

**MINUTES OF THE 24TH PORTISHEAD
RESIDENTS ANNUAL MEETING
10TH MAY 2017 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT Councillor: Lesley Cottrell (Chairman of the Council) – in the Chair

Councillors present: - Burden, Cameron, Clark, Huffadine-Copper, Lord, Koops, Mason, Oyns, Pasley and Terry

Mrs Jo Duffy, Clerk of the Council
Ms T Maslen, taking the minutes

Approximately 51 attendees

1 Member of Press

APOLOGIES Councillors: - David Jolley, Ros Cruse, Martyn Cruse
Residents: - Ian Bennett & Sandy Tebbutt

The following transcript forms the minutes of the Portishead Residents Annual Meeting.

Cllr Cottrell	<p>“Good evening and welcome to the Annual Town Meeting.</p> <p>This is a meeting of Portishead Electors, not a Town Council Meeting. Only the electors of Portishead have the right to speak and vote. Those of you who are on the electoral roll, and have said they are, have been given a red piece of paper like so, so if there is a vote it is easier to count rather than hands which can be a little bit difficult. There are no constraints on how long you talk. You can talk as long as you like and the only constraint is that the building will close at 10pm.</p> <p>When you are called to speak please give your name, that’s because you need to be referred to in the minutes which our minute taker will be taking. Speakers will be called in the order of signing in. The last point before we move onto the agenda proper is please be courteous and do not talk when someone else is talking but raise your hand and you will be called to speak.</p> <p>To receive apologies is the next item on the agenda.</p> <p>I have received apologies from David Jolley, Ros and Martyn Cruse, Ian Bennett & Sandy Tebbutt.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Agenda item number 3. The minutes of the 2016 meeting were done independently, not by Town Council staff. I understand that some inaccuracies have been identified and corrected. So, what you have in front of you and what is on the website now are the corrected version</p>
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	<p>of the minutes. Only those who were present at that meeting, last year's, can confirm the minutes. Can you please indicate your acceptance of these minutes?</p> <p><i>Clerk's note: Cllr Cottrell signed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.</i></p> <p>The next item on the Agenda, Items 4 & 5 to receive Annual Reports. In order to maximise the time available for the elector's forum, all reports that we have received have been printed and copies are on the chairs, and I know that some of you have already been reading through them. They will all be uploaded to the Town Council Website as soon as possible, together with the recording of this meeting. As you know our meetings are recorded and uploaded to the website.</p> <p>Agenda item number 6 is about changing the name of this meeting. It's called the Annual Town Meeting and there is a suggestion it should be the 'People's Meeting'. Who would like to speak to this?"</p>
Mrs Hennessy	<p>"Hello everybody, firstly before I mention about the change of the name, can I just ask, at Town Council meetings you have allowed in the past young people to contribute and we have some young people in this hall today who have taken their time to come along and I know they are not electors but their parents are, but because you let other young people speak at previous meetings is there any discretion that if they want to speak you would allow them to?"</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"Well, as I have said it's not a Town Council Meeting"</p>
Mrs Hennessy	<p>"No, I appreciate that, but young people can speak"</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"Can I just say ..."</p>
Mrs Hennessy	<p>"Yes, certainly"</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"So, what you're referring to is Town Council meetings. This is the Annual Town Meeting, and I have to say I have already told a couple of adults because they are not on the electoral roll that they are not able to speak. However, I do take your point and do appreciate seeing younger people here and anybody at all who comes along. The rules do say if you are not on the electoral roll then you cannot speak, but if it is the will of this meeting to allow people who are not on the electoral roll, so that would include the adults as well as the younger people and it's the will of this meeting that you would like them to be able to speak, then please show your hands, or put your red papers up. I need a majority to say that. "</p>
The Clerk	<p>"Yes, that's a majority."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"It's a majority, well in that case if it's your will, it's your meeting, therefore you will be able to speak and that includes adults who I have previous said you are not on the electoral roll and you cannot speak and that is fair for everybody. Would you like to carry on with Agenda Item number 6, thank you Mrs Hennessy?"</p>
Mrs Hennessy	<p>"Thank you. I think it is really important the people of the Town realise that they can actually contribute to the Agenda of this Annual meeting, but so many think it's a Council meeting and over the years many of us have been coming along to try get people to realise it's their meeting,</p>

	<p>it's Portishead people's meeting, it's not a Council meeting, and we have had to explain that to the Council over the years, not just the residents who are non-councillors. I think the only way for people to understand that it's not a Council meeting is to rename it and call it ... I'm not saying this is the name we should choose but it's an idea we need to think about and consider and perhaps vote on tonight and call it the Annual People's Meeting. It's more pertinent this year than it has been for many years. Even this Town Council put on their website the minutes, the draft minutes, of last year's annual town meeting, which is the annuals people's meeting, and they titled it 'the Annual Town Council Meeting'. So even this Town Council gets confused with regards to Council meetings and the Annual People's Meeting. So, having spoken to quite a few people today in the Village and across the Marina and Harbour Road they have stopped me and I have mentioned to them about the People's Meeting and they said because it's the Annual Town Meeting they thought it was council meeting. So, really, it's as simple as this, in order for people to understand it is entirely separate to a Council meeting, I believe, personally, it should be reiterated 'The Annual People's Meeting' and there is no legislation to say it cannot be called what the parishioners of the Town want it to be called. So, my only proposal is can we rename this meeting so it's very clear that it is an Annual People's Meeting not a Town Council Meeting. There is some concern that it's not advertised as it should be and over the years I advertise it and I know that other residents have advertised it because it's not advertised thoroughly by the Council and I'm not criticising anybody here, there are so many people who said they didn't know about it. That's the proposal that I've got and I would like people to consider it and I don't know how you want to take it forward. Other people might want to talk and say the opposite or agree, but I think that what I would like for Portishead at this meeting is an Annual People's Meeting or a similar name, not Annual Town Meeting which is too close to the Annual Town Council Meeting."</p>
Sue Mason	<p>"Yes, I can see the reason for it but I think it would be better to be called The Residents' Meeting rather than the People's Meeting because it is for the residents of Portishead and if it's the People's Meeting, people could think that it be anywhere within the North Somerset or London or anywhere, so I think therefore a Residents' Meeting is better. I understand Annette's point about it not being publicised well. I think, however, when things are publicised it's never ever good enough as it never ever reaches everyone, but we could all try and make it better by making it more obvious that it is a Residents' Meeting. Thank you."</p>
Ken Smith	<p>"Good evening. I can't agree with Annette with that name. As a younger man, I was sent on a job and spent 10 days in the Soviet Union and that sounds like a Soviet name to me: People's. What's wrong with Resident? We either leave the name as it is or we go along with what Sue Mason said!"</p>
Cllr Burden	<p>"Thank you Chairman. In the past it's been called the Parish Meeting, which caused even more confusion as everybody thought it was part of the Church. If Cllr Mason has made a formal proposition: this meeting</p>

