

**MINUTES OF THE 23rd PORTISHEAD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
11th MAY 2016**

PRESENT Councillor: R. Cruse (Chairman of the Council) - in the Chair

Councillors: - Burden, Cameron, Clark, Cottrell, M. Cruse, Huffadine-Cooper, Koops, Lord, Mason, Oyns, Pasley

Mrs. Jo Duffy, Clerk of the Council

Approximately 62 attendees

1 member of press

APOLOGIES Councillors: - Cllr Terry

TRANSCRIPT

Cllr Cruse	Good evening and welcome to Portishead Annual Town Council Meeting. I hope that all of you that have come in have reported your presence here for the clerk. It is important for the minutes, to know how many people are actually here. And I hope that all of you are aware of where the fire escapes are. [inaudible]. If you do can you make your way to the car park [inaudible]. To receive apologies is the next item on the agenda. Do we have apologies from anyone?
Jo Duffy	Cllr Terry, who couldn't make it.
Cllr Cruse	Cllr Terry unfortunately has had a, has got a family difficulty and may not make the meeting. Right, we now move on to item 3, which is to confirm the minutes of the 22 nd Annual Meeting of the Town of Portishead, held on the 13 th May 2015. The minutes are in the pack in front of you but some people who are particularly interested in minutes have had actually had the minutes before. Are there any corrections that we need to make to the minutes please? Are you happy that I sign these minutes as are correct? If you could please indicate by putting your hand up if you are happy if I sign them? Thank you very much.
	Could I raise a point of order Chair

Cllr Cruse	Yes
	Could I raise a point order please.
Cllr Cruse	Yes
	In those minutes you, or it was reported that Mrs Ann Townsend spoke about public participation and the opportunity of the public and Councillors make improvements in the way that the Council was running. Suggesting....
Cllr Cruse	Can I just stop that? Can I just stop you there? There is plenty of time later to talk about that sort of thing, if. All I am looking for at the moment is that the fact the minutes are correct.
	Well the minutes that you put out here weren't the one on the web so I couldn't actually know whether they were right or not because I have seen them before I got here but I will wait till later, if that's the way you wish to do it.
Cllr Cruse	I would prefer to do it later, but I would have thought they were the same ones as on the web.
	No they're not, They weren't. I can assure you they weren't. I printed them. They weren't. They are a sub set on the website.
Cllr Cruse	Well I, as you are aware I don't put them on the internet. I would have the foggiest idea how to do it. That is done by the office.
	Well it's not 23 pages on that one and its definitely
Jo Duffy	Is it the Annual Town Council
	Yes
Jo Duffy	There is no abridged version. There is only one set.
Cllr Cruse	<p>Right. If you will excuse me I am not going to stand because this report is actually quite long and I hope you will bear with me and listen to what I am going to read to you which might help save some questions later on in the meeting.</p> <p>Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.</p> <p>I would like to start off this evening by explaining the work which this Town Council carries out on your behalf with the help of our staff and recommendations from our Councillors.</p> <p>This year we have helped to provide two benches. Mrs. Joan Herbert came to us and asked if her family would be able to erect a commemorative bench for her husband Ray, who had done considerable work for the Portishead Lifeboat Trust. Whilst discussing this bench, Mrs. Peggy Gittings came to us and ask if she could have a similar bench in memory of her husband John. These benches have now been installed close to the new R.N.L.I. station looking out to sea. We have continued to look after our Portishead Town Benches which can be recognised by the crest on them. They are blue benches that have got a crest across the top.</p>

Whilst speaking about street furniture it was decided that we did not wish to gain revenue by placing advertisements on our bus shelters but would prefer for them to be clear so that prospective passengers could be seen at the stops hopefully ensuring their safety. We pay for the bus shelters to be cleaned on a regular basis. Those bus shelters with adverts on are not owned by the Town Council.

We own four play areas in the town: Heaven's Field, Mead Road, Underwood Road, and Slade Road. In September 2015 Matta Products laid a new safety surface under the swings at Underwood Road similar to that laid the previous year at Mead Road. All these play areas are inspected weekly by an external inspector along with the Skate Park at Merlin Park which we lease from North Somerset Council. North Somerset Council owns the rest of the play areas in the town. Last year we assisted North Somerset by paying for the safety surface around the new play equipment at Blackdown Road. Cllr. Jolley then asked us if it would be possible to provide a roundabout to enhance this play area and that has been installed. In the autumn we were taken on a tour of inspection of the local play areas by Kevin Carlton, one of North Somerset's Officers.

Most areas were in good condition but the one at Merlin Park for small children was in a poor state. We are now working with North Somerset to upgrade this facility. North Somerset Council will pay for a new safety surface, the removal of the old equipment and the reinstatement of the swings and SuperNova and we will pay for a large new piece of equipment and a seesaw. We hope this equipment will be installed before the next school holidays. We are expecting the arrival of the new Gym equipment on the Esplanade in mid-May. We understand that it has been made by JCB (the same people who make the prime [inaudible] and the like) and is with the provider just awaiting installation.

