during drop offs/collections. Concerns raised about safety for children / parents. Two further residents detailed the parking issues o/s *Birdwell Primary School* and highlighted this as a danger to children and parents.

Issues include: parents ignoring the no entry signs, parking at the turning point, lack of enforcement activity, impact to residents on the close, speed of vehicles. It was reported that there used to be yellow no parking / zig zags markings and a sign, neither of which have been replaced.

The Chairman thanked residents for attending and raising these issues.

Environment Committee Meeting

Hb20.014 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr's Cave and Wilkinson.

Hb20.015 Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations.

There were no interests declared and no dispensations requested.

Hb20.016 Minutes of the previous meeting

A Cllr highlighted an inaccuracy in the previous minutes in relation to footpaths. The Chairman advised this would be added as a correction.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings of the Highways and Burial Ground Committee held on the 28th September (previously circulated) were confirmed as a correct record. Minutes to be signed by the Chairman. LGA 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 41(1).

Hb20.017 Exclusion of the press and public

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

Hb20.018 Chair's Comments

No items raised.

Hb20.019 Matters arising:

A Cllr raised the issue of car parking Leigh Woods. This was covered under carpark enhancement scheme.

a) Kingcott Farm:

The Elderly persons warning sign has been erected by NSC.

b) Hollis Close car parking:

Cllr McQuillan provided an update on this long-standing issue and outlined that he had met with NSC Senior Highways Engineer to discuss and NSC have put forward proposals. Consideration given to remove the hump but this has been deemed prohibitively expensive. Cllr McQuillan explained that the idea behind planters is to reclaim the pavement for pedestrians and create the feel that this is a pedestrian space.

It was reported that the school are happy with a couple of large planters filled with flowers 3m apart and proposed action to tackle the problems. Cllr McQuillan also spoken to many parents as well as the head teacher. Discussion took place on a range of options which may help encourage a change in behaviour including use of banners and social media campaign to raise awareness and communicate with residents. Parking restriction and enforcement was also considered. Cllr M Harris asked for more support from the PCSO / beat manager to regularly attend in the mornings and tackle the issues including speeding, parking restrictions and enforcement and speak to drivers / parents in person.

RESOLVED - That:

- The Committee urgently request NSC to review arrangements for access to that drive. *Cllr McQuillan to liaise with NSC to develop the TRO to enable enforcement of the 'no entry' and return proposals to the Committee.*
- The Committee support the use of the planters and reinstatement of road markings. *Cllr McQuillan liaise with NSC to progress planters, reinstatement of no yellow parking / zigzag markings and restore the yellow no parking / zigzags.*
- The Committee request Community Policing Team support. *Cllr McQuillan liaise.*

c) Yanley Lane speed humps:

Cllr McQuillan provided an update: Long standing issues at crossing of Festival Way. Humps requested and installed by NSC. Following correspondence from residents the height of the humps checked and had to be lowered as installed incorrectly. NSC Senior Highways Engineer has suggested consideration of a priority system (similar to that of Barrow Gurney) further investigations / feasibility study would be required if supported by the Parish Council.

The Committee were supportive of further investigation and feasibility study.

d) Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for Leigh Woods:

North Somerset Council has responded. Cllr Harris has seen letter from officer and is happy to progress proposal.

e) Overgrown hedges:

Letter has been written to resident. Awaiting response.

Members discussed options and approaches to tackling overgrown hedges in the parish. A Cllr highlighted some residents are genuinely unaware due to how they access their properties. It was noted that some residents may not be able to maintain their borders / boundaries but there may be the opportunity to tap into local groups for support including LA Nature Group, The Horticultural Society and footpath volunteers. Members were keen to maintain a balanced view and a sympathetic response. Work required to identify if there are some hot spots / unadopted areas that are a problem.

It was agreed that letters should be constructive and personal to motivate and it may be a good project for community engagement group / officer to assist with. Actions agreed as:

- Chairman to review letter in conjunction with the Clerk and include a more personal element. Clerk to liaise with Footpath Group
- Cllr L Lansley to liaise with the Footpath Group.
- Chairman to liaise with the Horticultural Society. Cllr Anderson offered support with this item.

