



LOCKING PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Hall, Grenville Avenue, Locking BS24 8AR
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Minutes of a Meeting of Locking Parish Council held on Thursday 3 February 2022 at 7.00pm at the Parish Hall, Grenville Avenue, Locking.

Meeting opened: 7.00pm

Meeting closed: 9.07pm

Present: Councillors: P Jones (Chairman), W Bearsby, P Lacey, W Ashdown, M Tremlett, C Prosser, L Mason, E ap Rees

Also, in attendance: The Clerk, Admin Assistant, Cllr Porter, Mr Dumbell (CPRE) K Parkes (NSC Banwell Bypass Team) and 9 members of the public

MATTERS FOR DECISION

C152 To receive Apologies for absence and to approve reasons where appropriate

Cllr J Keates – Absence Approved

C153 To receive Declarations of Interest by PCllrs and to consider any written applications dispensations: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

C154 To receive and hear any person who wishes to address the Council, upon prior notice being

Received:

- a) Banwell Bypass: Presentation/Update from Katie Parkes Project Manager, Major Projects & Technical Services North Somerset Council – Slides of the Presentation available from the Clerk.

Timeline:

Summer 2021 Preferred Option Route 2 had been agreed

Early 2022 Pre-application consultation – 6 week consultation period - Locking would be included in postcard/leaflet drop, consultation would also be available online etc., details would include junction design, walking, cycling, horse riding connections, environment mitigation and landscaping, drainage/flood mitigation, placemaking measures for Banwell and wider network mitigations

2022 Submission of Planning Application and Land Acquisition

2023 Potential start on site.

Next Steps:

Undertake consultation

Finalise all technical reports and Environmental statement chapters required for submission of planning

Further discussion and negotiations with land owners

Continued engagement with Local Plan team

- b) Reinstatement of community bus service – Oaktree Park Residents Association Mrs S Thompson:

Oaktree Park is a Retirement Park consisting of 143 Park Homes housing approx. 235 residents.

The average of 92% of residents are over 74 years. Many being in their 80s and 90s.

Until April 2021 there had been a regular community bus service enabling residents who were unable to drive to go into Weston for general shopping, banking, opticians etc. This stopped without any prior notice, and after investigation we were advised that S106 funding for the community bus was no longer available. The only option we have is the public bus service which entails a long walk along Laney's Drive and up to the Helicopter Museum where the nearest bus stops are situated.

This long walk is almost impossible for at least 80% of the residents to undertake due to mobility, Age, various health issue such as heart conditions and COPD etc.

To some extent we feel victimised because we are old and of no consequence, we feel cut off and isolated.

We are appealing to NSC to help us, we are not asking for a daily bus service, twice or maybe three times a week as long as it's a regular service would suffice. Residents are happy to pay a small reasonable rate for this service, most have bus passes they would like to be able to use. Our State Pension does not provide enough to finance the cost of using taxis at £8 each way (approx.) and Dial a ride which cost more than £12 per year to join plus £4 per roundtrip

We strongly feel, that on behalf of not only our residents but all elderly people living in North Somerset our Council have a duty of care towards all elderly council tax payers.

- c) Unitary Cllr/Liaison Officer Report: Deferred until Cllr Porter arrived
- d) Police Report – Noted.
Cllr ap Rees reported a number of empty cider bottles being left on a regular by the bus stop near to the Helicopter Museum – Clerk to advise PCSO and NSC Wardens – possible underage drinkers

MATTERS FOR DECISION

C155 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting for the following:

- a) **To received and confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 January 2022**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 06/01/2022 (previously circulated), be taken as read, agreed as being a true and correct record and as a consequence, to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

C156 Finances:

- a) To receive and approve monthly expenditure from 1 January 2022 to 31 January 2022- **AGREED**
(signed by Cllr Mason)
- b) To receive and note the Bank Reconciliation for December 2021. Noted (signed by Cllr Mason)
- c) To receive and agree any Grant applications: None received.
- d) CPRE – Annual Membership £40 – to approve payment - **AGREED**

C157 Chairman's Report:

I welcome you all to tonight's full Council Meeting.