We also own three halls. These are ably looked after by four caretakers. We have had a change at North Weston this year but the others have been with us longer, in fact Peter Leah has worked for the Town Council for over 30 years. He told me today it was over 34. Redcliffe Bay Hall has had new flooring and decoration to the kitchen and toilets this year and at the request of a neighbour has had some trees cut back at the rear. Disabled car parking bays have been installed there and also at the Folk Hall. North Weston Hall has had a new fence this has had to be installed due to the ferocity of the wind. North Weston Village Hall Facia will be repainted in the near future. We now look after all the hall bookings in house and our thanks go to Susan and Sharon H. for their work in this field. Having a booking

system for all our halls in one place means we can give the public a much better offer.

Every week we receive a list of planning applications from North Somerset. Sharon S. looks after these providing the Councillors with information so they can decide how they wish to deal with these applications once they appear on the internet. It should be noted that neither our staff nor our Councillors have significant training and to a large degree have to work on what is provided by North Somerset Council. North Somerset Council makes the decisions we only advise.

Sharon S. also collates the grant applications. We give out grants to local organisations who work for the town. There is a strict protocol which has to be followed so the rate payers' money is spent wisely. This year we have given to £200 to Mencap, £100 to Vision North Somerset, £500 to MS Therapy, £100 to St. Peter and St. Paul Church (that's because we have Portishead graves there), £354 to Revitalise, £500 to Parkinson's U.K. £200 to Well Spring Counselling, £68.28 to PACT for room hire, £600 to St. Peter's Hospice and £500 to Cruse Bereavement Care.

There were larger grants of £10,500 to Nailsea and District Community Transport, almost £14,000 to Citizens Advice Bureau, £20,000 to Portishead Youth Centre, £8,000 to Portishead Lights, £2,500 to Portishead Carnival, £15,000 to Portishead Scouts for a replacement roof, and £10,000 for to the Gordano Society for the restoration of the Power Station Gates. We must not forget that the Town Council pays to purchase plants for Portishead in Bloom, the budget for the current year being £15,000.

The Town Council has dealings with three Allotment Sites in the Town. We lease the site at Beach Hill from North Somerset and then pass it on to The Portishead Allotment Association. The other two sites are in the ownership of Portishead Town Council. This year we have agreed to provide a loan so that water troughs can be installed at Gertie Gale's Site in a similar way that we provided a loan to North Weston Allotments for the same purpose several years ago.

The largest piece of land which we own is the Bristol Road Playing Field site. This year we have been approached by the Portishead Football Club to extend the lease to 40 years so that they can apply for grants from the F.A. This is a fairly complicated parcel of land as it has been acquired by purchases and other methods and there are covenants in place. When we renewed the lease for 25 years about 8 years ago we needed to employ a surveyor, a solicitor, and consult the

District Valuer. The Bristol Road Football Club has a discounted rent provided they fulfil certain obligations.

The Town Council have owned the Portishead Youth Centre since North Somerset negotiated to hand back the lease to the Town Council. The Town Council has a commuted sum and this helps to pay for exterior repairs. The Town Council arrange for Brian and his wife Phyllis to cut the grass but the day to day running is the responsibility of the Youth Centre. The grant aid given to the Youth Centre helps the Trustees and staff to be able to provide the service for youth this town deserves. The Youth Centre celebrates 50 years on this site on 21st May.

A few years ago when North Somerset Council decided that they would close the Toilets at Wyndham Way Car Park, this Council chose to refurbish them, and at a 20p cost each, keep them open to the public. This facility makes a loss but is essential to provide this service for those who need access to a toilet in order to visit the High Street. We have had considerable trouble with a thoughtless element of the community which has incurred us in repair bills. We believe the current culprits have been spoken to and the situation has improved.

During the year there have been several new items on our agenda. Last month we considered Drones being flown from play areas. We were particularly concerned regarding Merlin Park and have contacted North Somerset. On this occasion we were early in our deliberations as there has since been an incident with a B.A. flight fortunately nowhere near here.

Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve has caused concerns for the levy payers and other residents of Portishead. The Nature reserve is in Portbury Parish, we wrote to North Somerset in September 2015

“In the view of Portishead Town Council Portbury Nature Reserve should be run by a suitable body with Nature Conservation as an objective in perpetuity.”

In December Avon Wildlife Trust left the site and by arrangement with Persimmon North Somerset Council arranged for their contractor Glendale to take over the day to day management of the site. I had visited the site as a dog owner for several years and was very interested when Avon Wildlife gave some tours towards the end of their tenure. I have attended some of the Volunteer Sessions since Iain Macfarlane took over for Glendale and have helped lay a path to one of the hides and clear the area around the pond dipping pool. If you enjoy outside life I commend these sessions to you. They are

advertised in the newspaper. You do not have to be fit I am certainly not.

On the 4th May North Somerset issued a Decision Note for Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve. There is a consultation period which has now been extended to this Friday. If you have access to a computer you can log in to respond. Both positive and negative responses are important at this time.

Portishead Golf Course has formed part of this Council Year and is still ongoing. The Golf Course is owned by North Somerset Council and is leased to Mr. Adrian Stiff. We applied for and got the land registered as an asset of community value last year. We made an application for Town Green Status in the autumn of 2015 and received a letter on the 27th November 2015 saying that North Somerset was rejecting the application. They had sort the advice of an eminent Q.C., experienced in these matters a Mr Leslie Bloom. Janet Davey and Ann Townsend helped with these applications providing a huge number of evidence forms and local knowledge they had acquired. Having taken advice from the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) Solicitor and others the Town Council decided in January that they were not prepared to enter into a Judicial Review. Since then an application has been filed for a Public Right of Way by Mrs Davey and Mrs Townsend.

