



LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at
the Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton
on 30 May 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors James (Chairman), Anderson, Fagg, Hardingham, Jackson (arrived 8:45pm) Ives (left 9:18pm), McAllister-Kemp, Purkiss (left 9:45pm) and MacQuillan (NSC Councillor)

In Attendance: Karen Aniola (Admin & Committee Officer)

Public Participation: A resident talked about the importance of and need for climate change action. The Chairman thanked them for their contribution.

E22.033 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Resolved – that Councillor James was elected Chair and Councillor Anderson was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for this meeting, and that election to the positions for 2022-2023 year would take place at the July meeting.

E22.034 Apologies for Absence LGA 1972 s85 (1)

Apologies were accepted and approved from Councillor Harris.

E22.035 Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

There were no interests declared and no dispensations requested.

E22.036 Confirmation of Minutes LGA 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 41(1).

Resolved – that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 21 March 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E22.037	Long Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan ('NDP') 2013-2033
	Resolved – that following Full Council's recent agreement to appoint Andrea Pellegram Ltd to assist in the update of the NDP, that a working group be set up, led by Cllr Fagg, to focus on this issue and its relevance to protecting the green belt against NSC's Wood Spring Golf Course proposed development, and that the working group should report to Full Council due to its significance.
E22.038	Burial Ground
	a. <u>Annual Review of Fees</u> (<i>Paper</i>) Resolved – that from 1 July 2022, the fee for interment of a body be increased to £250, with all other fees to be increased by 20%.

	<p>b. <u>Churchyard and War Memorial Trust (<i>Paper</i>)</u> Resolved – that the Burial Ground be designated an Area of Beauty, that a working group be established led by Cllr Hardingham, to review in detail the May 2019 5-year inspection report carried out by Young Johnson and the Churchyard and War Memorial Trust’s 2020 All Saints (Closed) Graveyard Memorials Inspection report, and that maintenance repair recommendations be brought back to Committee in September.</p>
E22.038	Highways & Road Safety
	<p>a. <u>Hollis Close, Lodge Lane and Brocks Lane (<i>Paper</i>)</u> The Clerk’s instruction letter to NSC Highways following Full Council authorization on 23 May, was noted, requesting the installation of yellow lines at the junction of Lodge Drive and Long Ashton Road be included in the review of traffic restrictions in the Parish, and that Brocks Lane be included in the School Safety zone for Birdwell School.</p>
	<p>b. <u>NSC Highways Scheme Delivery Programme Update (<i>Paper</i>)</u> Content of the NSC Highways delivery programme for Long Ashton Parish projects due for implementation between now and April 2023 was noted.</p>
E22.039	Transport
	<p><u>Electric Car Charging Point</u> No update was provided as Cllr MacQuillan was not present.</p>
E22.040	Parks and Play Areas
	<p><u>Playgrounds Inspection Reports (<i>Paper</i>)</u> Resolved – that Cllrs James, Purkiss and Jackson (nominated in absentia) were nominated on an Inspect & Report (not Action) basis to carry out weekly inspections of Chancellor’s Park, Gardener’s Walk and King’s Croft playparks when the Village Orderly is incapacitated, that relevant insurance cover be confirmed by Committee Clerk, and a tick list report and protective clothing be supplied when required.</p>
E22.041	Litter Bins (<i>Paper</i>)
	<p>Resolved – that as all existing bins in Long Ashton were well used it was felt that relocation of existing bins would not be desirable, that 2 new bins should be purchased for location at Gatcombe Farm bus stop and Warren Lane bus stop, and choice of bins for purchase to be delegated to Chair and Committee Clerk.</p>
E22.042	Village Enhancement Scheme (‘VES’)
	<p>An update was received and it was noted that the group was still trying to make contact with the landlords of Piccolos.</p>
E22.043	Paths & Public Rights of Way (‘PROWs’)
	<p>a. <u>Dawson Walk</u> It was noted that the owners of the land (Greenbelt) had refused to carry out any repairs as they claimed they had not received funding when they took on responsibility for the land. Councillors were reluctant to consider closing the boardwalk or leaving it in its current state, so an alternative option was discussed – entering into a Permissive Path Agreement with</p>

