



LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at
the Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton
on 26 September 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Fagg (Chair-elect), Anderson, Hardingham, Ives, Purkiss and McQuillan (NSC Councillor)

In Attendance: Karen Aniola (Admin & Committee Officer)

Public Participation: A resident talked about how the cancellation of the X2 bus service would adversely affect residents, in particular schoolchildren travelling to/from Backwell School, and enquired whether the X7 could be adjusted to cover school times.

E22.064 Election of Chair

It was necessary to elect a Chair in Councillor James's absence. Councillor Fagg was nominated and approved by all present.

Resolved – that Councillor Fagg was elected Chair of this meeting.

E22.065 Change in the Order of Business

Resolved – to change the order of items on the agenda so that item 7.c. be taken after item 4.

E22.066 Apologies for Absence LGA 1972 s85 (1)

Apologies were accepted and approved from Councillors Jackson, James, McAllister-Kemp, and Harris.

E22.067 Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

To receive any Declarations of Interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct (adopted 17th March 2022) and to consider any requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33. *(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).*

E22.068 Minutes of the Previous Meeting LGA 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 41(1)

Resolved – that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 25 July 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

E22.069 Working Group Report – Public Art

The meeting was suspended to allow members of the Public Art Working Group to provide background to the project to date and present their recommendation.

The meeting re-commenced. One of the two artists' submissions was not yet complete due to reasons outside their control and councillors were keen to see the finalised submission before a decision could be made. Discussion took place around how best to consult with residents. Given the low number of councillors present, it was felt that the decision of one artist to take forward to consultation with residents should be taken by Full Council. The Working Group had prepared an update on progress for the next LAPC newsletter, which should provide an opportunity for residents to comment.

Resolved – that the two finalized Public Art submissions should go to Full Council for a decision on which artist to take forward for consultation with residents.

E22.070 Transport, Highways & Road Safety: Cancellation of X2 Bus Service

Councillors noted the cancellation of the X2 service from 8 October, having listened to a resident's concerns about children travelling to Backwell School, which is thought to affect around 30 children. Councillor McQuillan thanked the resident for the pragmatic suggestion to amend the X7 service to fit school times, and confirmed that he would take forward that suggestion to NS, and also encouraged residents to keep up the pressure. The Parish Council would also write a letter on behalf of the community. A Parish Council financial contribution to the voluntary community bus service was suggested but it was thought they would not have the necessary resource.

Resolution – that the suggestion of an amendment to the X7 service to accommodate Backwell School students following the cancellation of the X2 service, as well as issues around the Long Ashton to Clevedon service, be put forward to NS/First Bus by Cllr MacQuillan and the Parish Council (separately).

E22.071 Burial Ground

a. Gardener – Biodiversity Plan

Councillors were in favour of the proposed plan to improve biodiversity in the Burial Ground, which they felt was well balanced for a burial ground which is also a public space and Area of Beauty. There was a question around the existence of rules for planting trees in a protected area. Consultation had taken place with the Royal British Legion with agreement that the Polish Memorial would be maintained by both the LAPC gardener and RBL volunteers, collaboratively, to its usual formal standard. The Biodiversity Working Group had offered to make themselves available in the Ground for a consultation day with residents, as it would be important to consult with residents before a plan could be formally adopted.

Resolved – that an article by the gardener in the next LAPC newsletter should promote consultation with residents on the proposed biodiversity plan, inviting comments by mid-November, to inform a decision to be taken by councillors at their November meeting.

Resolved – that the Committee Clerk should investigate any restrictions on planting trees in the Burial Ground Meadow.

b. Consecrated Ground

The amount of consecrated ground remaining in the meadow and new locations for cremation plots were noted.

c. Memorials Inspection

The report had not yet been received by LAPC and so this was deferred to the next meeting.

E22.072 Leigh Woods

A written report was received and its contents noted. Councillor McQuillan confirmed that the electric charging points should be installed and operational in 6-8 weeks.

Resolved – that the condition of the Leigh Woods bus shelter should be reviewed and ownership responsibility clarified.

E22.073 Transport, Highways & Road Safety

a. Parking Restriction Review

Councillors noted NSC's plans for new double yellow lines at 4 locations in Long Ashton with no objections.

b. Theynes Croft Car Park

Councillors were informed about a new NSC form process for submitting Highways works requests, noting that only 10 works were likely to be approved annually. Information about approved NS contractors had only recently been received and so quotes would be sought for the next meeting.