	recommends we change the name to the Residents' Meeting, I would willingly second it."
Jeffrey Lucas	"I agree with the sentiment of the proposal but there is another problem with Resident Meeting it isn't Residents, it is more restrictive than that. It is Electors, So I think my suggestion would be if it is going to be changed, Portishead Electors Meeting."
Jonathan Mock	"I think we are in danger of over thinking this and bogged down in semantics quite frankly. I think Residents fits the bill quite perfectly. The People's works for me. I think the most important thing is to make the distinction that it's nothing to do with the Town Council and it's to do with the Residents, the electorate, the public, whatever. But let's not get bogged down with semantics with what words mean. I think Resident is good enough; it sends a message that this is a meeting for the People of Portishead rather than the Town Council."
Cllr Cottrell	"I would just make one comment before we move further with this. Since the meeting this evening has agreed that non-electors may speak then it seems perfectly reasonable to use the word 'Residents', but Mrs Hennessy, since you started this debate, would you have anything to add?"
Annette Hennessy	"I would go with the majority, if there's a majority. I think as long as it's got the word 'Portishead' in the title, Portishead Residents' Meeting sounds fine to me. I just want to distinguish and I have been fighting for it for many years. Looking at the people that have attended tonight, I believe it is a lower attendance than last year and I think that is because of the name. The Portishead Residents' Meeting, I think that would be fine."
Cllr Cottrell	"Would we need to add in the words Portishead Residents' Annual Meeting? Yes, so the proposition then it seems to me, then if anyone has a problem with this then please say, the proposition is the name of this meeting is changed to 'Portishead Residents Annual Meeting'?"
	<i>Clerk's note: A vote was taken. With a majority in favour.</i>
Cllr Cottrell	"That's a majority, so in future this meeting, when it is advertised, will be called 'Portishead Residents Annual Meeting."
Cllr Cottrell	"The next item on the Agenda is Public Speaking and I will call people to speak according to the attendance record."
Chris Holman	"Chairman, before you start would there be any councillors speaking tonight?"
Cllr Cottrell	"Would there be any Councillors speaking?"
Chris Holman	"Yes."
Cllr Cottrell	"It may be a Councillor chooses to speak."
Chris Holman	"With what happened last year, I walked out at 10 and Councillor Oyns spoke, [crosstalk] and by all accounts it became a fiasco and the police were notified by Jo Duffy. I'm I correct."
Cllr Cottrell	"Not strictly, I don't think. I do understand your point."
Chris Holman	"Do you remember this Jo?"
Cllr Cottrell	"Councillors, myself and other Councillors, we are all residents and on the Electoral Roll. We've just agreed that this is the Portishead Residents' Annual Meeting, so any Portishead Councillor is able to

	<p>speak, if they choose. I haven't looked to see if any of them have requested to speak. I will go through the list in the order that..."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"And let me know."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"Well you will hear because I will refer to people as Mr, Mrs, Miss or Councillor."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"What I noticed from the minutes, I missed this but the Police were called at the following meeting from the last annual meeting here and there was a lot of shouting by all accounts between Councillors and the Public, and Jo Duffy contacted the Police."</p>
The Clerk	<p>"I asked the Police if they would attend the next meeting, they generally do anyway."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"Three officers turned up, is that right [cross talk]"</p>
The Clerk	<p>"Yes, I did contact the Police, but generally we always invite the Police to come along to all our Council meetings. Their shift work does not allow them to attend all the meetings and give reports. That particular meeting more than one officer turned up. I don't know why, we didn't ask for that."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"You contacted them because of what happened on the previous meeting?"</p>
The Clerk	<p>"They're normally invited anyway."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"There's a reason why I'm asking, I don't want a recurrence of what happened here at 10 o'clock last year."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"Let's just try and hope that doesn't happen Mr Holman and I do take your points on board."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"I was told there was a section 5 public order offence here."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"I can't comment on that."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"If it wasn't, why were the Police called then?"</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"They weren't called to that meeting."</p>
Chris Holman	<p>"No, the next meeting because of what happened at this meeting. Do you see my point?"</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"In front of you there is a report from the Police, an annual report. Every month, for the Town Council, the Police produce a report. They are invited to be here to deliver that report. If they are unable to be here to deliver it then we make it known to the public that there is a report and we will read it out. That is normal procedure."</p>
Annette Hennessy	<p>"I think it's important for people to know the truth about last year. Chris Holman is correct, the Police were called to the Annual Town Council Meeting following the Annual Town meeting, which is now the Residents' Meeting. What a lot of people don't realise is the Police were invited to attend the meeting, the Annual Town Meeting, not because they were going to give a report, they were invited, and this is in writing, Avon and Somerset Police, because they had been warned by the Clerk that there was a likelihood of hostile actions by the public. We don't know why they got that impression so they were called to the Annual Town Meeting prior to the meeting taking place and after that meeting they were called to the next one as well. Just as an aside I think why Mr Holman is concerned we often have at these meetings certain Councillors and they are free to speak but they leave it to the</p>

	very last moment to speak and they don't necessary talk in an open and transparent way, nor an honest way."
Charles Murphy	"Can I suggest that we return to the order of the agenda and take the addresses as the order they arrive. We have had two incidents now where two people have taken over the agenda and spoken. That's not useful for the meeting. Thank you very much."
John Dixon	"Following on from what our friend said, I was at the meeting that you were taking about. It is correct there was a certain amount of over hollering, it is correct that the Police were called but what is not correct is to say that somebody was chucked out. No one was chucked out of that meeting."
Paul Maltby	"Can I be allowed to speak after Mr Davey please?"
Ken Smith	"I apologise to most of you as I'm going to talk about the Council meeting and most of you know what I am talking about. I won't make the next Council meeting unfortunately, I am going up North to see my sister. I want to discuss Councillor Cameron's paper. He has put a paper in to say what should be said at public participation. Actually, it's correct I can't disagree with it. All we should talk about really are bus stops, blue paint, Wyndham Way toilets, Bristol Road playing fields and the youth club and that's about it. However, he's forgotten one thing from this paper and that's democracy. I consider this building as my House of Commons. I record that I should be able to say things that affect Portishead. The ideal is it is filtered up the chain of command, but what I say and what the people say in this building is forwarded to North Somerset. I accept that North Somerset have no time for you, even though they represent Portishead. So, I feel although Mr Cameron's paper is correct, I think we should widen it so that we can give you our concerns and you filter them up through the system. That's what this room is all about and it's my little House of Commons and everybody else who comes in here and speaks. We are not going to stick to bus shelters or blue paint or toilets. We are going to stick to things that affect the people of Portishead and North Somerset. "
Cllr Cameron	"I would like to say I don't want to debate this issue tonight as it will be on the next Council Meeting, I believe, but the paper in question is just an advisory paper, it's not a regulation. If it were it would be in standing orders."
Chris Holman	"I have been attending meetings here for the last 7 years all to no avail. No one has done anything at all for Avon Way with all the accidents that occur on Avon Way. We have 3 every year, a garage destroyed recently. We have had in the past children knocked down, adults knocked down, people cut from their cars. Yet I came along here 3 years ago and I asked the Council to vote for safety precautions to be put in the children's play area. Absolutely nothing has been done and they actually refuse to vote. I am hoping, Madam Chairman, that you may in the future put forward a proper vote on behalf of Avon Way for proper safety precautions. A crossing, speed tables, rumble strips. Too many accidents, too many children involved, especially near play areas and schools. I know a few years ago we lost a little girl down at Locking simply because no one had done anything about road safety near schools and play areas. I do not want that on Avon Way. I have