This has been given a number, but as the application to have it considered prior to other applications already listed failed, it is now waiting in a very long queue. I understand Cllr. Jolley and two North Somerset Officers had meeting with Mr. Stiff about a fortnight ago regarding access to this site. There is to be another meeting shortly to pursue this matter.

We have recently been given the opportunity to have use of one of the North Somerset Speed Activation Signs. We will have the use of this equipment for six weeks at a stretch. North Somerset has 6 of these new signs which are to be shared between all the parishes. It was installed by North Somerset on Avon Way for about two weeks. The Clerk has been trained in its use and has had it moved to Bristol Road, for a week Clevedon Road for a week and it is now on Down Road. This machine can only be attached to road signs it cannot be attached to lamp posts or telegraph posts. So where it can go is limited. It counts the vehicles which exceed 35 m.p.h. and lights up when they do so. I note that the change in the road markings at Bristol Road has been executed.

Only yesterday a new handrail was installed at the steps between the Royal Hotel and the Life Boat Station. We contacted Crest Nicholson

after the last Town meeting. Mrs. Bev. Langdale had requested the hand rail was replaced at Nore Cottage and it was felt there were two other sites which required a rail. We failed with the one at the National Trust Site at Redcliffe Bay but the one adjacent to the cottage will be replaced when the Coastal path is updated in the near future.

I am sure that you will understand that the amount of business which has been undertaken not only to deal with the items I have mentioned but in preparing the agendas for the meetings and writing minutes has kept Jo Duffy, the Clerk and her staff very busy. We are very grateful for her hard work.

During my year of office I have been very fortunate to be invited to many local events. The Open Gardens Weekend which occurs in June is an event not to be missed. There are some wonderful gardens to view and also food and drink throughout the area so you could eat breakfast, lunch and tea on your tour. Martyn and I visited all those open. In 2016 Open Gardens weekend is 11th and 12th June. I have tried to fulfil every engagement within the town and I am grateful to other Councillors who have gone in my place when I have not been available. The majority of the Councillors attended the Beacon to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. We were pleased to have one of the deputy Lord Lieutenants of Somerset with us and also Charles Cave, Chairman of North Somerset Council and his wife. Tony Tween on behalf of the Scouts organised the Beacon which was an enormous success and which many people enjoyed. Afterwards the Trustees and volunteers of the Portishead Swimming Pool were pleased to show us the new Lido Café which is now open. They have worked very hard to revamp this part of the pool please go and support their excellent food.

Last May there were elections for National and Local Government. There was a high turnout and fourteen members of the Town Council were elected. Two of these Councillors were completely new to the job. It should be noted that Town Councillors, unlike Unitary Authority Councillors, are not paid any retainer fee for the work they do and can only claim mileage allowance if they go out of town and many don't claim that anyway. We do not have iPads provided and, unless the office provides hard copies, we have to pay for our own printing and of course telephone costs. You are lucky to have a hard working team of Town Councillors who represent a cross section of views.

I have had a great deal of support from the Councillors. I would like to thank Marilyn Koops for taking on the role of Vice Chairman, Lesley Cottrell for taking on the role of Planning Chairman, Jean Lord for ably Chairing Staffing and Finance and David Oyns, a new Councillor, for

	<p>not only learning about Recreation and Works but also chairing it. I have valued the advice I have received from all the Councillors and the Staff.</p> <p>My husband Martyn and our daughters Emma and Kathryn have been very patient during the last twelve months. It is now their turn to have first call on my time.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>We now have to receive reports from groups and organisations. You will find that the Police report is in the pack that you have got on you chair. There is a report which is here from Sandy Tebbutt, Portishead in Bloom. Sandy is not very well, has had an operation and is not well enough to be here tonight. Her recovery hasn't been as speedy as we hoped it would be and I have therefore asked the clerk, if tomorrow she could send her a bouquet of flowers. Sandy Tebbutt does a huge amount in this Town, she works very hard for Portishead in Bloom and she is about to produce posset pieces for the 50th anniversary of the youth centre. She also does other things you probably don't see or hear about but she is always working about the Town. So the Clerk is going to read the report from Mrs Tebbutt</p>
Jo Duffy	<p>This is a report from Sandy which she has produced today. She says:</p> <p>Portishead in Bloom has had another extremely busy year and our small core group has been stretched to the limit at times. However, from the comments we receive from the public, our efforts have been appreciated. Happily, very little vandalism has occurred with mainly our tubs just being mistaken for rubbish bins!</p> <p>Starting with autumn last year, we went to Dartmouth Naval College to hear how we had got on in the South-West In Bloom competition. We were lucky enough to be awarded a gold medal again and won our class which was amazing when we were up against top tourism towns all over the south west peninsular. Our judges were very impressed with the way we all work together in Portishead involving the community as much as we can. We were very pleased to be given the "Art in the landscape" trophy as well which is a new award. We came away feeling pleasantly surprised – this was quickly followed up by us being told that we have been selected to represent the South-West in the Nationals competition this year. This time we will be in the Large Towns category.</p> <p>We will be judged on Tuesday, 12th July for the South-West and Thursday, 4th August for the Nationals. We will of course, be working</p>

very hard towards these days but we are grateful that we have the backing of North Somerset Council who do everything they can to support us. We are also grateful to Portishead Town Council for their financial support. The carousels and tubs looked glorious last year when we opted for the unusual combination of pink, orange and yellow plants – a gamble, but I think it paid off. Another date for your diaries is the 11th and 12th June when we will be having our Open Gardens weekend.