- f) Speeding in Long Ashton:
- i. Cllr James provided an update on the school artwork competition. Competition to highlight the message around the parking zone, enforcement of 20mph speed limit and possibly new planters. The objective is to communicate with the community and encourage drivers to slow down. Agreement with Birdwell school. Follow up required with Northleaze School. Cllr James outlined the competition will invite each pupil to design a poster. There will be a winner by year and an overall winner by school. Winner by year to have A4 laminated posters displayed in shops and at various locations. Winner will have a banner. Competition to launch January 2021. Discussion took place around judging. Cllr McQuillan suggested digitising and creating an online survey.
- RESOLVED:**
- That the Committee display artwork entries online in a gallery.
 - Voting will be by the people in the village to comment and vote on their favourites.
 - Clerk/ Community Engagement Officer to liaise with Northleaze School.
- ii. Enforcement options and Community Speed Watch.
Cllr McQuillan provided an update. The official Community Speed Watch scheme is now in place and supported by the Police. 5/6 volunteers now trained. Some difficulties starting up due to coronavirus. Three sites have been agreed, one of which inside the 20mph which will enable enforcement of the 20mph zone. Cllr McQuillan raised the future policy paper being put together on extending 20mph zones - may allow us to extend 20mph area if and when the community support this.
- g) Parking Issues at Estune Business Park:
Response from Flowers and Hayes (Landlord) summarised: 37 spaces short of what originally consented – resulting in people parking elsewhere as a result. There is no current travel plan. The parking issues were discussed by members and this included impact on neighbouring residents thought at present impact reduced due to home working. Travel plan queried. Cllr Hardingham provided some background / history as to parking density policy when the estate was built to encourage use of public transport. Members agreed this item required careful consideration.
In summary: Cllr McQuillan to pick up with NSC and Police Team reference enforcement of double yellow lines and review travel plan requirements.
- h) Access to Ashton Court from Longwood Lane:
Bristol City Council has responded and outlined the proposal to supply dog waste bin and kissing gate is not a priority for BCC at this time due to budgetary constraints. Members discussed response. Members accepted the response and will write to the resident to thank them for raising the proposal.
- i) Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard:
Tree survey: Clerk to obtain three quotes and report back. Item in progress.

Hb20.020 Footpaths and Cycle Paths

- a) Issue with the footpath at Rownham Hill:
Cllr Harris provided an update – wall reinstated by landowner and footpath is now open.
- b) Festival Way:
- i. The Chairman provided an update on B3128 crossing. Members noted proposal to have a crossing supported.
 - ii. Cllr McQuillan provided an update on Yanley Lane crossing. Members also noted the drainage issue at Festival Way had been resolved thanks to the combined efforts of proactive residents and NSC.
- c) Dawsons Walk Boardwalk Repairs:
Members discussed the Dawsons Walk Boardwalk and considered how to progress this issue with Greenbelt (management company). A couple of accidents have been reported. Members agreed a further request for a meeting with Greenbelt as efforts to

date have failed. Residents to be reminded to report near miss / accidents to management company who are responsible for safe upkeep of this area.

RESOLVED:

- That the Committee run a social media campaign to encourage residents to make contact with the management company and raise safety concerns with them directly (link in with Long Ashton Together).
- That the Committee will check the legal position and status of management company document (*Cllrs D Johnson and L Anderson to progress*).

d) North Somerset Council's Active Travel Strategy Consultation

<https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/ats/consultationHome> *Deadline: 17th Dec.*

RESOLVED: That the Committee delegate response to a small working group meet to respond on behalf of PC. (*To include Chairman, Cllrs L Anderson, P Jackson, in conjunction with Clerk*). Group to circulate draft to all members by 10th December, for comments by 15th for final revision and submission before closing date 17th December 2020.

Hb20.021 Biodiversity and Public Open Spaces

a) Biodiversity Action Plan

Options for encouraging tree planting in the village were considered.