	<p>asked in the past and the Council have done absolutely nothing. I was hoping Councillor Terry who lives near that park would have done something, but he didn't even vote when I asked him to. The same for many other Councillors on that day. I am still waiting for something to be done on behalf of Avon Way. It has gone on far too long, we have been left in the dark. We have 1300 speeding offences every day recorded by the Police in the past. We have had Police on the road, detector vans and all they do is collect money and all they are - are short term methods. There are no long-term methods, we don't want any children knocked down on that road. I've seen too much in the past with my job and it's just not good enough. It's time the Council, yes the Council, did something about it and tonight I've come along here to say to you Madam Chairman that enough is enough for Avon Way. We've had enough, also we had a meeting here in Portishead with Sue Mountstevens and she is very interested in any precautions to be undertaken around schools and play areas in North Somerset. I asked for Mr Ap Rees to come along tonight and he sent me a rather rude reply, which I can't say here and I am very disappointed in that. But anyway, enough is enough."</p>
Alan Cockrum	<p>"My main concern is the road which leads from Newfoundland Road down to Phoenix. When you come off the main road, with the new flats have been built there, people are constantly parking on the left-hand side. As you enter Newfoundland Way by Harbour Road you can't get into that road because people are parking on the left-hand side. What happens is you see traffic coming up and you can't turn in there, so you get a back log of traffic. Really, it's about time they looked at it and started putting yellow lines down through the Village. Also at the same time people are parking on pavements, not on the kerb but on the pavements. From the exits from Forth Avenue to the left and to the right people are parking on the pavement. So, as you are coming out and looking to the left and right sometimes you can't see pedestrians. Opposite they also park on the pavement, also along there where the drop kerbs are. On many occasions when I have walked along there I have seen people cannot exit the pavement to cross the road in mobility scooters, because there are cars parked across them. There are no double yellow lines to stop them. Many a time catching the bus, the bus has terrible problems turning around there. Opposite Hall & Woodhouse on the bend that leads from Newfoundland Way up to the main road, there is a blind bend there, you can't see anything coming. People park on the bends. There's no double yellow lines to stop people. You've got right of way coming from the main road but people are mounting the pavement to allow the cars to come through, even buses when the bus comes round, people are mounting the pavement."</p>
Clive Williams	<p>"Can I reply? I am down to speak but I think if I come in now as what I've got to say supports what you have said but in a different part of the town and what the gentleman said about Avon Way. It seems that in Portishead, and I haven't lived here very long, about 5 years now since the Marina and that area was built. Getting through and around Portishead is a nightmare. It took me nearly 18 minutes to get from Gordano School to Waitrose this afternoon. Getting out from the</p>

	<p>Waitrose area to the centre I can't understand why we haven't put double yellow lines all the way down Harbour Road because it's got to be seen really as a main ring road for Portishead. You go down it and get to the bottom and you can be 5 – 10 minutes waiting to get onto the roundabout which takes you to Quays Way and across. It seems stupid to me they haven't put double yellow lines all away around there as it is a main trunk road. I think there could be some sort of review of the traffic around Portishead and maybe designated roads as it's a nightmare getting in and around. I know there's road works which isn't helping and that's only a short-term thing. Like I say getting down on to the Quays Way roundabout is a nightmare in itself and what that gentleman said what it must be like living actually down there must be nightmare every day. Lucky for me I'm on Nightingale Way, on the outskirts of it, still bad enough so I don't know. I would like to support this gentleman and this meeting is a way you could feed back our concerns but really you are better walking around Portishead than trying to drive, which is fine, I do that a lot when I go down the High Street etc. but sometimes I would want to pick stuff up, you need your car with you. My proposal really is to ask for double lines all the way down Harbour Road but that seems just the start of it really."</p>
Dave Carroll	<p>"I want to reply to the points these guys have raised that if you put double yellow lines in you are not going to do anything about the volume of cars or people needing to park, so if there is going to be a review on parking there needs to be somewhere for people to park those cars. All that would happen is you find somebody will park outside your house as they will park further and further away. So rather than just painting a couple of lines some parking would have to be provided as well."</p>
Clive Williams	<p>"Very good point and I do support you. I know we've got a railway which is coming hopefully sometime in the future. There is a large area that could be on a short-term basis, I know that money is always going to be an issue where ever you try to park. Maybe if we just tipped some scalplings on it for the short term, leading down from where the Majestic Wines car park ends, right the way down to Quays Avenue. There's land where the railway was supposed to go and now the station is being proposed the other side of Quays Way. That piece of land there, even on a temporary basis, we just need to lay gravel. I don't think anyone who parked there would object to a small fee as long as it was a sensible fee. It would be money we would get back. That land at the moment is an area we could use short term. Long term there would be issues around it, but certainly short term it's just left there derelict. I have got a real concern with parking in that area."</p>
Dave Carroll	<p>"People have garages, they fill their garages up with everything else. They have two cars and one drive, so they have plenty of room to park two cars, but it's too far to walk from their parking to the front of their house so the easiest thing is to park on the pavement, because it's 2 yards away. Their car parking space is 10 yards away. I've walked down there many a times and I know the cars because I live there. I know where their cars are. Their space is empty, so what they do, they</p>

	park on the pavement outside their house. Which is easy and they're lazy and that's the end of it. Thank you."
Martin Randall	"The thing I want to bring up is the withdrawal of the X4 Service from the High Street in Bristol Road from 6.45pm at night. If you live in Bristol Road, North Weston or the High Street there is now no bus service serving you. If you have gone out for the night in Bristol and you want to come back you have to get off at Sheep Way or Combe Road and walk home. I think that is absolutely disgusting and something should be done about it. First Bus are shocking, as they are ripping the heart out of the Village, Bristol Road and the High Street. I have lived here 20 something years and it is ripping the heart out of the High Street. I can't see why they have done this."
Robert Bull	"I wonder if someone from the Council could explain to the Parishioners here why you've ignored the wish of the democratic majority, of over 400 against 1 person, when you failed to support parents, residents and the schools request for action to make the road safer for children at High Down School."
Jonathan Mock	<p>"I am going to do something unusual tonight, I am actually going to praise some of our Councillors. First of all, I would like to praise Councillor John Clark. Councillor Clark is the epitome of what a local Councillor should be. He's a gentleman and he works for the people who elected him, and I just think as a representative of Portishead he's just absolutely fantastic.</p> <p>I would also like to give some credit tonight to Councillor Arthur Terry. Councillor Terry puts himself out there on social media and he gets involved. Some people disagree with some matters but at least he puts his face out there.</p> <p>I would also credit Councillor Peter Mitchell who I met last year to discuss some of the unresolved issues surrounding North Somerset's decision to take over Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve and keep Avon Wildlife Trust out. I am looking forward to hearing how he got on with the concerns I raised, especially in the light of some new information I have via a freedom of information request. The ball is in your park.</p> <p>I would also like to shout out to Councillor Oyns, another year has passed and still no movement on the Skate park but Councillor Oyns is apparently working hard looking for suitable locations. Even if Narnia and Brigadoon proved to be unsuitable. Beyond that, it seems the rest of our Councillors aren't so keen to interact with the residents, constituents, people, voters and the wonderful Jonathan. One nameless Councillor refuses to respond to correspondence on the account I was mean to him at a Council Meeting, even though its recorded nothing out of the ordinary on my behalf. There have been concerns about the minute taking but I'll take that as an accurate record of events. This could be seen as a breach of the Councillors Code of Conduct. The set of guidelines supposed to prevent Councillors treating the public like an inconvenience. But here we come to one of the biggest problem with our Town Council. Members of the public speaking at Town Council Meetings are held to a stricter adherence of the rules than many of the members seated at the table. That highlights the disconnect between councillors and constituents.</p>