- With Covid infections on the rise once again and restrictions continue to be relaxed, I am confident that Council will support individuals who wish to continue to wear a facemask or socially distance whilst attending Council Meetings in the Parish Hall or elsewhere. It is important that we continue to respect the views of those who wish to safeguard and protect themselves during these difficult times.
- I, personally like other Councillors, have been busy attending meetings with Parishioners, St Modwen, LPCIC Representatives and North Somerset Council during January 2022.
- I have also been active with my vice Chairman in planting a Cherry Tree in our Parish Orchard at the Old Banwell Road Playing Fields. My thanks to John, I could not have done so without his assistance. A thought, perhaps we should consider encouraging further donations of fruit trees as we have plenty of space in that area and I am sure we could manage a larger orchard.
- Firstly, I must report that during my first meeting with St Modwen and CIC Representatives held on Wednesday 26 January 2022 that we have been invited to meet informally the elected representatives of Locking Parklands Community Interest Company (LPCIC) at the Radio Wing. Mike and Hazel have offered to meet Councillors as soon as possible, refreshments will be provided for those attending. I will ask the clerk to canvass councillor's availability soonest, especially with the initial Queen's Jubilee Celebration meeting in mind.
- Secondly, Councillor Mike Tremlett and I attended North Somerset's Budget Forum discussion where budgets, funding and other matters were outlined, you may have seen the subsequent power-point slides that has been circulated by NSC. I can state that I was able to raise our many concerns in respect of the Spinney and the need to upgrade it to make it fit for purpose for all. Whilst perhaps it was not the ideal forum to raise this issue, I was encouraged by comments of others. NSC consequently requested further information which was provided by the clerk as you may have noted from emails. I have also again raised this issue with St Modwen via my meeting with Chris Hart and others, hopefully we may be able solicit some help as the growing community of Locking Parklands is also affected by the state of this important link that connects so many within our community. I also believe that we as a Parish Council need to continue to actively highlight this issue as the new School, Doctor's Surgery and local businesses require a safe and fully accessible link for all living on either side of the A371. I am also led to understand that Phase 4 is due to start shortly and that it is envisaged that the Doctor's Surgery will be completed by the end of this year.
- I look forward to our Queen's Jubilee Celebration Meeting and hope that all Councillors will be able to attend the programmed meeting.

C158 Regular Reports: To receive and note the following regular reports:

- a) **CPRE** – Mr Dumbell advised:
Nothing to report from CPRE as there had not been a meeting yet but with the approval of Bristol Airport Expansion, Banwell Bypass and the Local Plan he was confident he would be updating the Parish Council on these current issues.
- b) Locking Parklands: No meeting held – Mr Dumbell advised that the Stakeholder Group were struggling to get a contact for Parklands Educate Together Primary School.

C159 Planning (applications can be viewed via North Somerset Council Planning Applications website):

- a) **21/P/3445/NMA Land at Locking Parklands** – Non material amendment to application 21/P/1596/FUL (Construction of a new secondary school site and associated sports hall and pitches, alongside external social and learning spaces, hard and soft landscaping, car parking, cycle parking and boundary treatment). To allow the rework of the proposed pitch levels, onsite 2, and creations of a fence for the majority of the site 2 with a 2.4m high weldmesh fence. **Already Approved – Noted**
- b) **21/P/3431/TPO Locking Parklands** – Farnborough Road **AGREED** to support, subject to any trees felled being replaced as per NSC policy
- c) **Locking Parklands** – 100m Green Strip of Land, discussion around location and establishing the boundary line etc – Clerk to contact NSC Planning for clarification etc.

C160 Radio Wing –Update from the Chairman:

As stated in my Chairman's Report earlier I attended a meeting with Mr Chris Hart and LPCIC Representatives on 26 January 2022. During that meeting I explained that our priority recently had been in preparing our precept figures which have now been submitted. The figures did not include a budget for managing the Radio Wing, and as such, we have parked our interest at this time. I think it is only proper that the Radio Wing Working Group meet as soon as possible to fully discuss our position and recommend a way forward.

LPCIC Representatives thought that it was important that the CIC should look at all avenues of management of the Radio Wing.

AGREED the Working Group would report to full council at its next meeting

C161 Speeding – Elm Tree Road Locking – Site Meeting held on 26 January with Mr Bailey (NSC) Cllr ap Rees and Cllr Lacey. Report from Cllrs ap Rees and Lacey:

- There was an acceptance of the existence of a traffic problem in the area of 73 -75 Elm tree Road Locking, where excess speed, poor visibility, lack of pavement, and increasing usage had resulted in reported near misses and angry parishioners.
- Mr Bailey reported that NSC were moving away from further use of Planter `constrictions` because of ownership, liability and maintenance issues.
- Looking at potential resident`s access issues, and visibility from the bend apex, Mr Bailey thought that a prioritised constriction near the apex of the bend could be a possible solution. Possibly a small build out to create a priority system, however it would require formal investigation and preliminary design to be carried out.
- The potential raising of the existing `speed bumps` by 25mm was also discussed as another solution. Watching traffic using the present bumps, we did not view this as a long term solution.
- Discussion took place surrounding the construction methods necessary to produce a constriction and necessary road furniture and markings – modelled on the existing one in Elm Tree Road.
- 20mph limit throughout Locking Village - Locking Village was currently on the `Amber` List, we need to push this up to the `Green` List
- Road Safety projects for 2022 / 2023 had already been determined by NSC Executive, any additional schemes would require resources being diverted.
- `Being ready` to `go` was also mentioned. Members would need to decide on a scheme and conduct public consultation
- The possibility of a joint funded project and also the potential use of CIL was discussed.
- The Lead Councillor for Transport is Cllr M Solomon.

AGREED that the Clerk request an onsite meeting with Cllr Solomon in the first instance and then decide on a scheme of traffic calming. Cllr ap Rees, Cllr Prosser and Cllr Lacey to attend.

C162 Reinstatement of Community Bus – Cllr L Mason gave background information for the community bus service and reiterated Mrs Stella Thompsons (Chairperson Oaktree Park Residents Association) comments. Cllr Mason called on members of the Parish Council to support the reinstatement of this essential service. Cllr Tremlett give the following observations

Everyone should be entitled to convenient accessible travel:

- NSC state the Council could not technically be allowed to fund a service that may undermine the taxi trade – this could be considered biased towards this method of transport
- The bus service actually reduces NSC carbon footprint – see NSC Climate Change Emergency Declaration – Key changes: Transport - improve paths and roads to encourage more walking and cycling, switch to green energy sources for buses and public transport – doesn't mention using taxis
- The bus service was not for the exclusive use by OTP residents the reinstated section of the bus route would accommodate anyone wishing to access the Wetlands Reserve – therefore the comment from NSC "it could be classed as illegal state aid" is not valid.
- It could be seen that NSC are discriminating against the elderly and those who have `specific mobility needs by not calling for the route to be reinstated
- It could be considered that NSC is also discriminating on an economic basis, the cost of living is spiralling, free bus passes can't be used on a community bus, taxi fares raising because of increased fuel charges and yet a

lot of state pension aged residents do not qualify for Pension Credit

- The cost of community transport is a joining fee plus £6 per round trip – it could be that elderly residents on low income with poor mobility will need to decide whether to pay for the bus fare to go shopping or save it towards their heating bill
- For an elderly couple to go shopping together that's a cost of £12 each per round trip and that's before any food is purchased
- With the Wetlands Reserve initiative surely NSC could utilise an area for car parking or bus turning at the bottom of Laneys Drove
- As for NSC Officers comment "We should make sure that there is a suitable pathway to the nearest public bus stop where possible is a minimum" – NSC has 'missed' a piece of footpath at the top of Laneys Drove and ask LPC to make a contribution towards the cost and yet this small piece of footpath that would meet up with the new cycle path at the top of Laneys Drove should be coming from A371 Safety works funded by central government

AGREED that Locking Parish Council fully support Oaktree Park Residents Association and Cllrs Tremlett's comments. Cllr Prosser suggested the Oaktree Park Residents look at contacting Travelability to see if they could offer a solution and suggested he make an initial enquiry and report back to Cllr Mason or Mrs Thompson, also Cllr Porter- **AGREED**.

C163 Unitary Cllr/Liaison Officer Report: Cllr Terry reported on the following:

- Reinstatement of bus route – Cllr Porter had held meetings with the residents of Oaktree Park regarding the community bus and had walked the route from Oaktree Park to A371 bus stop and spoken to Carl Nicholson at NSC – and although this was not a statutory bus route he would continue to pursue possible solutions to the issue.
- Active Travel Fund – Safer Route to School funding – The Chairman requested that Cllr Porter look into this funding to see if the Spinney was eligible as this is a 'safer route to school' and included in School travel plan
- Sec 106 funds and CIL funding – Members raised concerns over Sec 106 funding from the large housing developments within the Locking Parish and how the wider community have not seen any benefits to the Parish as a whole – Members asked if Cllr Terry could look into where this funding had been allocated and how much CIL funding was due to Locking Parish also if CIL or Sec 106 funding would be received from the new planning application for the 'Snow Dome' site now that the site had been allocated for housing.
- The Spinney and possible Attenuation Pond – Cllr Prosser asked if Cllr Porter could chase up Simon Bunns as he hadn't replied with what LPC needed to do next in regards to the attention ponds.