We will also be running the Big Picnic at Jubilee Park on Saturday, 23rd July from 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm with lots of entertainment happening at the same time. This has been a great event for the last two years, so if you haven't made it before, please join us this year.

Litter is still a huge problem in Portishead in spite of our efforts as well as Pride in Portishead's. As you know, we have been hoping for a town orderly for many years and we are all hoping that the filling of this important role isn't too far away. We have had many, many work parties all over the town. We have also had some great work parties in the local schools. Just lately we have been to High Down School and St. Joseph's and worked with children, staff and parents there. We continue to work in the tranquil Millennium Garden and the much used and loved Rodmoor Gardens. We have just seeded our flower meadow at the Town Garden which thankfully is ours for another year. Transition Portishead is taking care of the raised beds there and educating everyone. We have had a lovely bluebell planting day with Lakeside Nursery at the Esplanade Meadow which everyone seems to enjoy with the mown paths and new benches. Some of our group has been renovating the old railway building there which once served as a ticket office for the pitch and putt. We recycle whenever we can!

We make an appearance at the annual Country Fair and Flower Show and the Victorian Evening where we make table decorations to sell for Christmas. Our new banners in the High Street have taken a battering because of the wild and windy weather that we now get during the summer months, but thanks to our good sewing friends, these are mended and will soon be hung by the Christmas Lights group before the end of May.

Over 100 businesses and shops have joined in with our annual summer tubs scheme and we thank them. A big thank you as well to Rodney Pooley at Blaise Nursery for providing the wonderful plants and of course to Keith Southey who waters whenever necessary early in the morning.

	<p>I do send out a newsletter to let people know what is going on and we also have a website that we try and keep up to date. We decided to spend our last year's Open Gardens profit on buying sustainable baskets for the carousels during the winter and in spite of the tricky weather, a mixture of drought and sleet, this seems to have been successful. Our aim is always to have Portishead looking beautiful all year round. I think you will agree that our mass bulb planting together with the beauty of our historic trees has resulted in a truly amazing spring sight and I hope that you have managed to get out there and drink it all in.</p> <p>Our thanks to those residents and organisations who have given us donations, without them life would be more complicated as money has to be spent by us at times.</p> <p>I have just put together a Health Walk – as recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society – which will take walkers around all the places that we look after. It will be available on our website soon.</p> <p>I am very lucky to be able to come to Town Council meetings and give good news on our activities. I think most residents agree that we are indeed fortunate in living in such a lovely and lively town and I am sure you will also agree that Portishead in Bloom certainly does its bit to enhance the scenery that we have been blessed with.</p> <p>Sandy Tebbutt – Chair of Portishead in Bloom – May 2016</p>
Cllr Cruse	<p>Right, a little housekeeping before we continue. It's now the time for the elector's public forum, it's public speaking time. We now have a new piece of kit that's in front of us and let's hope it works okay? I'm geared up to the old piece of kit, Jo will be using a roaming microphone to come round, so that you can all use a microphone to address the meeting. Would you please make sure that you say your name before you speak please, because we have a lady here taking minutes tonight who is not familiar with any of you as far as I'm aware and that would mean life would be very difficult if she doesn't know who is actually speaking, so will you please say your name and your address please before you speak. I'm now open the meeting to the floor. I think you need to go to</p>
Robert Bull	<p>My name is Robert Bull. I live at 1 the Deans. I wish to state on the record that I believe Portishead Council, has failed to represent the people of Portishead on local issues, which are of deep concern to the residents. The Council has therefore lost the trust of the people of Portishead. I know that over the last year residents have asked regularly at Council meetings, for these issues to be listened to and to be acted on in the interest of the people of Portishead. There's a strong feeling that these requests have been ignored or dismissed. I</p>

	believe there are people here who wish to speak on these important local issues, and I hope they feel they can speak to them now. They're also ask, can you guarantee to act on the suggestion, by Ann Townsend that was made last year in this meeting, and has had no action on as I am aware.
Cllr Cruse	If you look back at the minutes you will find we looked at the outstanding orders, on the public participation section of the agenda. We've decided that we keep things the same, but what we have done is we have offered the clerks report, so that we can report back to the meetings as people come, so that next time on items that we have actually done and the clerk report should instead of being a few lines should be a few pages, so we have actually actioned something.
Robert Bull	But you did not have a meeting to discuss it with the residents.
Cllr Cruse	No, [inaudible] public participation of Council meeting is the Council's prerogative. We don't actually have to have public participation at all [crosstalking].
Robert Bull	I wish you luck with trying that one.
Cllr Cruse	Pardon?
Robert Bull	I wish you luck with trying that one.
Cllr Cruse	We have no intention of trying that one. And the fact our public participation is longer than any other of the Councils around here.
Robert Bull	It certainly is yes. It is longer.
Cllr Cruse	Thank you. I'm not going to answer every question, but that's something I can answer because we have a straightforward answer.
John Dixon	John Dixon, Victoria Court. Three Things. Two are arising out of your report to the Police, which I was hoping you'd have him informed, you had him over here, and he'd have his writing book with him. The first thing is the petrol stations. I know I won't get an answer to the question, but I'm going to ask it. Is the TV at the petrol stations a good policy that it can identify both the vehicle and the driver? Secondly parking outside of schools. Now there should be no need for parents to drive children to school, because there are perfectly good buses going past every school in Portishead. But to stop them from driving to school is rather difficult, but there should be no parking outside the schools within a certain distance, at one of the school times and going home at work time, going home at school time. The third thing arising out of your excellent report, you said that some ... your wildlife trust is withdrawn from the nature reserve which is correct, but it should be made clear that the reason they did that was because they had their funding withdrawn.[crosstalk]
Dr Camplin	Dr Geoff Camplin. I live at South Road. I'm going back to what Bob Bull's point. This is the problem I've got. My concern has been with the lack interest by the Town Council on two matters. For me is the impact of the golf course alterations on the site of the special site of interest,

