

**MINUTES OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
27th JANUARY 2016 7.30PM**

PRESENT:- Councillor Oyns - in the Chair

Councillors: - Clark, M. Cruse, R. Cruse, Huffadine-Cooper, Lord, & Mason.

Staff: - Jo Duffy - Clerk to the Council

Public: - There were 5 members 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, Cottrell, Pasley & Koops

RW1526 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda item .3)

There were 5 members of the public in attendance who wished to address the meeting:-

- Mr. Tony Tween of Gordano Scouts, acknowledged with gratitude the grant given to 2nd Portishead Scouts for restoration works. He went on to say that he would like to raise awareness with Councillors of the consultation being held by North Somerset Council on the future of the 20% discretionary tax relief which is currently awarded to various public bodies and their premises if the changes take place. The cost to the groups would be in the region of £300 - £400. He would urge Councillors to have a look at this issue as some organisations might have to close.

Cllr. R. Cruse mentioned that Portishead Youth Centre would also be affected by the proposal of £500 in the first year and in the future they would have to find £1,000 per annum.

Cllr. D Oyns does not believe that North Somerset Council will implement the proposal on groups that use volunteers. He has written to Rt. Hon. Dr. Liam Fox about his concerns.

- Adrian Green Chairman of Portishead Town Football Club introduced his colleagues; Mark Stallard and John Harris. Following a meeting with Cllr. Oyns they felt that they should be doing more with the community, with the possibility of sharing the use of the grounds with other organisations outside of football. They have had a discussion with Tony Tween of the Scouts to see what opportunities may exist. At present they have 300+ participating children and are looking to double that figure by integrating all the Youth Teams in Portishead. They are trying to be proactive because currently there is the possibility that some of the teams might fold. They are talking about setting up projects for the next 5–15 years.
- Mark Stallard spoke about the integration, saying there are three levels to the chartered standard, with the club achieving the base level. They have a plan in place to take them up to stage 2, which would class them as a “development” football club and places more responsibility on them. Their overall aim is to be classed as a “Community” club. This will mean that they have to open themselves up to all wider community organisations, not just football related ones. The reality is that they have a waiting list made up of all different age groups and they are struggling to accommodate them. They have used Gordano School a lot and are reaching full capacity. They have multiple plans they hope to put in place, based around the integration of services through administration and the improvement of facilities. They hope to reduce the waiting list, but they also want to attract greater use of the football club by the wider community.
- John Harris is in charge of the Chartered Standard for the club. He ensures that the club is safe, that children are safeguarded and there are the correct number of qualified coaches. They have children between the ages of 6 and 16. The club has a qualified disabled coach, Lee Ballard, who coaches for the FA. Mr. Ballard wants to set up a disabled centre at Portishead. This will probably

be 2-3 years away. Plans are in place for the visually impaired and other disabled teams.

Cllr. Mason asked if Portishead Town Football Club has girl's teams.

- The response was yes they do have a ladies and girls teams. Their senior girls' team has been quite successful. They have attracted some funding from the Football Foundation to coach. They are looking at an additional ladies team going forward.

Cllr. R. Cruse asked who is using the two pitches on the other side of the rhyne?

- Mr. Green confirmed that they are governed by Gordano School and if the football club wants to use them they have to approach the school and pay the usual fee. As far as he is aware the school is not interested in the request from the club to take them on. The school does not use the pitches and they are only utilised by adult teams.

Cllr. Lord mentioned that every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month the Youth Centre runs a night for children with additional needs and there could be a link with the football club going forward.

- Mr. Geoff Hardman said that at the previous two meetings Cllr. Oyns had mentioned that he had potential sites but, though willing to share, was unwilling to put this in writing. Mr. Hardman asked when Cllr. Oyns would be willing to share and if Kilkenny Fields was still an option for a scout hut and skate park?

Cllr. Oyns said that as far as he is concerned Kilkenny Fields is still an ideal location for a skate park and he has never changed his view. He has not had any communication specifically about a skate park and as he has promised previously, he has brought along the emails which were looking at setting up a meeting to discuss any proposals. The correspondence was with Adrian Green. There was no reference in his emails to a skate park and the first time this was mentioned was actually at a meeting a couple of weeks ago.