Resolved – that a works request for Theynes Croft be submitted to NS alongside quotes being sought for LAPC to fund the improvements.

E22.074 Parks, Play Areas and Public Open Spaces

a. Playgrounds Inspection Reports

The contents of the annual inspection reports were noted.

Resolution – that quotes for all medium and low (excl. very low) repairs to playground equipment as highlighted in the annual reports be provided by the Clerk at the next meeting.

b. Gardener's Walk Resurfacing

Resolution – that the use of Restricted Reserves 344 S106 Tydings £686.23 as contribution towards payment for resurfacing works was approved.

c. Tree Planting in Peel Park

Councillors noted the request from a resident to plant a tree in memorium but as Peel Park was managed by LACA, such a decision should be taken by LACA.

d. Ashton Court Balloon Fiesta

Councillors were unanimous that traffic problems in Long Ashton had been worse than in previous years. The main problem was around Yanley Lane which became a rat run, causing gridlock in the village when two cars in opposing directions met in the middle. A possible solution could be for Yanley Lane to be made one-way during critical times.

Resolution – that consultation between LAPC and the organisers of the Ashton Court Balloon Fiesta needed to improve, and that the organisers be invited to meet LAPC to discuss severe problems in the village during the Fiesta and identify solutions to avoid similar problems occurring next year.

E22.075 Limitations on Councillors' Authority *LGA 1972 s101*

It was noted that Councillors are not to act independently and cannot make a decision or write official correspondence on behalf of the Parish Council unless authorized to do so by this Committee. This would go to Full Council for further discussion as ways to work together effectively continued to be worked out.

E22.076 Paths & Public Rights of Way ('PROWs')

a. Proposed LAPC Right of Way Improvement Plan

Councillor Ives presented his proposed plan. The decision not to approach NS P&R Committee was noted and Councillor McQuillan advised that the Plan should be finalized before it could be shared as best practice. Discussion was focused around the resolution for budget authorization but it was felt this lacked clarity. Further information and clarification would be needed.

b. Footpath Furniture

The proposed donation to the Cricket Club of a redundant kissing gate on the old LA12/12 footpath, to prevent cows escaping through a gate onto the pitch, was noted.

c. NSC Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation

Resolution – that Councillors Fagg and Ives prepare a response to the NSC draft ROWIP consultation for submission by the Clerk by 7 October.

E22.077 Resignation of Chair

Following a committee member's unreasonable behaviour and the ensuing lively discussion Councillor Fagg resigned her position as Chair of the meeting. Thanks were given to Councillor Fagg

Resolution – that Cllr Anderson take over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

E22.078 2023-2024 Budget

Individual councillors should approach the Committee Clerk and/or RFO to discuss items for inclusion in the 2023-24 budget, for finalization at the next meeting.

E22.079 To Receive Other Working Group Reports

a. Biodiversity Working Group

Councillor Anderson reported on the Working Group's contribution to the Burial Ground biodiversity plan. It was also pointed out that an audit meeting to review the Parish Council's climate change and biodiversity goals had not yet been convened.

b. Village Enhancement Scheme/Piccolo's Working Group

Councillor Fagg reported that a meeting outside Piccolo's with NS would be taking place the following week to discuss options at which it was hoped the owner of Piccolo's would also be present

E22.080 Date & Time of Next Meeting

Monday 28 November 2022 at 7:30pm

E22.081 Exclusion of Press and Public

Exclusion of Press and Public Recommended – that pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted – to consider commercial matters.

E22.082 Parks, Play Areas and Public Open Spaces: Chancellor's Park (Perry Rd)

Resolution – that Gordano be contracted to remove the bush from Chancellor's Park, and quotes for a replacement piece of play equipment/introduction of shade should be brought to the next meeting (to be paid for from Earmarked Reserves not CiL).

E22.083 Paths & Public Rights of Way ('PROWs')

Arch Grove/Weston Road – Verge Maintenance

The work which had recently take place was noted. Councillors commented that the proposal for ongoing maintenance seemed like a good manageable balance.

Resolution – that Landscape Services be contracted to maintain the verge and carry out a hard prune of the shrubs at the eastern end, and that the Biodiversity Working Group be involved in its maintenance management to ensure the repopulation of planting which has been removed from the rocky (west) end.

Signed by Chair _____ Date _____