

**MINUTES OF THE 18TH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FOR PORTISHEAD HELD AT THE FOLK HALL
HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2011**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Knight, Chairman of the Town Council – Presiding

Councillors Burden, Clark, Mrs Koops, Mrs Lord, Pasley, Patel,
Mrs Philpott, Mrs Cruse, Terry, Walker, Walters

Martin Dolton - Clerk
Rachel Tranter – Deputy Clerk

APOLOGIES Councillor Cameron, McMurray

There were approximately 25 residents present.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chairman suggested that as there was a new council all members introduce themselves in turn to the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF 17TH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: 5TH MAY 2010

The Minutes of the 17th Annual Town Meeting held on the 5th May 2010 had been circulated and presented to the meeting.

It was agreed that the Minutes be approved.

RESOLVED that –

The Minutes of the 17th Annual Town Meeting for Portishead held on 5th May 2010, copies of which have been circulated be confirmed as correct.

**2. CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS
UNTERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL IN THE 2010/2011 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Councillor Mrs Knight, the Chairman of the Town Council presented her annual report to all present.

Councillor Mrs Knight referred to many aspects of her year in office including the following –

- Thank you to all the Town Councillors, past and present for their achievements and commitment and in particular the Chairmen of all the Committees.
- Then increase in members of the public attending and speaking at Town Council Meetings which was welcomed.
- The acquisition of the new Gertie Gale Allotment Site which is now up and running.
- Play equipment which will be installed at the Lake Grounds.

- Her attendance at 48 varied functions and the hosting of two functions which have emphasised the talent in the town.
- A big thank you to the Town Clerk, Martin Dolton, for steering her through the intricacies of protocol. Thanks as well to the staff in the office and Peter the Caretaker.
- Lastly a thank you too to her Vice Chairman, Councillor Arthur Terry

Councillor Mrs Knight's report is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Paul Maltby, a resident of 22 South Road, thanked the Clerk, who is an asset to the town. He has a proven track record which does him proud. He is knowledgeable, able and highly efficient.

Mr Maltby also thanked Chairman, Mrs Knight. She had a good year as Chairman, proving popular and had been very hard working with the interest of the Town at the forefront of her mind. He thanked both of them on behalf of the Town.

He added that he was sorry at the non election of Councillors Mrs Mason and Howells. He acknowledged that it was part of the democratic process, but both councillors were very able and hard working councillors. He hoped that their replacements will prove as hard working and dedicated as they were.

Mr Maltby then read from a personal statement by Annette Hennessy, a resident of Albert Road.

Mrs Hennessy explained that in the last few years she had been so concerned that residents thought that Portishead's Annual Parish Meeting was a council meeting that she had put up posters and with the help of media had tried to inform residents that they could turn up and voice their opinions, about Portishead, without prior notice. Last year after years of poorly attended parish meetings the seats were full.

Mrs Hennessey's statement raised a number of issues -

- Her concerns with the "political game" and its effect on the future of the skatepark at the Lake Grounds.
- Her inability to attend the meeting knowing that residents have to adhere to the bureaucratic and democratic process and rules, yet some councillors appear to think that they do not have to comply with democracy.
- She considered that a meeting held with residents on the 10th May, 2011 concerning the installation of a seat at the top of Roath Road as a memorial for Tom Broom should have included all residents in Roath Road.
- She praised Councillor Reyna Knight for her year in office and all those councillors who had worked hard in the past year, some of whom had

not been re-elected. Also praise for the Clerk, Martin Dolton and his clerical colleagues.

- The importance of young people in the town. She cited the recent Youth Survey by Charlotte Waterson and Asa Galsworthy as evidence that Portishead youth also care about the town.

Finally, Mrs Hennessey added that the youth have been honest with the survey responses and she hoped that they would be shown the same honesty and integrity when future ideas are discussed, including Landlord's Consent for a skatepark at the Lake Grounds.

Mr Dixon, formerly of 4 Roath Road but now living in Victoria Court raised a number of points, most of which he advised the meeting, he raised every year.

- Do not forget the Portishead Railway Line.
- He suggested that lights should be installed at the bottom of Avon Way to slow traffic coming down over the hill.
- At least two additional Post Offices were needed in the Town. One of which should be at the top of the hill.
- A problem with the bus shelter opposite the Poacher. The raised kerb is misaligned with the position of the shelter.

The Town Clerk addressed the question of an additional Post Office in the town. He informed the meeting that a letter had just been received from the Post Office confirming the need for an additional Post Office, and this would probably be in the new part of the town but not in the Sainsbury's Store as had been suggested. A meeting would shortly be arranged with the Post Office and the new Chairman so that this matter could be moved forward.

Councillor Walters, speaking as a resident of the town pointed out that 3 former councillors, Sue Mason, Colin Howells and Michael Parker had not been re-elected. He had studied the poll results and was concerned that younger candidates had been passed over in favour of older candidates. He mentioned several wards where this was evident. This was a worry that the council was getting older.

He suggested that the Town should look again at a Youth Forum. Meetings have been held in the past between Council members and students of Gordano School but these have petered out. There would, he advised, be a Motion to Council at the next Council Meeting to try to establish a Youth Forum in the Town. The form that it would take is open to discussion. He confirmed that he had some ideas and it would be up to members to put up their thoughts too. If agreed the item could go to the Recreation & Works Committee where all ideas can be put on the table and the Council try to thrash something out. He agreed with the comments of the previous speaker that we need to try and retain the youth, not in the way of providing them with cinemas or discos on the rates. In the John Kennedy phrase "What they can do for the Town not what the Town can do for them". He added that in particular how do the youth want their town to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years. After all it will then be their town.