- Mr. Hardman said that he has concerns that the Bristol Road site will need to increase its club house and changing facilities if the club were to expand and this could eat into land suggested for a scout hut or skate park. He feels it would be beneficial to have the scout hut and skate park at the same location.
- Mr. Tween explained that at present the scouts have not planned for an expansion, but were at the stage of reviewing possibilities.

Cllr. R. Cruse pointed out that the Town Council owns the Bristol Road Playing Field and the football club has a 25 year lease of the site. The lease states that the organisation should have quiet enjoyment of the site. The Council cannot force something on the football club that they do not wish to have.

Clerks Note: The current lease between Portishead Town Football Club and the Town Council for the Bristol Road site expires September 2031.

- Mr. Green stated that the Football Association will make 50-80% funding available depending on the various types of development and the length of the lease. A twenty five to forty year lease is preferable. The club has 3 junior and 3 full size pitches but only enough changing room facilities to cater for 3 teams. The lease will need to be looked at if the club wants to borrow money. The football club will only do things with the Town Council's approval.

Cllr. Lord spoke about the new director of the women's game at the FA and whether there was any incentive to promote the women's game.

- Mr. Green felt that the FA were not making it any easier to get hold of funds.

The meeting discussed the process for getting funds and how the FA insist that work is carried out by their approved contractors.

- Mr. Green explained that they envisage the changing rooms being pitch side by the first pitch. This will release an amount of space to enable them to expand the club house and make it bigger and more presentable. At no time have they considered developing along the hedge line to the rear of the properties.

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

RW1527 TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNITY USE OF BRISTOL ROAD FOOTBALL GROUND – CLLR. OYNS (Agenda item .4)

Cllr. Oyns spoke about the lease on Bristol Road, which could be a significant issue. He understands that to increase to 40 + years would be worth looking into. He has not done anything about looking at the status of land around the football ground or what the Council may be able to do with this land. This will be work in progress. He intends finding out whether the fields could be available for use by the community. He is looking at the provision of a small, equipped, children's play area where parents (or others in charge) could entertain young children while their siblings are engaged in team games or other activities. The provision of other sports/activity facilities such as rounders/baseball

pitches, skateboard/wheels park, leadership course and scout/beaver/guides should be considered in light of demand, land availability and financial feasibility. The location of the football ground is very close to East Ward, where there is a lot of young families that could use the facilities. The scout headquarters could be located on the site. Leadership courses could be run from the site. Summarising, Cllr. Oyns said that the opportunity to develop the football ground which is a Portishead Town Council asset could provide a first rate sports/activities facility in a location which has easy access by foot, cycle or car by residents of all areas of Portishead.

Cllr. Clark cautioned Cllr. Oyns about the difficulties that floodlighting has caused in the past at other sites and recommended talking to Cllr. Burden and Cllr. Felicity Baker.

Cllr. R. Cruse said it is down to the football club to decide what they would like on the site and the Town Council has an open door if they wish to come and discuss it.

RW1528 TO DISCUSS THE PARISH INCENTIVE SCHEME (Agenda item .5)

The meeting discussed various issues relating to recycling.

Cllr. M. Cruse proposed the Clerks recommendation and Cllr. Lord seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all in favour.

RECOMMENDATION that:

Portishead Town Council recognises the positive aims of the Parish Incentive Scheme in terms of waste reduction and increased recycling rates, but does not wish to join the scheme at this time due to other project commitments.

RW1529 TO DISCUSS ARBORICULTURALIST RISK ASSESSMENTS (Agenda item 6.)

The Clerk explained that she has provided three contractors with a specification of works and to date has been provided with two quotes. She suggested that this agenda item is deferred until the February meeting to allow the final contractor the opportunity to submit his quote.

RECOMMENDATION that:

This item is deferred until the February meeting.

RW1530 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WYNDHAM WAY TOILETS (Agenda item .7)

The Clerk explained that since the last meeting discussions have taken place at the Portishead PACT meeting with Chris Joannou (Community Response Officer) and Dy Davis of Portmarine Services Ltd. Various suggestions have been made with regard to the building which has included blue lighting, charging (there already exists a 20p charge). Chris Joannou has liaised with Portmarine Services and a list of incidents passed on. Portmarine Services have confirmed that the situation has improved tremendously. They have only had 3 needles in the sharps box over the last 6 months.