	<p>Some councillors seem to see their Code of Conduct as optional where the public must observe their Code of Conduct to the letter. This includes clumsy attempts by some members of the Town Council to interfere with the legal right, and I stress the legal right, to record meetings. Now we live in a very different age now far from our Town Council thinking they can shrink from scrutiny. Technology and social media platforms mean they are under the harshest spotlight now. And if they don't like the glare, get off the stage. Portishead needs Councillors who will serve the public above party. I have been living here for 40 years. I love this Town, I promote this Town and I will defend this Town but I will also criticise this Town as I think it deserves better. It deserves that long overdue Skate park, it deserves to have proper safety measures on Avon Way, it deserves to have the Golf Course protected as a Green Space, it deserves safer streets and roads, it deserves better bus services, it deserves to have a better Police presence and not just at Council meetings. It also deserves to have infrastructure to support this Town instead of it being a dumping ground for more development at the whim of North Somerset Council. I might love all the flowers, I know our beleaguered butterflies and bees need them, but they are papering over the cracks and it deserves that railway. It's amazing that something the Victorians built in two years from rails and rivets to a paying service, has now taken two decades, hundreds of consultants, tens of millions of pounds and a stream of politicians and Councillors to get to the point where we are now. No train, no sign of a train. Portishead also deserves Councillors who are willing to aspire to high standard of public service and meet their Code of Conduct as a badge of honour not as a hindrance. It also deserves a Council that works with the people of the Town, for the people of the Town, rather than against them."</p>
Janet Davey	<p>"Tonight, I am going to speak about open spaces and recreation. This week I have been the subject of some unpleasant social media attacks from the concessionaire of the Golf Course. Who said that by the way... Excuse me, I object to someone saying, 'oh not again' when I am speaking, that's very rude."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"It is indeed, as I have already asked everybody to be courteous which, so far everybody has been courteous and listened to each speaker in turn. So, can we please adhere to that. Courteousness costs nothing. Would you like to continue Mrs Davey?"</p>
Janet Davey	<p>"Thank you. Who was taking the opportunity of accusing me of preventing him being allowed to put in 16,000 cubic metres of land fill on the Golf Course and thus spoiling his chance of making a go of his business. Those of you who have been following this know this is untrue. A local expert produced an excellent report stating that in brief: this proposal could be too risky for users of Coast Path as the unsupported waste would be dumped on an unstable, steeply sloping site. Natural England also confirmed this. If you wish to have copies of the report please speak to me after the meeting. However, the concessionaire also posted that I made him want to grant an option to Persimmon Homes, and I think this is the crux of the matter right there. Maybe the concessionaire has let the cat out of the</p>

	<p>bag. Is it possible that this is part of his arrangement with North Somerset Council? After all, why else would a business man still be there if he is losing money as fast as he said he is. What is in it for him? Is this finally the true answer? Is it possible the rejection of Town Green Status, the introduction of the signs threatening removal of access to residents in August, is the cynical preparation towards using the golf course land for building? Is it possible the news on the front page on the North Somerset Times today, that Peter Bryant has again rejected Kilkenny Field for the Skate park, is it also to do with the fact that it would prevent that land being built on? His stated excuse is it would spoil the old world feel of the area. Is it possible that Elfan Ap Rees, who authorised the traffic lights at Cab Stand, wasted £800,000 of our money? That his previous rejection of the Kilkenny Fields for the skate park was also to make sure it stayed available for building? Make no mistake, the next Government has pledged to build many more houses and North Somerset Council would have to build thousand more in our area. You ain't seen nothing yet! House builders like to build in Portishead as they can sell property here for very high prices. This brings me to my next point. If we do not move quickly there simply will not be enough space left in our Town to put a wheels or skate park where our children can play, so it's time we got on to it. Therefore, we demand a Parish Poll. The residents of Portishead demand that a concrete skate or wheels park is provided as soon as possible, sited within 15 minutes walking distance from the town's High Street. We demand that the cost of £125,000 is met by the Town Council out of their current funds, which are far in excess of £500.000. I would like to know if you are in favour of this action and Mr Paul Maltby will now second this motion. Thank you."</p>
Paul Maltby	<p>"I am very happy to second this motion. I, along with many others, started campaigning for a skate or wheels park many years ago. In fact, my children were primary school age. Now they are both grown, working men. This subject has gone on for far too long and needs to be put to bed once and for all. There has been much debate and many broken promises in the past. There has also been deceit, untruths, scaremongering and blatant lies. We have had town and district councillors claiming they have carried out their own survey. It is time that all of that stopped and there is a Parish Poll so residents of this great town can get their say on this subject in a democratic way. I am sure that this motion will receive good support, especially from those elected to represent us, as after all they all say they support Portishead having a second, fit for purpose Wheels Park. If there is a Parish Poll and the people of Portishead rejected this, then I for one will never ever raise this subject again at any Town Council Meeting. Please support the Parish Poll."</p>
Leise Stanley	<p>"I certainly support the proposal. My only concern with that is the amount and I would personally say, necessary, funds. I am not sure £125,000 would be enough money, it depends on if we had to buy land. North Somerset are being very difficult in being forward with any of their own land. I absolutely agree with the proposal, everyone here who knows me knows how hard I fought for it but I am concerned,</p>

	knowing the Town Council well, they may use that as a get out clause for the future. I don't think £125,000 will be sufficient."
Ken Smith	"What that lady said disturbed me. Mr Burden, can you answer a question, are they going to build houses on the golf course? You go down there every week. Are they going to build houses? It's looking very much like it. I think you should kill the rumours once and for all, is there going to be houses? You go down Weston Super Mare, you ask the question. You represent us, not the Tory Party. The people have said they can't get their cars around, they can't park in the Town. One of you is on the Executive and if you're not meeting the Executives what are you doing? If you don't want the job, pack it in. We are looking for you to protect Portishead."
Martin Randall	"Could I just answer the statement about the Skate park? £800,000 was spent on the Cab Stand; another £60,000 has come from the section 106 agreement, so why can't the shortfall come from this money?"
Cllr Burden	"This rumour about building on the golf course bluntly needs putting to bed once and for all. Mr Stiff put a very stupid remark on Twitter stating, "it's mine for 23 years, I've got the lease and the way your're behaving, you're making me want to let it go to Persimmon". I was sitting with the Solicitor of North Somerset Council when that came through and his comments to me were a) The Council needs to re-assign the Lease, and b) if he does re-assign the lease to anybody, it will be a golf course. So that is just a wind-up I'm afraid. And from another point of view that land is Green Space in the Local Plan. The Local Plan that stands for the next 15 years. One other thing I think we have got to bear in mind, I remember back in the 80's when the District Council then Woodspring bought that land from Bristol City Council. There is a covenant on it, stating any increase in value will go to Bristol. Now I cannot imagine anybody on the Executive of North Somerset being so stupid as to give 80% of the uplift in value to Bristol City Council. I know there were various things that went wrong with the golf course, I accept that, but please let's not wind up these people anymore about it going residential. It's down in the Local Plan quite clearly as Green Space. You can look at the Local Plan on the District Council's website and it is more than clear, it is treated as the same status as Eastwood, the Lake Grounds themselves and Battery Point. I believe that battle has been won."
Janet Davey	"Thank you, Peter, I appreciate your reply, but I find it very disturbing for me to be constantly blamed by people because I opposed the landfill that I am forcing it to go for building and it's just a terrible position to be in. I feel I am being used as a scapegoat for the possibility of it going for building by Adrian Stiff. I don't know why he's still there with £80,000 a year he said he's losing on it. He must be there for another reason. Please find out what it is for me as I have no idea. I'm so confused. I'm so angry. I feel so attacked by him and I'm been completely blamed for the possibility it might be going for building. My point is the skate park should go in Kilkenny Fields."