	<p>that's the coastline between Portishead pier and Black Nore. The other point is that the building of the overhead pylons, which is now known as option A, over the nature reserve area because the national grids plan to link Avonmouth substation to Hinckley point power station near to Bridgewater. For me the site of special scientific interest is extremely important to our country and as a result professional geologists and geological students see it.</p> <p>The fossils are very rare [inaudible] the South Bristol Channel. And consequently, the Woodhill Bay fish bed is the only kind in this country. It's very, very important because this section is the best exposure in helping the understanding of the geological [inaudible]. As I state in my letter to North Somerset Times in October, it was really very little comment on the part of PTC on this matter. I quote the Planning Regulating Committee on February 2015, which I attended: "This is noted that the Portishead Town Council gave no objection to this plan, subject to valid objections from neighbours. There were no comments made by the Town Council about the SSSI." And I think that's quite interesting to note. They should have been substantial comment regarding the risk to the SSSI by any alteration on the golf course. I now hope that continues from this group here to put pressure on whoever is developing that golf course to look after our SSSI. It's very important. The other point I want to make is, I'll be quick, is the overhead pylons</p>
Cllr Cruse	It's all right. You don't have to rush.
Dr Camplin	Pardon
Cllr Cruse	You don't have to rush. This isn't time limited.
Dr Camplin	<p>Okay thank you, the overhead pylon construction conservation has been conducted over the past two years. I've been very involved because of the increased risk of childhood leukaemia that visibly shows near power lines. However, for me it's not only humans who are affected, but so is the wildlife. There are many research papers showing that the magnetic field from the power lines do affect, have a biological effect. So I think the ward Councillors of this area should be very concerned about the impact of these new pylons on the area. Councillors in Yatton, Portbury and Nailsea all co-contributed to the consultative basis. And passed our residents concern to the planning inspector because of that, we now have the option A selected by the Secretary of State, not the original option B [inaudible] Portbury.</p> <p>So what's the problem? Why did we make a comment? What they say in their report is this: "The lack of engagement with [inaudible] by [inaudible] of Portbury Parish Councillor, and was backed up by copious reports that Town Council minutes showing no further action was taken by the Town Council because of the considered proposal</p>

	<p>would not affect the town.” I don’t believe that should be right. I think Town Council should really be involved and driving this thing forward.</p> <p>We’ve got a situation now where the pylons are going to be passing across the nature reserve. We need to check that it’s working properly. We don’t even know how strong the magnetic field will be in practice, because the National Grid has basically said, “We predict it by mathematics, but nobody’s actually measured it.” It’s very important to keep an eye on what they’re doing. The other point I want to make is, that the applicant, which is National Grid, assured a consultation meeting that had taken place in Portishead, as well as Portbury in 2009, 2010, and that there have been considerable feedback, objections to the overhead line. I don’t understand why they didn’t get to the Councillors. Thank you.</p>
Cllr Cruse	<p>The only remarks I can make about that are, we’re aware of the geological problems, and are more aware now than we were at the time of that planning meeting. Which we weren’t particularly aware of the problems that could occur on the golf course. It is important that you understand, as I said in my statement, that we are not experts in this matter. I suppose I was in the sixth form when I was at school, and I remember walking, being in a Bristol school and walking the beach at Portishead looking at fossils, and looking at the way that the rocks are down there, and I appreciate your points, with regard that. With regard the pylon issue, I know that some of the Councillors who are here did actually attend these National Grid meetings, but I don’t remember what happened after that. My memory isn’t completely switched on in that direction. Perhaps, one of the Councillors will come back to you later on in the evening and speak to you about it.</p>
Paul Dunn	<p>Thank you. Hello, my name is Paul Dunn and I live in The Deans. I want to talk about the campaign we’ve had going for some months now about the lack of safe parking outside of High Down School. A gentleman earlier referred to parking outside the school. In fact, in the report from Sergeant Gavin O’Reilly, which I think colleagues have copies of, he does mention in his report that there are a number of specific issues including speeding on our roads and parking issues, and refers particularly to the High Street to West Hill outside Tesco’s and local schools, especially outside High Down School. And he also says that we’re going to patrol them in certain areas, including local schools. In particular, again, working with High Down School and North Somerset District Council to elevate the issues there. I think what Sergeant O’Reilly was referring to there in terms of elevating things is that we’ve had a number of meetings because parents of children that go to the two High Down schools, and local residents are really concerned that there might be some serious accidents. There have already been a number of accidents outside the school.</p>

On one occasion, a person was parked on Down Road, and he just was pulling out with a car turning the other way, it actually was coming very quickly because they tore off the front wheel of the parked car. On another occasion, a resident who lives in The Downs was coming up the Downs to get to Down Road, and was hit by a car coming in the other direction because there's a bit of a dance goes on there several times a day with traffic trying to get in and out. Out from The Downs and The Deans onto Down Road and traffic trying to get from Down Road into the Downs. She had an accident and suffered from whiplash. There happened a number of other incidents.

