

**MINUTES OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
27th NOVEMBER 2013 7.30PM**

PRESENT:- Councillor Mrs. Cruse - in the Chair

Councillors: - Burden, Cameron, Clark, Mrs. Lord, Mrs Philpot & Terry

Staff: - Mrs Jo Duffy Clerk to the Council

Public:- There was one member of the public present

RW1283 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item .1)

There were no declarations of interest recorded in the Declaration of Interest Register.

APOLOGIES (Agenda item .2)

Councillors: - Cllrs. McMurray, Walters, Mrs. Koops, Pasley gave their apologies.

RW1293 TO RECEIVE A TALK FROM LAURA KIRK REGARDING 'NORTH SOMERSET NIGHTSTOP' (Agenda item .3)

The Chairman welcomed Laura Kirk to the meeting.

Laura addressed the meeting regarding North Somerset Night Stop. Laura works for Weston super Mare YMCA. They have set up a project to help reduce homelessness across North Somerset. The work that they do relies heavily on volunteers and Laura asked the meeting if they have any suggestions or ideas on how they can tap into the volunteering network.

Nightstop is a national scheme run by different agencies. The project aims to accommodate, young homeless people in emergency situations. A homeless person is placed with a volunteer host who will give the person an evening meal and bed and breakfast. This is a temporary measure while other agencies sort out something more permanent. The project only places young people between the ages of 16 and 24 and they mustn't be taking drugs or alcohol, have no serious mental health issues and must not have sexual or violence related criminal convictions.

The project recruits volunteer hosts, who could be anyone with a spare room in their house. There is a vetting process and training and support. The hosts can volunteer as often or as little as they like. The hosts have 24 hour support.

The meeting asked Laura questions regarding the project. Would Portishead Hosts look after people from Weston? Laura explained that the homeless person usually stays in the area they are familiar with unless they need safeguarding. There is already one host in Portishead. The project also recruits volunteer drivers. The project has been up and running for a couple of months. There is more need than volunteers.

Laura asked the Council if they could make their literature available and put up a poster illustrating the project.

RW1294 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda item .4)

There were no members of the public present.

RW1295 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LAND AT HORATIO HOUSE (Agenda item .5)

The Clerk explained that she has continued to chase North Somerset Council for a response to the Council's request to allow the land to be used for a community space.

Executive Member Tony Lake has responded, saying that no decision has been made regarding the site.

Cllr. Terry asked the Clerk if she knows what the obstacle is that's preventing a decision. The Clerk responded that she did not know.

RW1296 TO DISCUSS THE REMOVAL OF TREES BETWEEN THE FOLK HALL CAR PARK AND THE NEIGHBOURING GARAGE, AT NO COST TO THE COUNCIL. (Agenda item 6.)

The Chairman explained that the Council has been approached by the owners of the garage regarding the hedge between the Folk Hall car park and the garage forecourt. The hedge is mainly Leylandi with several deciduous trees. There is a stone boundary wall at the base of the hedge all trees are on the car park side of the boundary.

The meeting discussed the hedge.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

It was agreed that prior to the next Town Council meeting the members should take the opportunity to review the hedge in day light and make a decision on its removal at Town Council.

RW1297 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WYNDHAM WAY TOILETS (Agenda item .7)

The Clerk briefed the meeting on the current situation. The Toilets are now open. The final sections of painting will be completed by the end of

next week, including the window frames, doors and the louvers. Meter readings will be taken on the services. Quotes are being sought for lettering on the fascia boards indicating that the building is a public convenience. Cllr. Burden asked it to be placed on record the Council's thanks to the staff for bringing the project in on time and on budget.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

A budget of £100 is allocated for the public toilet signs at the Wyndham Way Toilets.

RW1298 TO DISCUSS ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE 2014/2015 BUDGET (Agenda item .8)

Clerk confirmed that to date the Council has not been approached by North Somerset Council regarding any other possible asset transfer items. There were no items submitted by the committee.

RW1299 TO DISCUSS DOG FOULING IN THE VILLAGE QUARTER/MARINA AND NATURE RESERVE (Agenda item .9)

It was noted that the nature reserve sits within the Parish of Portbury. Dog fouling within nature reserve is appalling; some people are not picking up their dog mess. It was noted that even when owners do pick up after their dogs some are leaving the dog poo bags hanging from trees or hedges instead of disposing of them properly. There are dog bins on the reserve, which are paid for by Avon Wildlife Trust. The Trust may look at introducing measures such as dogs being kept on leads. The Clerk noted that North Somerset Council has suggested that dog mess is highlighted with the use of colour spray paint and that this has proved a successful deterrent in other areas around the country.

RW1300 TO NOTE A LETTER FROM CLLR. PETER BRYANT REGARDING DOG BIN EMPTYING (Agenda item .10)

The Clerk briefed the meeting on the letter from Cllr. Bryant. The Clerk will investigate the costs of having the dog bins emptied by other contractors.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

The letter was noted.

RW1301 TO DISCUSS THE COUNCIL JOINING THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT (Agenda item .11)

The meeting discussed starting the Community Resilience project but in a relatively low key way. The members agreed that the process would not be developing anything new but rather putting together what already exists. The Clerk is to investigate what other Parishes have produced in terms of guidance packs and what is available via the Community Resilience North Somerset Website. The Clerk stated that several members of the public have come forward with an interest in joining the Community Resilience project. The Clerk is to approach the people who have put their names forward and see if they would like to help to lead on the project.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

The Town Council starts a Community Resilience project in Portishead with the assistance of the general public.

RW1302 TO DISCUSS THE INCREASE IN HEIGHT OF BENCHES AT THE FLOWER BED ON THE CORNER OF BRAMPTON ROAD AND HIGH STREET (Agenda item .12)

The Chairman explained that the height of the benches located in the garden on the corner of Brampton Road and High Street are very low, making it awkward for elderly or those with limited mobility to get up from the benches. It was suggested that the Council could place the benches on a plinth and make good where necessary.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

The Clerk seeks permission from North Somerset Council to increase the height of the benches at the flower bed on the corner of Brampton Road and High Street.

RW1303 TO DISCUSS THE CCTV SYSTEM IN PORTISHEAD (Agenda item .13)

The Clerk confirmed that to date she has had no response to the Council's queries.

RW1304 TO DISCUSS THE PRS FOR MUSIC LICENCES FOR THE FOLK HALL, NORTH WESTON VILLAGE HALL AND REDCLIFFE BAY HALL (Agenda item .14)

The meeting noted the Clerks report and thanked Helen Darwall for her work on compiling the statistics for PRS.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

An additional section is added to the booking form allowing hirer's to acknowledge the use of music and be charged accordingly. A letter is to go to all users advising that a charge will now be applied if they should use music during their booking.

RW1305 TO RECEIVE QUOTATIONS FOR THE UPGRADING OF THE TOILETS AT REDCLIFFE BAY HALL (Agenda item .15)

The Chairman explained that the new caretaker at Redcliffe Bay has done a fantastic job cleaning up the gents urinals and he has commented that the loos may not need a complete overall just painting and replacing the loo seats.

It was agreed to establish whether there was a need to upgrade the toilets, prior to seeking quotes.

N.B. The Clerk was asked to look at the furniture in the snooker hall and establish whether it meets current safety standards.

RW1306 TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES ON CAR PARKING IN PORTISHEAD (Agenda item .16)

The Council has received no updates, to date.

RW1307 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Agenda item .17)

1. To receive any updates on car parking in Portishead
2. To discuss the CCTV system in Portishead

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.31pm