Cllr Cottrell	“Thank you, Mrs Davey. I would like publicly to make you a promise. I will do my very best to get to see Adrian Stiff. I will ask him a number of questions and I will let you know the outcome. I will keep you posted.”
Janet Davey	“I will send you copies of the Face Book post which I recently received from Adrian Stiff which I find extremely disturbing. I object to being called a liar, over and over again in the public arena on Face book and I’m disgusted with it.”
Cllr Cottrell	“Please do, Mrs Davey, and as I say I have been trying to get hold of Mr Stiff. I will keep trying to get hold of Mr Stiff and I will be asking him a number of questions and yours included. It’s appalling that anyone should think you should be a scapegoat for any possibility of building. With Cllr Burden, there is an examination next week of the sites and policy plan (part 2). I and Councillor Koops will be attending. It’s in my Chairman’s report. We will be attending specifically for Old Mill Road and the implications of what’s in there for that, but also, we have an opportunity about Green Space. I can concur with Councillor Burden that all Green space as we currently know it is protected within that document and the inspector, who happens to be called Mrs Burden, will be going through that plan.”
Ann Townsend	<p>“Councillor Burden refers to the Covenant. All Covenants can be bought. He also refers to the uplift in the land if it were sold. I have asked a number of times to you, Councillor Burden, and your colleagues in North Somerset Council, and none of you have made that document available to me.</p> <p>I am an ex-civil servant, I do like to see things in writing. It’s the only thing that will prove anything in any court of law. It’s something that I think if people really do mean what they say, they are normally prepared to put it in writing. So, as you said tonight, Councillor Burden, that document exists, can I ask for it again? Another thing, 15 years is nowhere near long enough to protect that land. The other point I want to make is I believe that the tenant is in breach of his tenancy. He’s been in breach for a number of years now. This gentleman has been a tenant of that land since June 2014. The Police have had to be called as he was in contravention of the Countryside and Wildlife act. He was just breaking shrubs and tearing them out. Even when he was warned, he failed to stop and then the Police had to be called. We have made this clear to the Council and North Somerset Council have done nothing to remind him of what his terms and conditions are of his lease. So, I’m afraid it’s not words I want, it’s action and I would quite like someone to put it in writing to me if this document exists, because, at the moment I’m not seeing it, Councillor Burden, and none of your colleagues have been able to let me have that document. Thank you.”</p>
John Dixon	“I was passing the golf course a little while back, less than a week ago. There was no supervision, there were three people present there. None of them had any intention of playing golf at all. There are a lot of things we are not being told about the golf course but what we are told is fairy stories. It’s not Mrs Davey that’s telling fairy stories, its somebody else. Now the skate park, that’s another thing that has gone on for far too long. They have gone through all the places that we can’t have a skate park and they have run out of places that we can have

	<p>them. It was said this week we can't have a skate park at the Lake Grounds. We were told that years ago. If the Duke of Edinburgh was here he would say get your finger out.</p> <p>Following on from what our friend in Avon Way was saying, cars do come down Avon Way far too fast. I have said this before, what is wanted is traffic lights at the junction of Slade Road and Avon Way and the technology exists to do this. They should not work like ordinary traffic lights. They should normally show red and if the traffic down Avon Way does not reduce speed they will remain on red and will only go to green when they have reduced speed. Another thing on traffic: we were promised traffic wardens in Portishead but we haven't seen any of them yet. Last but not least, the railway. We don't want the railway back next year, we don't want it back the year after, we want it back last year."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"Can I just say a couple of things about a Parish Poll? These three things are in the Local Government Act.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whatever is being proposed must require a yes or no answer. 2. A Parish Poll will cost an estimated £12-15 thousand pounds. 3. A Parish Poll is not legally binding. <p>I am only reporting those, I give no comment. I am simply reporting what the Local Government Act said as I understand it."</p>
Janet Davey	<p>"But it also says in the same document that any Parish Council ignoring the outcome of the Parish Poll is foolhardy in the extreme. I think these are the words that it used."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"They are indeed. The other thing is about the request for a Parish Poll. As I understand it, we need Mrs Davey's full name and postal address. We need 9 other Elector's full names and postal addresses as well. If we have that then what happens next, just to let you know, is that Mrs Duffy will send this document off to the Election Specialist Practitioner at North Somerset Council and once received the Election office are required to have the Parish Poll within 25 working days."</p>
Janet Davey	<p>"I would like to say I know it is very difficult at this time because of the general election. I think that Nick Brain is the Returning Officer, if he receives that from you he will have a fit. What I may suggest, if we can break the rules slightly, it would probably cost less if we do this on the same day as the general election."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"We are not allowed. We've done the 25-day calculation. It has to be done by 12th June 2017 which is the 25th working day."</p>
The Clerk	<p>"It's between the 31st May and the 15th June I've calculated if they receive it tomorrow."</p>
Janet Davey	<p>"They can't have it on the 8th?"</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"It is not allowed."</p>
The Clerk	<p>"It's a totally different set up."</p>
Janet Davey	<p>"Could they have it on the next day and just keep the booths up?"</p>
Cllr Cottrell	<p>"What we are told it's one day, there are no polling cards, from 4pm to 9pm. This is what I am told."</p>
	<p>Mrs Davey proposal is that the Residents of Portishead demand that a fit for purpose concrete Skate/Wheels Park is provided as soon as possible. Sited within 15 minutes walking distance of the Town High Street. We demand that the necessary funding is met by the Town</p>

	Council out of their current funds that are in excess of £500,000. Are you in favour of this Yes or No.
Cllr Cottrell	"29 votes. Would all 29 like to be listed?"
	<i>Clerk's Note: The Clerk recorded the names and addresses. The audio recording of the meeting fast forwards during the recording of the names and addresses.</i>
Jeremy Ludlow	"The skate park has been covered in great depth. As a great philosopher once wrote: 'I called my congressman and he said, I like to help you son but you're too young to vote'. There is a demand for a skate park, the demands of real people and it's not going to go away. It would be a shame that an increasingly large proportion of the town's population are invisible to our councillors just because they cannot yet make their presence felt at ballot box."
Cllr Cottrell	"Before we go onto our next speaker, I think I should make a small comment about the Parish Poll and the vote for a Parish Poll. Personally, I would support a Skate park, however in this instance, and I think one or two other Councillors may feel the same way, because the question is about getting the Town Council to do something, although we are residents and are able to vote it makes us double hatted and that never makes us feel comfortable. So, I think that is why I and others did not feel that we should vote. I do support a skate park."
Cllr Koops	"I concur with what you just said. I could not vote for an open-ended amount of money. I heard two things tonight. £125,000 and £800,000. If the money was spilt. It was the way it was worded, I couldn't vote."
Geoff Hardman	"Good evening everybody, I have been a local resident for 14 years. I am on the electoral register and attend regular Town Council meetings and am a general nuisance to the Town Councillors. Last week I walked through the Precinct and noticed lots of crosses. Mr Pasley put in the paper it is going to be redone. I would like confirmation, is it going to be slabbed or tarmaced. We would like it slabbed again."
Cllr Koops	"This was a question of safety. This was for repairs, it was not for replacement. We are looking into replacement for safety. There are some slabs that are unsafe."
Geoff Hardman	"Somebody mentioned earlier First Buses. Mr Goff wrote to the bus company because I sent them an email asking if the bus that comes down Avon Way that stops at Combe Road for up to 10 minutes until it gets its timing right, could that bus stop two stops further up the hill to a) ease congestion in the High Street on Combe Road and b) slow the traffic down on Avon Way. The response was they were there first, before the pedestrian crossing and car parking spaces, so no they would not move the bus stop up the hill. Transparency: someone is telling huge porkies. Does Mr Bryant live on this planet or in his ivory tower in Weston-super-Mare? In today's paper, he said there is no requirement from the public for a skate park and also said it would be a good idea to build one in Merlin Park. There's one there already, idiot. He also said "not one North Somerset Councillor has received a request from any of the town's residents requesting a skate park over the last 5/6 years". Working Together: most residents who attend the meeting do so as they have issues relating to them and their surrounding areas. What is