So what we have tried to do, we've had a number of public meetings. We had a public meeting on the 19th of January, which was actually held at High Down School. And [Councillor Jolley] was present at the meeting. A number of the parents and residents expressed their serious concern. Partly about, sometimes it is people parking completely inappropriately. It's as if people have never read the Highway Code of course there is also a problem with reinforcement, and we know that a number of police officers, warranted and unwarranted officers, has reduced significantly. That obviously doesn't help. But some people do park right on bends. They park on double yellow lines. They park in the bus stop which has got double yellow lines. So some of it is down to the behaviour of other people. Some of it is about the road markings. In fact, three years ago, the Council made proposals to increase the size of the High Down schools by 50%. The number of pupils attending the two schools is going to increase from over 600 to over 900 children. We ran a campaign at that time because we were concerned that the local infrastructure wasn't changing. You've got a lot more vehicle movements in the same area, hence more congestion, hence the likelihood of more accidents.

We have meetings with the Council and Council officers and we asked where the children would be coming from, and it transpired that many of the children who would take up the additional places would, in fact, be coming from the bottom of town, rather than Portishead which lead to the decision eventually, I think, to increase places at St Peters in the village. So we were concerned three years ago about traffic movements, the impact on safety. So from that meeting, there was ongoing communication and in fact, we agreed that we'd have a meeting of a number of bodies, again a meeting in the school, and again, Councillor Jolley was there, a parent governor, one of the Town Councillors but in the position as a school governor. The police and communities together were there, and their chair was there, community response, police, some parents and residents. It was a very representative group, and we discussed some of the problems. I

	<p>think it would be fair to say although there wasn't unanimity on all of the measures that should be taken to improve the situation. Everybody at the meeting, including the executive head of the schools, agreed that some action was necessary to reduce congestion around the school. And as a result of that, Councillor Jolley actually had a meeting with a number of Council officers, and drew up some proposals for some improvements.</p> <p>We then met with Councillor [Ap Rees], who's the deputy leader of North Somerset Council, and the executive members for Highways and Transport, who decided that no changes would be made. So here we've got a situation where it's not just parents and residents, although I would argue that should be enough. Parents and school children and local residents are saying: "We need to do something here"; but all these other organizations, the police, the [inaudible], community response, governors of school, everyone, and Councillor Jolley saying, "Something should be done," there is a real problem. For that just to be completely overruled by Councillor Ap Rees without, as I understand it ...any, well certainly no discussion with the group who were asking for the changes. As I understand it, with no visit to the site to actually look, potentially at the problem. They said the decision was based on the assumption that there is no significant road safety justification for amending the current restrictions or implementing additional ones.</p> <p>That clearly is not the case. In fact, it's highly interesting that once we were arguing for this that measures were put in place at the bottom of [Nash Hill]. As I understand it, there've been no accidents in Nash Hill and when we inquired it was confirmed there haven't been any accidents, but some concern has been expressed about speeding. Well we've heard from the Sergeant's report tonight that lots of people were concerned about speeding in lots of places, but little action appears to take place. It was agreed to put in some road humps. I'm not sure what the official technical, Bob you can tell me what the official technical description is.</p>
Robert Bull	Road humps is fine.
Paul Dunn	<p>Road humps is fine. [crosstalk] Anyway, and the local Councillors ...I believe [Nigel Ashton] is the leader of the Council, so it appeared that, in that case, the criteria didn't have to be met. By the way, unfortunately I understand there have been two accidents, since the road humps were installed. [crosstalk] Road humps have created a difficulty rather than [inaudible] as I understand it, two cyclists. So one of the concerns I think about that has been already expressed about communication and how effective communication is, is that there are, on numerous occasions, statements by the Town Council that they did not have powers to act in certain situations, and quite clearly, when it</p>

comes to education, adult services, refuse collection, they are not the responsible authority. But we would argue as a number of people have already observed that it is a duty of the Town Council to make representations. Acknowledging that they don't have the powers to decide, nonetheless, making representation on our joint behalf.

There are occasions, clearly, when that happens. As we heard earlier from the chair of meeting, that that happened in terms of the nature reserve. But there are other occasions when that doesn't appear to have happened. Similarly, if you look down the other end of the telescope, North Somerset Council will say that's nothing to do with us, you will have to talk to the Town Council. There are occasions, and this is one of them, where they said, "Well, we're not going to do anything," as Councillor Ap Rees has decided in terms of the road markings, but go and talk to the Portishead Town Council because we will look again at their recommendations for the year 2018, 2019. Yes? We're talking about safety of children here, yeah? 2018, -19, and if the Town Council decides in three years time, that they might support changes in road markings, then we may review the situation. No guarantees even then, but if the Town Council says, "We think some changes are necessary." They're not satisfied with the local Councillor, who's Councillor Jolley. They're still not saying they're actually going to do anything and that was confirmed in a letter to me from Mr. Bailey, Chief Engineer: "We wanted to refer the decision to the Scrutiny Committee, but - and I'm sorry about the technicalities - , if a decision is made, a formal decision, and it is part of the executive member's report to the North Somerset Council, it can be called in and referred to the Scrutiny Committee. This is not a formal decision. It's an informal decision. It's an informal decision, so it can't be called in, so the executive member has the right to overrule the local Council and all of the local residents and everyone else and it not accountable for that or appears not to be accountable for that.

