

**MINUTES OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Oyns - in the Chair

Councillors: - \*Cameron, Clark, Cottrell, M. Cruse, R. Cruse, Huffadine-Cooper & Lord.

Staff: - Jo Duffy - Clerk to the Council

Public: - There was 1 member of the public in attendance

**RW1525 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item .1)**

There was one declaration of interest recorded in the Declarations of Interest Register.

Councillor Oyns stated that any views expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts currently known. He would be exercising his right to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

**APOLOGIES (Agenda item .2)**

Councillors: - Burden, Mason & Koops

**RW1537 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda item .3)**

There was 1 member of the public in attendance who wished to address the meeting:-

- Mr. Geoff Hardman spoke about the vehicle activated sign on Avon Way, he asked how long it will be there and how long the battery life is?

*The Clerk confirmed that North Somerset Council does not inform the Town Council when they are using the vehicle activated signs. The signs have a battery life of 4 – 5 days.*

Clerks note: The Vehicle Activate Sign was placed on Avon Way as part of the Portishead Community Response Day (23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2016) and was due to be removed shortly afterwards.

These minutes summarise what was said during public participation and were views expressed by the speaker named, not the Town Council.

**RW1538 TO RECEIVE A TALK FROM BARBARA BENNETT – NORTH SOMERSET LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (Agenda item .4)**

Cllr. Oyns introduced Mrs. Barbara Bennett. Mrs Bennett thanked the committee for allowing her to come and talk. She said that she was there to represent the Local Access Forum (LAF). They run a system that connects the members with local councils. She spoke about the role of the Local Access Forum and provided the committee with copies of their Annual report. Mrs Bennett came to the LAF as a horse rider interested in rights of way and is now the British Horse Society Access Officer for North Somerset.

The LAF was formed under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The LAF acts as statutory advisors to the Local Authority and other bodies, having duties under part 1 of the act as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.

The forum is made up of representatives from groups of Rights of Way users including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and off road vehicle users. There are also land owning interests including farmers and the National Trust. Other interested parties include tourism and conservation groups and a number of District Councillors representing North Somerset Council (NSC). The LAF is an independent body and is not controlled by the Council. It consists of volunteers who have built up a useful body of opinion and knowledge over the years. They having been looking at the Coastal Path, the Clevedon to Weston cycle path, the Clevedon to Portishead route, the Strawberry line, the Joint Local Transport Plan update and the MetroWest consultation. The Public Rights of Way team at NSC is made up of two full time and one part time member of staff. The team deals with enforcement issues, the re-instatement of pathways and co-ordinating volunteers.

Mrs. Bennett spoke about the MetroWest proposals. She has been charged with looking at the MetroWest proposals, particularly on the Portishead to Pill route. She formulated a response on behalf of the LAF, raising some issues. From a horse riders perspective there are some issues with getting from the docks bridle path through the tunnels alongside the trains. The LAF don't believe this is a safe option for "anyone let alone a horse". They would like to see "a Pegasus crossing on the main docks road. Marsh lane is not such an issue as it is a quiet road, but going from under the motorway is not suitable. The bridleway stops at the base of the bridge and it is only about 100 yards to join up with the path on the other side of the bridge, without the need for anyone to go through a tunnel." The LAF don't think MetroWest's response to their report clearly explains how they are going to remedy the situation. The LAF has written to MetroWest again, explaining that people should not be using the tunnels. Mrs. Bennett has recorded 120 horses using the docks path. Riders will have to get their horses used to trains.

*\*Cllr. Cameron arrived 7.42pm*

Cllr. Clark pointed out that Councillors may not Chair the LAF meetings. He asked who should be contact at the LAF, should it be the Chairperson or our local representative?

Mrs. Bennet said currently John Harris is the Chairperson, and Elaine Bowman is the Secretary.

Cllrs. Cottrell and Lord spoke about the Sites and Policy plan and their request on the Town Council's behalf that Portbury Bridle Path is given protection.

Mrs Bennet explained that the Portbury Bridle Path is a dedicated Bridle Path and it is on the definitive map. The issue is the two tunnels, the one going under the docks main road and the other under Marsh Lane. Both tunnels have always been permissive.

Cllr. Lord said there is history as to why the tunnels are permissive. At the time the route was pushed forward by Sustrans, the Council was told that this would be reversed if ever a railway was progressed. One of the problems originally was the cost, with there being an issue with a landowner.

**RW1539 TO DISCUSS ARBORICULTURALIST RISK ASSESSMENTS (Agenda item .5)**

The Clerk ran through her report. Cllr. M. Cruse proposed the Clerks recommendation that Portishead Town Council approves the quote from Ian Monger Trees to the value of £720. The company will carry out a risk assessment of trees on all Portishead Town Council owned land, provide a written report and action plan with the view to having the trees assessed on a regular basis. The proposal was seconded with all in favour of the recommendation,

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council approves the quote from Ian Monger Trees to the value of £720. The company will carry out a risk assessment of trees, on all Portishead Town Council owned land, provide a written report and action plan with the view to having the trees assessed on a regular basis.

**RW1540 TO DISCUSS THE QUOTES FOR OUTSIDE GYM EQUIPMENT (Agenda item 6.)**

Cllr. R. Cruse ran through the two quotes from Vita Play and Mant Leisure. She went on to explain that Cllr. Mitchell is keen on introducing gym equipment to the Marina. Cllr. R. Cruse commented that Cllr.

Mitchell had also referred to a piece of land near the picnic benches on the Lake Ground which could provide a location for a gym area.

The meeting briefly discussed the two options.