	<p>actually happening, in most cases they are not being resolved because Portishead Town Council is working to their own agenda. This must stop. We need to work together. Councillors should not be casting insulting remarks to the members of the public for which I want an apology. The councillor in question knows who they are and if the Councillor does not apologise then he is not fit to be a Councillor and the Town Council Leader. We must all work together for the better of Portishead.”</p>
Leise Stanley	<p>“So, the skate park. I haven’t written a speech, I’ve written so many speeches on the Skate park. I was a Town Councillor and was asked to sit on the Portishead Skateboard project. So, I know lot about it. Most of it is bad news, I’m afraid. Whilst a Town Councillor and on the Portishead Skateboard Project, I saw Councillors lie, I have evidence of those lies. I saw Councillors mislead the public, I have evidence of this. People might remember the wheels park which was set up about four years in after everything had been turned down. I’m delighted tonight there has been a Parish Poll. I still approach it with great tribulation and hope as I have seen so many lies. You were saying about somebody lying on social media. Councillor Pasley once told an Executive Member, who was about to make a decision on the Lake Grounds that I was throwing darts at councillors pictures in the Precinct. It wasn’t true and the truth came out. I do have concerns, I do have worries that despite this Town Council saying what they say. And despite what North Somerset say, it is a big game. Ten years on, I started with a son who was 8 and is now 19. I now have an 8 year old son who would still like a skate park. A word of warning to these councillors, my son now does have a vote, my daughter will be 18 in June, and she will have a vote. And I know how they will vote and it will be on the issues of the youth of Portishead, because they have been badly treated, by not all Town and North Somerset Councillors but certainly some and they know who they are. The game playing needs to stop. I would implore anybody here who has a voice to make it loud and to make it clear. I would implore anyone who has a vote here to use it at the next election for Town Councillors and also for North Somerset Councillors. I would implore anybody here who cares about the town and the youth of our town to come along regularly for Town Council meetings and make that heard. There are many games played here, many political games. There is no place in Portishead for politics any more. It has gone on for too long, it has been allowed to happen for too long. I would implore for the youth of Portishead, for my 19 year old, my 17 year old my 8 year old and all of their friends for this Parish Poll to go ahead, the Council to be held accountable and ten years after it was first initiated this Town gets its skate park for its youth. Thank you very much.”</p>
Jonathan Mock	<p>“The society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline.”</p>
David Oyns	<p>“Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to make a number of comments in note form, please excuse my reading from notes. This is because I will pass these notes onto the person taking the minutes to make absolutely certain there is no discrepancy between what I say and what is recorded.</p>

	<p>Regarding the Town, it is well served by the Officers and Elected Councillors. Access by residents to either is well advertised and straight forward. Contact details for Councillors are in the public domain and are freely available. The town officers are available during office hours to offer assistance to residents. Several Councillors carry out voluntary work in the town on a regular basis, serving, for example, as Trustees of the Youth Club, Trustees of the Allotments or undertake charity work with organisations such as Rotary.</p> <p>The committees meet regularly to deal with a range of issues. Given the small number of Councillors this involves meetings most weeks in order to make up sufficient numbers to provide a quorum and hear a range of views. All committees are cross-party. In addition, meetings with outside bodies attending various public meetings, such as that concerned with the local transport and meeting with individual residents and small interest groups is also undertaken. Financial affairs are in order and all legal requirements are met. None of the Councillors are paid and as far as I am aware none claim expenses. The Town Council has limited powers and responsibilities, all of which are managed effectively.</p> <p>North Somerset Unitary Authority - For some time three issues have impacted heavily on Town Council meetings and Councillors, Portbury Nature Reserve, Nore Road Golf Course and the proposed Skate/Wheels Park. In all of these the Town Council has little or no powers, apart from representing the views of residents – views which can be as diverse as the residents who provide them.</p> <p>Regarding Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve - Councillors as individuals or in organised groups have visited the reserve, some very frequently. As far as I am aware all town councillors are steadfastly in favour of the reserve being maintained 'in perpetuity' for the benefit of all residents and visitors to the town. The site remains under the control of Persimmon and will do so until Persimmon sign papers to transfer custodianship to North Somerset Council."</p>
Jonathan Mock	"Just to confirm, are you saying Persimmon still own the Nature Reserve?"
David Oyns	"Yes."
Jonathan Mock	"In the letter dated April 2015, councillor Nigel Ashton, your boss, stated quite clearly that the levy to residents would end when North Somerset Council took ownership of this matter. Now the last two years, that levy has not been collected in direct contravention of what councillor Ashton said was something he wanted to be very clear about. So, I would like you, councillor Oyns, on behalf of the people of Portishead, will you please find out for me who instructed Liberata to stop collecting the levy in contravention of what councillor Ashton said in his letter?"
David Oyns	"I did not wish to move away from what I was reading, however I have been involved and do know that Persimmon are actually paying for the Nature Reserve maintenance. I would however suggest, if you wish, that you contact councillor Ashton. Okay?"
Jonathan Mock	"I have contacted councillor Pasley. Councillor Pasley is refusing to enter into any correspondence with me on this matter. I have tried to

	contact councillor Ashton. Councillor Ashton is a bit like a black hole you contact him and nothing ever comes out. So, I am asking you as an elected representative of our town to look into this for me, please.”
David Oyns	“I have been looking into this situation with the nature reserve.”
Jonathan Mock	“I am asking you specifically to look into, why does Persimmon still own the reserve. Councillor Ashton wrote his letter 2 years ago. Somebody instructed Liberata to stop collecting the levy. I am asking you to go to North Somerset Council and find out who gave that instruction.”
David Oyns	<p>“With respect, the best thing you can do is actually go down to the Council, seek a meeting with the officers or with the leader Nigel Ashton. I did not intend to get into a discussion.</p> <p>Despite persistent rumours and conspiracy theories there is no will, thought or intention to develop that land that has been expressed by anyone I have spoken with, either at Town or Unitary Authority Councils.</p> <p>Nore Road Golf Course - As with the Nature Reserve, to my knowledge there never has been, nor is there any intention to construct housing on the golf course. Nor has there been any attempt to prevent access by residents to the land. Clearly there is potential danger of being struck if walking on the course, though one would expect common sense to prevail. Exercising dogs on the course itself is discouraged for obvious reasons. Is there anyone present who has been prevented from accessing the land? – If so please advise a date and who was responsible for the prohibition. In my experience the main gate in the windmill car park has always been open. Though clearly inconvenient for some the locking of the small gate along Nore Road was an irritation but access was never compromised via the main gate. I have yet to see plans for the construction of a fifteen-foot-high bund on the seaward side of the land. If anyone present has copies of such plans I would be delighted to see them. I would be most surprised if any Town Councillors are in favour of restricting access to the land or any for housing development thereon.</p> <p>The Proposed Skate/Wheels Park - As a resident I supported a facility in Kilkenny fields but opposed the Lake Grounds site which I still do. I was one of a group of 12 or so residents who met to oppose the Lake Grounds proposal. For various reasons, I was asked to represent and put forward their views at a North Somerset Council meeting after the second, successful, planning application had been made and the application ‘called in’, which I did. Speaking for the proposal was a Portishead Skate park member. A free vote was then taken by the democratically elected Councillors who voted against granting Landlord’s permission. That decision was completely out of my, or the Town Council’s influence. Prior to this meeting a survey was conducted of residents in roads around the grounds. 12 were in favour and 132 were against. A local solicitor would have spoken in the Council meeting rather than me, however she could not do so as she wished to represent the group legally and, apparently, could not engage in both. Minutes of Governor’s meetings at Gordano School in 2010 record that an excellent site was offered which would have provided all required</p>