C164 Laneys Drove 30 yards of missing tarmac footpath – At the top of Laneys Drove pedestrians have to walk approx. 30 yards of grass to reach the tarmac footpath to cross the road to reach the bus stop – Request from NSC to contribute to the cost of this footpath.

The Clerk advised that the cost of the works to be approx. £5000 and that Cllr Mike Solomon was making enquiries as to whether this footpath was included in the safety works currently being undertaken on the A371. Members **AGREED** to contribute 10% to the cost - £500, Clerk to update NSC with the offer.

C165 Manor Gardens parking issues – Cllr Prosser reported that he had been approached by the Management at the Coach House pub regarding parking directly opposite the pub entrance, this was causing issues entering and exiting their car park particularly for deliveries and waste collections. Various possible solutions discussed including. **AGREED** that the Clerk to add this to list of parking restrictions for NSC to consider.

C166 Councillor Co-option Application Form – to receive and adopt an updated draft application form – **AGREED**

C167 Draft North Somerset Preferred Options Local Plan - first draft version of the Local Plan 2038 will go before the North Somerset Councils Executive on 2 February for authority to hold a period of engagement which is anticipated to commence in early March. To consider putting forward a small working group and to accept the offer of a Teams meeting to discuss the emerging document and its implications prior to the start of consultation. Correspondence had also been received from a member of the Public expressing their concerns with regards to the Draft Local Plan and Elm Grove being put forward as a proposed housing site allocation **AGREED** that Cllr Tremlett, Cllr Prosser and Cllr ap Rees take part in the Teams meeting as detailed above.

C168 Future of Locking at Locking Newsletter – Discussion as to whether L@L could be combined with Crosslinks if St Augustine's Church was willing – Mr Dumbell offered to speak to the PCC to ascertain their views - **AGREED**

C169 Card Reader – Pay As You Go – To consider the purchase of a card reader to allow customers to pay for Parish Council facilities/services by card – **AGREED** the Clerk to make the necessary purchase.

C170 SLCC Practitioners' Conference/Training 15, 16, 17 Feb 2022 virtual event £75 plus VAT **AGREED** that the Clerk attend

C171 Clerk's Report, Correspondence & Items for next Agenda:

a) Correspondence received and previously circulated:

- i. **Email received from a Member of the Public** – In response to the draft minutes which had included an update to the installation of the trim trail – the member of the public was struggling to find it, they can see metal exercise equipment and a wooden children's confidence course. The published plan of ideas previously distributed (which was attached to the email received) had a set of exercise stations spaced around the accessibility path. What plans are afoot to have a trim trail in the sense of stations spread out around the field? This will be far more beneficial from a health and exercise perspective than current provision. Members **Noted** the comments and requested the Clerk to respond informing of projects for the next financial year etc. the clerk advised that overall the comments received regarding the new equipment had been very positive.
- ii. **Tackling Loneliness in North Somerset** – Grants of up to £10,000 were available to community projects which overcome loneliness and improve wellbeing, as part of North Somerset Council's ongoing work to tackle health inequalities across the area. **AGREED** the Clerk look into this further and if appropriate begin grant application to bring to next meeting of Assets & Amenities Committee Meeting on 18 February.
- iii. **NSC – draft temporary road closure** and restriction of various roads in North Somerset for the Half Marathon on Sunday 27 March 2022 - **Noted**
- iv. **Avon Fire and Rescue** – Seven week public consultation on Service Plan Proposals 2022-25 will run until 18 February – **Noted**
- v. **NSC Michael Herbert – Copied into an email to Liz Shayler Clerk to Banwell Parish Council** - attached 2 plans that show the proposals for the A371, also attached a plan showing the removal of the deceleration lane and island details.
The removal of the deceleration will naturally slow speeds down to allow any vehicle turning left. The installation of an island will promote pedestrian movements to the opposite bus stop as well as improved footway links. The installation of the island will not allow any vehicle to overtake and therefore will also provide an additional benefit of allowing vehicles turning out of Banwell Road more time to do so. Hutton and Locking Parishes had been copied in to allow them visibility of this also.
Members discussed the fact that LPC had also not received copies of these plans and raised concerns over the proposals and requested that Cllr Terry Porter take these back to NSC. Members also requested a site meeting with Mark Herbert and Robert Thompson.

b) Agenda Item for next meeting:

Old 'allotment' site at Locking Primary School – To discuss taking over the lease and possible uses.

There being no further business the meeting Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07pm.

Signed (Chairman).....Date.....

The next meeting of Locking Parish Council will be at 19:30pm held on 3rd March 2022 at Locking Parish Hall