Cllr Jackson proposed possible project at Peel Park where there was a gap in the row of trees that could be filled. Members gave consideration to local groups in the village that may take the lead with PC support. It was agreed the committee would promote low cost trees from Avon Wildlife Trust which individual households can buy at low prices and reach out to community for larger project next year.

Actions:

- Chairman to contact LA CAN ref potential project at Peel Park
- Clerk to contact Wildlife Trust to obtain some trees for Peel Park in anticipation of the skate park project with a view to involving the local community.
- Further meeting with biodiversity group to work up that plan.

b) Access issues at Peel Park:

The Chairman provided a report with options for discussion. The access has been confirmed to be a width problem as much maintenance problem. Inhibitor at Keeds Lane is 96cm as opposed to inhibitor at Dawson Walk (100cm). Erosion has also added to the issue. Enquiries have been made with NSC who will do the work and pay for it but would like the PC to contribute. Members discussed the issue – causing an access problem for those with double buggies. Cllr D Johnson raised the general appearance of the entrance to Peel Park from Kings Croft.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee work with NSC to find an effective and cost-effective solution to improve access to peel park so that double buggies and those who need support with mobility can access the park. *It was agreed that the Committee consider the wider environment issues and surrounds of Peel Park at a future meeting.*

Hb20.022 Village Enhancement Scheme and Road Safety

a. Members received a report from the Cllr Harris of the VES Working Group.

It was reported that a couple of new planters appeared outside the post office and the scheme is starting to progress well. Need to refresh the VES and review objectives of original scheme and agree new priorities.

Cllr McQuillan reported that he had spoken to NSC who have confirmed that there is a plan the community support (work o/s Piccolos). Head of Highways and Exec. Member have scheduled this / money in the budget for the work to take place this year. Cllr Harris offered to produce a short report outlining priorities for the next meeting. To include verges, strip of pavement on the verge o/s houses on Brandon Hill, VES and car parking priority.

Cllr Harris provided an update on issues surrounding car parking in Leigh Woods which have become intolerable to residents. Residents to receive leaflet drop shortly to communicate the order for temporary yellow lines. Yellow lines will be placed at the location of the future pay and display (installation planned spring 2021). Cones will go out this week. Some cars have been parked for several weeks.

- b. Concerns raised about Police speeds through the village:
Cllr James provided an update – witnessed by several residents.
The Clerk will raise with neighbourhood inspector and seek further advice.
- c. Email from resident about B3128 junction onto Cumberland Basin.
Members discussed the email and options available.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee express concerns with NSC Highways and ask what NSC can do to improve safety at this junction.
(Chairman and Clerk to respond to resident).

Hb20.023 Climate Change and related issues

- a. Climate Change workshop - date noted
- b. Bristol clean air zone consultation -
Members noted the Bristol Clean Air Zone consultation.

Hb20.024 Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard.

- a. This was deferred to the next meeting.

Hb20.025 Annual Budgets:

- a. Cllrs were invited to give their views on budgets needed to support the work of the Environment Committee and related Working Groups for 2021-22. Consideration was given to the need for a road safety fund to support some of the projects that may be required.

RESOLVED:

- That the Committee roll budgets forward to 2021/22.
- That the Committee ask for £2,000 as an earmarked reserve for road safety fund.

- b. Durnford Quarry/ Tarmac

Members discussed arrangements for ongoing liaison. Cllr Stuart McQuillan is the liaison for NSC and welcomed a joint approach with Committee member. LAPC representatives agreed as Cllr's Cave and Fagg.

Hb20.026 Correspondence to note any not included above.

Long Ashton Horticultural Society

Correspondence received from Long Ashton Horticultural Society enquiring how the group can get involved in planting schemes around the village.

- Chairman to respond and include request for assistance with planters and tidiness around the village.
- Clerk to liaise with Village gardener.

Hb20.027 Other Items for Information

Letters written by clerk under delegated authority

None to report.

Date of next meeting – Monday 25th January 2021

At 21.47 hours, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.