	<p>facilities. I understand that this offer was lost as it was not acceptable to the Skate park promoting group – for reasons which I leave you to investigate and query.</p> <p>Portishead could have had a superb Skate park from shortly after 2010 at a location where many other youth activities take place. That site has now been used for another purpose.</p> <p>Since the start of this issue I have been subjected to allegations of all kinds and, in the case of the Golf Course and possible other issues, of corruption, accepting brown envelopes and dealing with developers behind closed doors. A resident approached me after a meeting asking if the rumours were true about brown envelopes and meetings with developers. This was witnessed by a fellow Councillor who was sitting beside me at the time.</p> <p>If anyone present or anyone reading this in the minutes has any evidence of corruption against me please refer to the police or Standards Authorities. I have not the faintest idea of any such behaviour of which I could be accused.</p> <p>Residents may be of the opinion that, as I do not appear in the media in connection with assisting residents I do nothing. This is because I ask all who I help not to write or post any thanks on my behalf.</p> <p>Experience with one local prominent business owner in assisting me with flood relief led to a negative comment by an individual in the Evening Post which he felt reflected badly on his business and further assistance for those victims was refused, in my opinion, quite rightly.”</p>
Janet Davey	<p>“First of all David, I will forward to you Mark Housen’s plans which clearly show the 13ft high bund and the 15 ½ft [inaudible] which is behind the Sailing Club. None of which were supported and all of which Mark Housen, as a hugely clever and well connected local geologist, said was unacceptable in close proximity to the coast path due to the type of soil on the Golf Course. Also the Environment Agency would not let any landfill within 500m of the SSSI and Ramsar site which runs along the bottom of the golf course along the cliff. The second thing is you said that no one has been ordered off of the golf course, well I’ve had a letter from Mike Jackson in April 2015, which I am happy to send to you, telling me that actually that as far as he was concerned it was public open space, but only for people to play golf. Adrian Stiff did order me off of the golf course, I can’t think of the date immediately, but I can find out. He came over to me and my husband and our two dogs and started screaming at me. He offered to take a photograph of me and send it to his solicitor so that he could sue me for going on his land. The green keeper threatened me with his lawnmower and told me to **** off. So I think that is ordering me off of the golf course. The police were called. Referring you to the Standards Committee, well quite frankly that’s a waste of time. I referred David Jolley to the Standards Committee because he lied about three things I’d done. He said that I had likened him to Hitler under a banner that had said Portishead ‘Best Town in the World’. When I had said that it was not true to the Standards Committee they said that I was being vexatious. So I took it to the ICO. The ICO aren’t too happy about this and they have written to North Somerset Council asking that a letter is</p>

	<p>put with the email that David Jolley sent out to virtually every member of the Executive Committee, therefore defaming me, saying that actually this was not true. They asked me to take this further to the Local Government Ombudsman, which I am doing at the moment because of the councillor's behaviour. Clearly the Standards Committee, in thinking that David Jolley did no wrong, isn't meeting the same standards as the ICO and the Local Government Ombudsman or people like me, who object to being called such [inaudible] things by David Jolley in the minutes of a meeting, that was available to so many people, without checking the truth of what he said. I seriously object to that."</p>
<p>Leise Stanley</p>	<p>"Yes, Councillor Oyns it is hard work being a councillor, there are a lot of meetings in the four years I was a councillor. I had a baby as well. But you did put yourself forward, as I did to be a councillor and there is a strict Code of Conduct and I would actually agree with a lot of what's been said here tonight. The people of Portishead have switched off, they feel disempowered, they don't feel listened to, and they don't feel the Code of Conduct is met at all in this town or at North Somerset Council. I think you mentioned democracy on a couple of occasions, when it comes to the Lake Grounds. First of all it was Elfan Ap Rees who told Portishead Skate Park Project to look at the Lake Grounds. It was Elfan Ap Rees who agreed that a planning application could go in at the Lake Grounds. As a member of Portishead Town Council and Portishead Skate Park project we followed everything that we should have followed. You talk about democracy, 450 people voted in favour during that planning application for a skate park at the Lake Grounds, 35 objected. That's democracy. When you talk about Gordano School, I spoke with the headmaster after that meeting because I found out that councillor Pasley had written to the appeals inspector and he had said that there was another site available. Gary Lewis I'm sure would still say to this day, as I have emails from that time, that there was not a place at all and that there wasn't land. So, to say to people who worked incredibly hard that there is another piece of land and that [inaudible] another skate park in this town is deplorable. What did come out of that, was that councillor Pasley was having secret meetings with developers about funding for the skate park and all that became clear was that it was conditional on getting a specific piece of land. I chose not to stand again as a Town Councillor because I was so dismayed at the level of a lack of honesty and lack of transparency. Lack of a real representation for Portishead and especially Portishead youth. Even after that on probably more than 20 occasions I have asked councillor Pasley to answer specific questions regarding the secret developer and why it was conditional and to this day, I haven't had answers. So I do not believe that the land was ever available. The papers say that we have councillor Ap Rees saying the skate park isn't acceptable. He has sent us on a wild goose chase, I think it was game play. I have no evidence that it was game play, he was just sending us around the houses until we got tired out. This was deplorable for the youth of Portishead. Kilkenny Field was looked at right at the beginning, it was on my list and it was ruled out. Councillor Peter Bryant was the</p>

	<p>Executive Member responsible to agree or disagree, to give landlords consent. I had an email from councillor Bryant before he made that decision saying could we meet with him and show him evidence of why the Lake Grounds would be a good position. He then wrote back to me and said he was not prepared to consider any evidence. Again an elected person at North Somerset who refuses to meet with people who have clear and good evidence. He could have disagreed with us afterwards, he could have looked at the evidence, but he wasn't even prepared to look at evidence. So now I hear people stand up here and say that actually councillors are accountable, that the Standards Committee will act, that they are transparent and honest. That is not my interpretation, understanding or experience of actually being a town councillor in this town. There are some good councillors. There are councillors who work very hard. As much as there are councillors who are working hard, there are a lot of people in this town that are working hard, who don't get any recognition, who don't get any funding and who get on and do. They represent Portishead honestly, transparently and truthfully. I think that Councillors who are not doing this for this town, whether North Somerset or Portishead, should stand down. Their intentions are not good, it's not about expectation, and it's about political power play. I don't care what party is in control, I don't care who holds the purse strings. What I care about is this town, especially its youth, being represented well, honestly and with true intention by people who don't [inaudible] to represent us."</p>
Ann Townsend	<p>"Councillor Oyns, I would like to pick up on a point that you made about the gate that was locked for two years. I think you called it an irritation. Do you use that gate regularly?"</p>
David Oyns	<p>"No."</p>
Ann Townsend	<p>"I do and the gap in the fence, which was there for years. Peter Burden will attest to that, because I go to the Public Rights of Way meetings. I went there, which I will talk to you about later and that gap in the fence was there for years. The reason that North Somerset Council paid for the gate and put it there is because they recognised that people used that as a right of way. I would appreciate it if you didn't use emotive language, such as irritation. If it is in law proved that we are entitled to use those paths as a public right of way, it is more than an irritation. You have not been working on this for years, you haven't been using that path for many years, as I have and many others. So to use the language that you use, I'm afraid that I do find it insulting."</p>
John Dixon	<p>"I want to say two things very quickly. With regard to the golf course, there have been no serious attacks and no-one has been encouraged not to play golf. There are people on the golf course that have no intention to play golf, there has been no serious attempt to collect money from people wishing to play golf. They are using an honesty box, completely unsupervised."</p>
Cllr. Cottrell	<p>"I have walked across there and I believe it says that you are on Candid Camera. In other words there is CCTV there. So if you take money out, presumably they will get a picture of you."</p>
David Oyns	<p>"I have a lot of sympathy with Mrs Davey with regard to the Hitler comment. When the residents objected to the skate park in the Lake</p>