Mrs Sue Mason, a resident of 15 Monmouth Close, referred back to December 2006 when an item in the Portishead Newsletter appeared in the North Somerset Times. The item asked residents what they wanted in Portishead. This information was to have been used in a Town Plan. The results were published in June 2007. A Working party was set up in June of that year to consider the future amenity needs of the wider population of Portishead. Mrs Mason added that she believed that this working party had never met.

Mrs Mason asked that this new Council take on board the results of the recent wide-ranging student's survey and act upon the young people's findings. She added that if we want our young people to stay and live in the Town more amenities have to be provided. These facilities could be used by all residents of Portishead.

She also asked the Council to look back at the results of the June 2007 survey. Some of the resident's aspirations have been met eg library, others like the railway have not. She asked that the working party look at the amenity needs of Portishead and it be resurrected and reconvened.

John Dixon added, referring to Councillor Walters speech, that Councillor John Clark who had much experience was back and it was good to see him.

Sandy Tebbutt, a resident of Nore Road, Portishead, and Chairman of Portishead In Bloom gave details of work which had been carried out by the group in the town over the last month and events which would be taking place shortly –

- A notice board has been erected on Carey's building and would be filled as soon as possible.
- Nuttery – Maintenance party will take place on 16 May at 7pm.
- Plant sale 21st May at 9am – outside Iceland.
- Tubs throughout the town are being emptied and the same refilled on 26th May 2011. All welcome to help - meet in the Precinct.
- The carousel baskets will be hung at much the same time as the tubs are filled. The colour theme for this year is hot pinks, blue and magenta.
- Working parties have been working on the flower beds. This is what is done on the first Monday each month. This month the beds at Esplanade Road by the Swimming Pool, Rodmoor Garden and the Joan Fowles flower bed. The Rodmoor Garden is the second phase of planting as some plants had died due to the bad weather.
- Silver Beech had been planted at the top of Roath Road and they were looking good. This was the group's contribution to the Memorial for Tom Broom.

Unfortunately graffiti was still on the public toilets at the Lake Ground despite all the publicity.

Finally, she asked that members to support the Open Gardens Day to be held on 11/12 June, 10am – 5pm every day. Refreshments would be available,

Jazz in the garden, stalls and all sorts! If people were unable to attend please buy a programme for £4.50. The programme if used would give entry to all 15 gardens.

Liese Stanley, a resident of 6 The Park, referred to the previous speaker's comments about graffiti and made reference to the recent graffiti, reported to possibly be a Banksy creation, on the side of Travis Perkins in the Town.

She also confirmed that she agreed with all the comments made by Annette Hennessey.

Miss Stanley congratulated the new members of the Council and praised all the office staff for their impartial, professional and good humoured comments. She hoped that the new members would not become disenchanted as she had done. When she had sat in their seat 4 years ago she was excited at the prospect of representing residents. Many of her experiences were very positive. However, unfortunately party politics used at times were completely at odds with the needs and desires of the majority of residents. Miss Stanley explained it was for this reason that she now sat with the public, not councillors. She urged members, old and new to stop and think before voting on any resolution – "Is this reflecting the voice of Portishead residents that I represent?" Not is this reflecting what my party or colleagues want and expect of me at either the town of North Somerset Council.

Miss Stanley added that members may hear many comments and claims with regard to the proposed skatepark in Portishead and would urge them to contact her or any member of the project to ensure that they had the correct information. She confirmed that the Lake Ground had planning permission and police backing and public support for a skatepark.

Miss Stanley explained that she is increasing being asked about the "mystery developer" who is willing to pay for the creation of a new skatepark at Gordano School (Mercury Report 13 January 2011). The report raises more question than it answers and other questions had been asked of her –

- Why does a developer who wishes to donate something to the community wish to remain anonymous?
- Is it the developer requesting secrecy or North Somerset Council?
- Why does a developer specify a site?
- What is the amount of money?
- Why has there been no discussion with Portishead Town Council?
- Why has there been no discussion with the wider community?
- If this is S106 money, can the type of development and location be specified by the developer?
- If so on what merits has this site and development been chosen?
- Has any consultation taken place, either with residents, or other council departments?
- Are there any notes or minutes of any meetings held between councillors, officers, executive members and the mystery developer?

Miss Stanley said that she was concerned about public perception of this matter. If a developer has already approached planning officers independently and all meetings have been minuted or if this is S106 money which is allowed to be specific then further questions can clearly be answered satisfactorily.

She asked the new Town Council for this information and confirmed that she would continue to ask these questions each month until clarification and the questions had been answered.

Ken Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road spoke about what he considered to be a monstrosity of a replacement building on Valley Road. He stated that this development would not have been allowed if Councillor Daws were still alive. He urged councillors to fight for Portishead at the Planning Meetings held at North Somerset Council.

He also gave thanks to the members already mentioned.

Mrs Sue Mason, also thanked the Clerk and the rest of the staff who were extremely helpful and also gave her thanks to the previous council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.