	<p>negotiation assistance from NSC – a formal agreement with the landowner with provision for maintenance by Parish Council.</p> <p>Resolved – that Cllr Ives would draft a letter to North Somerset Council from the Clerk, to request negotiation assistance to enter a Permissive Path Agreement with Greenbelt.</p>
	<p>b. <u>Councillor Motion – Public Rights of Way ('PROW') Issues (<i>Paper</i>)</u> Following submission of a DMMO in June 2020, councillors were pleased to note that the dedication of LA12/12 had at last been confirmed and that NSC would carry out bridge repairs.</p> <p>Resolved – that following an explosion of footpath use in the pandemic, a more systematic approach to reviewing the condition of/maintaining footpaths/public rights of way – a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) - was desirable, and that Councillor Ives be tasked with drafting a proposal on how to make this happen, with costings and ideas for community engagement, to be presented to July Committee.</p> <p>Resolved – that the Parish Council should become a member of the Open Spaces Society at a cost of circa £45 p.a.</p>
E22.044	Biodiversity and Public Open Spaces
	<p>a. <u>Biodiversity Working Group</u> A written report was received with recommendations to the Environment Committee relating to its responsibilities to biodiversity and climate emergency within the Parish. Given the wide-ranging remit of the Environment Committee, councillors agreed that the creation of a subcommittee focussing on biodiversity and climate change was in principle sensible to ensure that these areas of responsibility are tackled in a focused and timely manner.</p> <p>The report also proposed the need for an audit of Council goals, which should take place first to clarify the scope of work needing to be undertaken: in the climate and ecological emergency declaration, and a summary of the progress to date towards those goals along with suggested next steps; biodiversity policy and a summary of the progress to date with regards to fulfilling that policy along with suggested next steps; and, procurement of services and supply chain used in Council business to determine where changes can be made to facilitate progress towards a carbon neutral parish as an example of good practice.</p> <p>Resolved – that the creation of a subcommittee to focus on biodiversity and climate change issues across the work of the whole Council was sensible in principle.</p> <p>Resolved – that in the first instance Council goal audits be conducted by a cross-Council meeting of committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Deputy Clerk and LACA, to report back to the July meeting.</p>
	<p>b. <u>Chatty Benches</u> The Chair pointed out that the Committee did not actually have authority to verify Manshed's work from a health & safety point of view. As the only Parish Council-owned location for a bench was likely to be Peel Park which is managed by LACA, therefore councillors agreed that the Parish Council did not have overall responsibility for insurance and liability.</p>

	<p>Resolved – that LA Together and Manshed should be notified that the Parish Council did not have authorisation to verify benches built by Manshed from a health & safety perspective, and that as only one bench would be located on Parish Council land the Council did not have overall responsibility for benches insurance and liability.</p>
	<p>c. <u>Weedkiller Use (<i>Paper</i>)</u> A report containing an email from a resident with concerns about the use of weedkiller at Chancellor’s Park, with potential alternative courses of action, was discussed.</p> <p>Resolved – that contractors be instructed to stop using weedkiller and to stop using trimmers around wooden furniture and play equipment in all parks across the Parish, that information signage for residents be strategically placed, and that councillors should look out for resident reaction.</p>
E22.045	To Receive Other Working Group Reports
	These items were removed from the agenda.
E22.046	Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday 25 July 2022 at 7.30pm
E22.047	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.
E22.048	Burial Ground - Gardener Contracts (<i>Paper</i>) Resolved – that the contract for the Burial Ground Meadow and Birdwell Rec be awarded to IdVerde, with an increase to 13 cuts per annum for Birdwell Rec.
E22.049	Parks and Play Areas - Perry Road (Chancellor’s Park) & Gardener’s Walk (<i>Paper</i>) Resolved – that given the high costs involved, and lack of certainty that optimum solutions had been properly identified, each park should be considered separately given their different problems, more time should be taken to fully explore potential solutions, and that further meetings with 3 councillors and relevant experts should be arranged. Resolved – as Chancellor’s Park could be funded by Taylor Wimpey S106 funds, a grant application to <i>NSC Improving Play Spaces Fund</i> should be submitted for Gardener’s Walk in 2022, with an application for Skate Park in 2023, and that a broader discussion around CiL to support Gardener’s Walk and the Skate Park still needed to take place.

E22.050	Noticeboards (<i>Paper</i>) Resolved – that Manshed be contracted to repair existing parish noticeboards as specifically highlighted in the report brought to Environment Committee in February 2021 with doors removed and twist locks (access for all) installed where requested, plus repair of the wobbly noticeboard outside Coop.
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Meeting ended at 22:00

Signed: Date: (Chairman