We had another public meeting on the 29th of March, having received that information. People who attended the meeting said, again parents and residents, "We want to continue this. We're just not satisfied because it's not just about a bit of inconvenience really, but it really is unsafe." And so we organised a petition, and we presented that petition to the North Somerset Council meeting before the Council meeting in Weston Super Mare yesterday evening, with a request that the executive member, on behalf of the Council, the whole Council, reconsiders that decision. We really hope that will be the case. When [Sarah Johnston], who spoke on behalf of the campaign, asked how many of the North Somerset Councillors present were aware of the situation on the roads outside the school and understood that there were problems with congestion. I'm not sure, but there were about five

	<p>or six Councillors who put their hands up, I know that some of them are here tonight, not all of them but certainly some of them are, who acknowledge and know they're not directly responsible for that area, but that there are problems in that area.</p> <p>I'm sorry if I've gone on at some length about this, but this really is ...let me just give you one further example, if I may and I won't quote direct from the letter, but obviously Bob went to see [Liam Fox] and said to Liam Fox that there are real concerns here. Then Liam Fox came and looked at the area, and after doing that, he wrote to the chief exec. [Mike Jackson] and he said, there does appear to be a real problem here, and apparently, the Council is refusing to do anything about it. Sorry, that's paraphrasing. Mike Jackson wrote back, saying Councillor Jolley's proposals have been considered. There are a number of problems, because if, for example, they put some double yellow lines on Down Road opposite the junction with the Downs, the traffic that parks there now [inaudible], but the traffic that parks there now will just park somewhere else and the problem would be moved somewhere else. Of course, it's true, they would park somewhere else but with great respect to the chief exec and whoever advised him, they can go 100 yards down the Downs, the road, the Downs and park safely. It will help remove that congestion because cars park opposite the junction, if you can imagine ...practical demonstration here, folks. [crosstalk] Excuse my back.</p>
Cllr Cruse	It's all right.
Paul Dunn	<p>This is my best side. So you imagine I am coming up the Downs, and this is Down Road, yeah? You've got the school on this corner. You've got a bus stop here, and often there's a bus in it, as you know we've got improved buses services. So bus, cars there, cars coming this way, that way. You're coming out of the junction, you can't go all the way across the road because of the cars are parked there. There are cars parked almost right up to this corner here, so you cannot see down, Down Road. And this is absolutely true, on my children's lives: Yesterday morning, my wife and I were going to yoga, I know it doesn't show, but we do. We were going to yoga and I was pulling out of the Downs, came out very slowly because we know about the problems, and this was not at the busiest time. The busiest time, as you can imagine is when kids are being dropped off in the morning and when they're being picked up in the afternoon. This was about half past nine, so past the worst time. We pulled out very gingerly because the cars were all parked there. We came out, and the car came along, I don't think it was breaking the speed limit, I jammed the brakes on - automatic reaction. You see a car coming and you think you're going to be hit. I jammed the brakes on, stopped, the car slowed down, stopped. I said, "I'm sorry, car parking problem." I pulled out about</p>

	<p>another meter, maybe a meter and a half. Exactly the same thing happened because I still could not see, and you literally, have to come, here's down the road, you have to come right out to the middle of the road before you can see whether anything's coming.</p> <p>The chief executive says, "There was no danger," and says, "There was good vision. There are no problems." Well, he's received bad advice. This is not a personal issue with the chief executive of the Council, but still, there is a really serious problem here. So what we would ask, we're hoping will get a positive response from the petition which was presented to North Somerset Council last night. But what we would ask is that Portishead Town Council, or Town Councillors actually say to North Somerset Council, "We think there's a genuine problem here, and we would ask you to just give this some reconsideration." I mean we would ask, as well, that North Somerset Councillors who are here and those that are not but represent Portishead can ... I don't want to, again, personalize this with Councillor Jolley, but David Jolley said he thought these recommendations were necessary. I don't want to embarrass him, but when a local Councillor, and David is not known for splashing the cash, let me tell you. He doesn't throw the Council's money around. I would hope that other North Somerset Councillors could actually get behind David and say, "Yes, please will you have another look at this?" That's all we're asking. We're just genuinely, genuinely concerned that if this waits another three years, there's going to be a serious incident, and then we all deeply regret doing nothing.</p>
Ken Smith	<p>What's your solution? If you're banging on about it, what's your solution? [crosstalk] put yellow lines around the Downs, guess what? It all moves up to Merlin Park and Marconi, so then people can't get out of there, so what is the solution?</p>
Paul Dunn	<p>Well we've drawn up detailed plans. It's a fair question. But if anybody wants it we can happily provide details to the town clerk and then people can get them on request, or people can contact me or Bob and get the details. There are drawings, and in fact, Councillor Jolley has some drawings made of the changes that were being sought. They weren't the complete changes because there were one or two changes that we thought were necessary, that Councillor Jolley didn't think were necessary. So we've gone into all of that, and they're there. The drawings are there. But even if, and it's not only, and you're absolutely right there were parents and residents from other areas who are seriously concerned, and have come to meetings, and have complained. As Councillor Jolley will note, different residents have got up and said: "Can you do something outside my house? Can you do something for us? Can you do something for us?" It's not just about that junction, but that junction is at the centre of much of the problem.</p>