	<p>Grounds, whilst not objecting to a skate park in a suitable location, there was video which showed residents or me as Hitler, so I know exactly what that feels like. Thank you for your comments as well. I would love to see the documents that she has. Peter Burden knew that this had occurred before I was councillor. With regard to the democracy issue, where I have some sympathy with what the resident has said, the actual vote to start the skate park going on the Lake Grounds was taken as a free vote and was taken democratically, right across the parties. It wasn't party political, so if anybody would like to find out who voted for what, that is fine. Taking advice from one member of North Somerset council to say that it would be ok, well unfortunately the actual decision was taken democratically. You saw the vote, I was there."</p>
Leise Stanley	<p>"The Planning Inspector recognised it should not have gone through. I also saw Arthur Terry shortly before it was discussed at council and despite this Town Council saying they are supporting it, he was going into North Somerset Council saying that this Town Council did not support it and councillor Knight, when questioned by another resident saying "well that's politics". So please don't tell me this is political and please don't tell me that what happens at North Somerset isn't pre-determined and pre-discussed. That was [inaudible] and neither was the Planning Officer, who looked at all of the criteria and agreed that there was no reason why that skate park could not go at the Lake Grounds."</p>
David Oyns	<p>"I would certainly love to see a list of who voted. With regard to what Mrs Townsend said about my use of the word irritation, I could have used annoyance or whatever, my point was that until Mrs Davey spoke I didn't know that anybody had actually been refused access. I would like to know whether they refused access to the golf course, or whether there is a path just this side of the railings, which is a public footpath. There is certainly a path down the bottom which is the coast path."</p>
Helen Mason	<p>"I'm going to be brief. I'm quite concerned that you describe people as scare mongering when you talk about possibly building housing on Portbury Wharf. You will recall I took you. We looked across the fields from Sheepway and you said that you could envisage housing on that part. You said that you had spoken to everybody on the Council and no-one has any intention to build. Anyone down the line can reverse that decision. We are incorrect in worrying that Portbury Wharf will not be developed on."</p>
David Oyns	<p>"I have to reply to that. I came and gave incorrect information about the possibility of houses on that site because it was liable to flooding. Now the reason I gave that information, one resident immediately said, I've got a house here and there is nothing wrong with the land here. My house is not subject to flooding. The reason I said that was I had been told the land does flood. Unfortunately the officer that I was speaking to at the time did not say that it was just parts of that land flooded. So I then apologised and in fact I was made to apologise twice by a resident who is present in the room. I wasn't given false information, I wasn't given all the information. The point I have made to you about the land was when we looked at the land, with the farmhouse there and</p>

	<p>everything else, there was no practical reason, there was no geological reason why houses couldn't be put on there. I was certainly not, and I repeat not saying that I wished for houses to go on there. I was simply making the difference between the fact that I had previously thought the land would flood and when we saw those fields, that land structurally is fine. Do I want houses? No!"</p>
Helen Mason	<p>"I didn't say you wanted houses. I said that you said that none of the councillors in North Somerset want housing currently. We don't know what is coming next. [Inaudible] Very briefly, you say Persimmon is now paying for the Nature Reserve. Why are they prepared to pay £30,000 a year when they didn't have to. What's in it for Persimmon? Have you asked them if they want to build on it?"</p>
Cllr. Koops	<p>"Cllr. Cottrell and I are attending a meeting next week in North Somerset with the Inspectorate and we will be fighting to have no more houses in Portishead other than possible infills that are going in-between two houses or people extending their houses with granny annexes or turning them into two houses. We spent yesterday looking at the number of houses that are required over the whole of North Somerset. We will be fighting for the best for Portishead. Don't tell us that we are not trying to do something for you, because believe you me councillor Cottrell and I are both vehement about this. We sincerely hope that we will have no more building anywhere that should not be built on."</p>
Cllr. Cottrell	<p>"If you have had an opportunity to read my report, it does say about the meeting we are going to next week."</p>
Annette Hennessy	<p>"I am making this very brief. Fortunately Leise Stanley has already said most of what I was going to say. I can vouch 100% for what she said because I have all the archive material. There was one occasion when I came to this meeting appalled at the standard and conduct of the Town Councillors here, many of whom, let's not forget, are District Councillors and I bought a travel truck in with many folders of archive material, and I said to them, please ask me for the evidence. If you don't know something, then just ask me. Not one of them did. I left the Recreation and Works meeting last month and I said to David Oyns "read your history", because sadly all we hear is repetitive things, over and over again, which mislead the public. To my dying day I will make sure that I stand up when I hear our residents being misled or lied to or meddled with on the skate park or the nature reserve, because they are two of the most appalling things that have happened in this town . I don't think people want to hear about he said, she said. They want facts. We can give you the facts, but sadly we don't seem to get the facts from you. The reason I hold up signs at this meeting, is we have had to develop some signs about breach of conduct, fact, fiction, because quite often we hear misleading information from Town Councillors. We are not allowed to speak after public participation and it is the most frustrating thing, to sit here or stand and hear councillors not telling the truth. Believe me, I could 100% support Leise Stanley, another resident who has stood here and said we have been lied to, because we have. Can I just correct councillor Koops. When councillor Koops said that she had heard two figures on the skate park, from Mrs</p>

	Davey and Mr Maltby , you hadn't heard £800,000 for a skate park, you had heard a resident say, for goodness sake it costs £800,000 in section 106 money for the Cab Stand, not for a skate park and what he was referring to was using that money for a skate park."
Cllr Koops	"I apologise."
Annette Hennessy	<p>"Thank you. With regard to the surveys that Mr. Oyns claims he participated in, we have to remember that planning consultation for the Lake Grounds site went through due process and in that process the public had the right to take part and comment, which they did. The majority of Portishead, as Leise Stanley has said, voted in support of the Lake Grounds site. There are other sites available but it voted in support, a minority voted against, but what happened then was certain councillors decided, we don't really like democracy. We are going to start doing our own survey's until we get the answer that we want. I have got the survey's and they didn't do just one, they decided that wasn't big enough, we'll do another one and they did another one. That still didn't really prove that people didn't want a skate park, so they went and did another one. When we asked who they actually sent the survey's out to, we were told that we were meddling by asking questions that really weren't pertinent. Of course it was pertinent. If you are going to send a survey out to people then we really need to know how many you sent it out to. The main point of it all was, it was after due process, it was after the planning proposal and the councillors in this town would not accept the decision by the residents to support a skate park at the Lake Grounds. There is nothing that David Oyns can say to deny that fact. I was going to actually read the address I made back in 2008. And the reason I was going to read that, is that everything I was going to read in that address is still current now. We are still wasting money on the Cab Stand. We wasted £800,000 of section 106 money. But now it is £400,000 spending, just to put it right, when David Pasley told us that it had been put right the first time. Then it was tweaked, I don't know how many times and we were told again it had been put right. I don't think it is going to be right this time, but a decent pot of paint might have put it right at the beginning. Finally I would like to just to highlight this North Somerset Times report, it has in it inaccurate information. I have written to the editor about it. I have questioned as to why he didn't want to give any balance from a resident who supported the skate park. He gave Mr. Oyns' view and gave Mr Bryant's views and Leise Stanley is quite correct, I've got the emails from Peter Bryant where he says "I refuse to consider any evidence". Is that what we want in our town? A councillor that says he is not prepared to consider the evidence and then we have got Mr Oyns on page 5 saying that he is not even convinced that there is support for a skate park anymore. This is the man who said at the very beginning, "I don't want a skate park in anybody's back yard", fine, he is entitled to his opinion, but this is the councillor who's been charged with finding a skate park location. Councillor Oyns has said yet again we have looked at four sites, two were no good, but there is another two. Mr Oyns has never told us where those other two are. He told a resident that he was having a discussion at North Somerset Council.</p>

	<p>There has been no discussion at North Somerset Council and I know that because I have asked that under a freedom of information act request. There have been no conversations by any councillor with North Somerset Council about the skate park. I find that appalling. Also for Peter Bryant to think that no district councillor has been asked by residents for a skate park, you must have very short memories, District Councillors in this room, because Matti Hemmings, a champion BMX rider stood in this meeting appealing for a skate park.</p> <p>I would like to say to the gentleman at the very beginning who criticized Chris Holman for raising a matter which was reported to him, this is the People's Meeting, it is a Residents meeting. He wasn't taking over the agenda he was asking a valid question and that is the very problem we have with our Town Councillors. We don't want it from the residents, we have to work together, not bicker with each other. Let's have the facts and let's have no more [inaudible] from the councillors on the skate park."</p>
Cllr Cottrell	"Mrs Townsend we are out of time."
Jonathan Mock	"We are out of time because the meeting has been filibusted by a local councillor."
Cllr Cottrell	"I'm afraid the meeting is now closed."

Meeting concluded at: 10.05pm

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Signed

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Dated