The Clerk made enquiries about an out of hours on call service by the cleaning contractor. Portmarine Services have confirmed that they are able to supply such a service but it would be at a cost, as it would require staff to be on stand-by. Currently the toilets are checked at the weekend at 10am, 2pm and again at 4pm. The toilets are still being locked early and this can be altered as the evenings get lighter.

RW1531 PLAY AREA PROPOSALS FOR MERLIN PARK (Agenda item .8)

Cllr. R. Cruse explained that she and the Clerk reviewed a number of North Somerset Council maintained parks with an officer from North Somerset. The Vale and Brampton Way had both been smartened up recently. The officer had suggested that the Town Council pay for some resurfacing work, but Cllr. R. Cruse felt that this would be unacceptable but the Council would consider purchasing a new piece of play equipment. The young children's area in Merlin Park is in a poor state. It was suggested to North Somerset Council that if they paid for the resurfacing. The Town Council would consider providing a piece of kit. It was not envisaged that the whole area would be redone.

Cllr. Lord asked if there was any commitment to buy equipment from North Somerset Council. The Clerk confirmed that there is no commitment.

The plans indicate that the swings and Supernova remain.

Cllr. Lord felt that the Town Council should not be looking at like for like replacements, but rather enhance the site.

The Clerk is to go back to North Somerset Council with the assistance of Cllr. Jolley and explain that the Town Council will not pay for the renovation/repairs to the swings, supernova, safety surfacing or fencing but will consider providing pieces of equipment to enhance the existing facilities.

RECOMMENDATION that:

The Clerk is to go back to North Somerset Council with the assistance of Cllr. Jolley and explain that the Town Council will not pay for the

renovation/repairs to the swings, supernova, safety surfacing or fencing but will consider providing pieces of equipment to enhance the existing facilities.

RW1532 TO DISCUSS OUTSIDE GYM EQUIPMENT (Agenda item .9)

Cllr. Oyns has taken the opportunity to speak to young people and their parents about outside gym equipment. The feedback that he received was two thirds very positive, saying they would use it, and another third said that they might use it.

Cllr. R. Cruse explained that the Committee had been looking at this project prior to the election and had been waiting for the new British Standard to be adopted. The Council had received a few quotes from gym equipment suppliers about 12 months ago, but were unimpressed with the offering. At the SLCC conference contact was made with two firms that offer gym equipment and subsequently they have been invited to quote. Cllr. R. Cruse went on to explain some of the new innovations in outdoor gym equipment.

The meeting briefly discussed who would use the equipment and where it would be located.

It was agreed to add this item to the February meeting agenda.

RW1533 TO DISCUSS THE QUEENS 90TH BIRTHDAY BEACON CELEBRATION IN PORTISHEAD (Agenda item .10)

The meeting discussed the beacon on the church in 2012 and the beacon on Battery Point built by the Scouts. It was felt that more people would see a beacon on Battery Point.

Cllr. R. Cruse suggested that the Scouts should be asked if they would be interested in providing the manpower to build the beacon if the Council provides them with financial assistance. Permission would need to be sought from North Somerset Council with regard to the Battery Point location.

RECOMMENDATION that:

Portishead Town Council contacts Portishead Scouts and asks if they would be interested in building a beacon on Battery Point, if the Town Council provides financial assistance and North Somerset Council grants landlords permission for the location.

RW1534 TO DISCUSS STREET LIGHTS – CLLR. OYNS (Agenda item .11)

Cllr. Oyns spoke about a resident who had walked along Beach Road West at night and complained that the LED lights are very bright when you are under them but between them it is very dark.

The meeting discussed the issue at length, but made no recommendations

RW1535 HEAVEN'S FIELD – UPDATE (Agenda item .12)

There was nothing to report.

RW1536 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Agenda .13)

1. Talk from Barbara Bennett of North Somerset Local Access Forum
2. To discuss the pond at Galingale Way
3. To discuss the Town Orderly
4. To review outdoor gym equipment quotes
5. To discuss arboriculturalist risk assessments

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.19pm.