Cllr. Lord proposed that Portishead Town Council approves the quote from Vita Play, the proposal was duly seconded, with all in favour.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council approves the quote from Vita Play to provide gym units manufactured by The Great Outdoor Gym Company, including a “Coastal Upgrade”. The units are to be in “Portishead Blue” and installed at agreed locations along the pavement at Esplanade Road. The value of the order is £11,371.50 + VAT.

**RW1541 TO DISCUSS LOCATIONS FOR THE SITING OF PORTABLE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (Agenda item .7)**

The Clerk explained that if Portishead Town Council was to take up the offer of the use of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) the Council would be expected to ensure that the sign was fully charged, that the battery was replaced every 4 – 5 days, that the sign was in good working order and any damage was reported to North Somerset Council.

Cllr. Lord asked if there was some proportionality to how the VAS was distributed across the Parishes. For example, Portishead has many more roads than Weston in Gordano.

The Clerk will discuss Cllr. Lord’s question with the relevant NSC officer.

The meeting discussed possible VAS locations. It was agreed that initially the locations approved for the 2015 speed survey could be used; Avon Way west of Downside, Bristol Road west of Glebe Road, Clevedon Road north of Mead Road, Down Road west of Ranchways and Nore Road east of Devonshire Road. The meeting then went on to discuss having the signs as close as possible to locations where the public have contacted the Town Council with speeding concerns. The meeting discussed the top of Avon Way in the vicinity of 71a Avon Way. Valley Road was suggested and it was noted that part of the road fell within the parish of Weston-in-Gordano. The meeting also noted that the Council should clarify which direction the VAS should face when a location has been decided upon. The following locations were suggested:

One at each end of Down Road  
Clevedon Road  
Nore Road (a number of locations in both directions)

Cllr. R. Cruse remarked that the Town Council should request that the VAS is placed in the vicinity of the members of the public who have

contacted the Council in the past about speeding with the caveat that the location must be suitable.

The Clerk suggested that she could contact Portishead Speedwatch and seek their advice on locations.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council considers the following sites be put forward as possible locations for the Vehicle Activate Signs as supplied by North Somerset Council.

- Avon Way west of Downside
- Avon Way in the vicinity of No. 70a
- Bristol Road west of Glebe Road
- Clevedon Road north of Mead Road
- Down Road west of Ranchways
- Nore Road east of Devonshire Road
- Nore Road in the vicinity of No. 20
- Valley Road (within the Parish of Portishead)

**RW1542 PLAY AREA PROPOSALS FOR MERLIN PARK (Agenda item .8)**

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting has been arranged with Kevin Carlton, Cllrs. Oyns and R. Cruse on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the Junior Play Area at Merlin Park.

**RW1543 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS – CLLR. OYNS (Agenda item .9)**

Cllr. Oyns read out a letter he has received from the Football Club which requests that the club would like the Town Council to consider extending their lease. He went on to say that he needs to be guided by the Town Council with regard to the process of extending the lease.

Cllr. R. Cruse explained that in the past, when the lease has been re-negotiated the land has had to be valued. Local solicitors have been used in the past to draw up the Council's leases. The Council needs to seek legal advice on the ramifications of extending the lease and then provide Portishead Football Club with the details of the process.

The meeting briefly discussed the neighbouring land owners.

Cllr. Clark asked that the Town Council considers the discount that is applied to the rent if the lease is renegotiated.

It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for a formal letter from the Football Club requesting that their lease be extended.

**RW1544 TO DISCUSS THE QUEENS 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY BEACON CELEBRATION IN PORTISHEAD (Agenda item .10)**

The Clerk confirmed that North Somerset Council has granted permission for the Birthday Beacon to be sited on Battery Point. They have provided the Clerk with an Event Application Form, which she will pass on to Tony Tween of Portishead Scouts and assist them where she can with filling out the form.

**RW1545 TO DISCUSS THE TOWN ORDERLY (Agenda item .11)**

The Clerk has spoken to the gentleman who had originally expressed an interest in the Orderly position and confirmed that in spite of the delay he is still interested.

The gentleman asked a number of questions pertinent to the role including specification of works, hours and locations. The Clerk informed the meeting that she has started to formulate a contract. The Clerk suggested that a working party is formed to progress the contract.

The Clerk has priced up the cost of equipment and calculated that it is likely to come in at approximately £1,300.

Cllr. Lord pointed out that the equipment could be purchased in the current financial year out of the £7,500 budget.

Cllr. Cottrell informed the meeting that both she and Cllr. R. Cruse originally met with the gentleman and suggested that for continuity's sake that they both look at the specification of works.

It was proposed that Councillors Cottrell and R. Cruse review the draft specification of works, with the view to progressing the hiring of a Town Orderly. The proposal was seconded and duly voted on with all in favour.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Councillors Cottrell and R. Cruse review the draft specification of works with the view to progressing the hiring of a Town Orderly.

**RW1546 TO DISCUSS THE POND AT GALINGALE WAY (Agenda item .12)**

The meeting established that the Town Council has no jurisdiction in this matter, as it neither owns the land, nor is tasked with maintaining it.

**RW1547 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE POWER STATION GATES – CLLR. OYNS (Agenda item .13)**

Cllr. Oyns explained that a Portishead resident who was a senior employee in the Electricity Industry has offered to investigate whether there is funding available for the restoration of the Power station Gates.

**RW1548 HEAVEN'S FIELD – UPDATE (Agenda item .14)**

There was nothing to report.

**RW1549 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Agenda .15)**

1. To receive an update on Gertie Gales allotments – Cllr. Cottrell
2. To discuss the land at Slade road

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.