	<p>This is not the only problem, and I'm sorry if I gave that impression. So the information is there. It's not here tonight, but basically we're saying to Town Councillors and North Somerset Councillors ...We're asking you to have another look.</p> <p>Ironically, two weeks after we got the letters saying, "Nothing's going to happen," Councillor Ap Rees was in the paper saying: There's now £ 127,000 set aside for improving the safety of the roads outside schools. That was in the North Somerset Times and we've got the Editor of the North Somerset Times with us this evening. So, £127,000 has now been set aside to improve road markings around schools to make them safer for our children, and he must have known about that when he turned down every single improvement we were seeking outside High Down. Thank you very much.</p>
Cllr Cruse	Can I just say to the lady who is taking the minutes that it was Mr. Ken Smith who interjected, and his address is in Down Road. [crosstalk]
Mrs Davey	Hello
Cllr Cruse	Could you just hold on just a minute please, [Mrs. Davey] Could we just ask Councillor Jolley to reply to that; he is willing to, and then we'll take you afterwards. It's all right; there's plenty of time. [crosstalk] It's all in the same subject. You can speak afterwards. It's not a problem.
Cllr Jolley	All right, can you hear me okay?
Cllr Cruse	Yeah.
Cllr Jolley	<p>Fine, thank you. Well it's true that there were two meetings organized by Bob Bull and Paul Dunn concerning congestion outside the school. Both of these I attended, and we did come up with schemes that I thought were quite worthwhile, but let's just think about the point about everybody jumping on a bus, to take their children to school. Not very practical actually if you've got to get to work as well with the morning [inaudible], but at High Down there are 730 people arriving at that site every day. That's 680 pupils and 50 nursery places, so there's bound to be congestion. How far do you want these yellow lines to extend? Yellow lines were the prime mover. For me, the prime movers were safety, not only for pedestrians and children, of course, but for motorists.</p> <p>Additional parking, well additional is being provided and the refurbishment of the school is currently going on, and will be available this summer. The other thing was enforcement. Of course, enforcement of parking regulations, is purely down to the police. But the police in fairness to them have agreed, along with our community response officer, to actually step up enforcement just to say to people, "Well, you can't park there, move on," or even, they haven't issued tickets, because they weren't seeing the progress, as far as I know. Now, the issue with double yellow lines is that safety relies ...and</p>

	<p>we've all seen this advert: Drive at 20 miles an hour because a child hit at 20 miles an hour is a lot less injured than one at 30 miles an hour. But when you got all that traffic arriving at the same place, it causes a traffic block much better than a speed hump, but traffic just can't move.</p> <p>We know it can't move if you live in that area, because everybody is sort of forcing themselves. So, it actually does slow traffic. The other thing is, it was mentioned about an accident. One of the deciding factors that helped Councillor Ap Rees to his decision that he made. Not all of which I agree with, but I accepted, was that he asked me what the traffic record, accident records were, for outside High Down School. Right. There were four notified accidents outside the school. The first one was by Down Close on the 22nd of June, 2010. Another at West Hill Triangle, which is a slight issue, on the 6th of September, 2010. Outside the school on the 4th of December 2013, and another one in West Hill on the 5th of July, 2014.</p> <p>That's four accidents that have been reported. Now, I'm not saying that's all of the accidents, but those are the only accidents that have been reported to the Council, so there we go. We will be looking to set up enforcement, especially because next year we've got Civil Parking Enforcement coming online, so there will be other officers to help with that. With regard to not taking any note of it, we have taken note of it. We are very keen on safety, and what more can I say? Thank you.</p>
Cllr Cruse	I will ask the clerk if he will then put parking at High Down School on the next agenda for planning. I'm sorry, Mrs. Davey, to have kept you waiting..
Mrs Hennessy	Councillor Cruse can you just clarify that Councillor Jolley was speaking as councillor, because he cannot speak as a resident. He was speaking as a District Councillor?
Cllr Cruse	Yes, he was speaking as a District Councillor in reply to Mr. Bull [crosstalk] Mrs. Davey?
Janet Davey	Hello, my name is [Janet Davey]. I live in Denny View. May I first speak about the minutes, because [inaudible] minutes have just been [inaudible]. Said, "Mrs. [Marilyn Koops] explained that she chaired the meeting in which they made an objection last November. The golf course going ahead. They didn't make any objection. They were not supplied with the amount of information that North Somerset Council eventually received. That's also untrue because in November all the information necessary to understand the plans for golf course was already online, including the mention of the 16,000 cubic meters and the bund.
Cllr Cruse	Thank you.
Janet Davey	So please could you change those records?

Cllr Cruse	I'm sure the clerk will sort it out later today. You have made the point.
Janet Davey	<p>Thank you. In December, 2014, our Town Council commented on the plans for the golf course. They passed them with no objection. 16,000 cubic meters of landfill were ignored because our Town Councillors had not read the plans. Marilyn Koops even admitted this in a meeting last year. The existence of the landfill continued to be denied, including in an email from Dr. Fox received by a resident in April, 2015. The consequence of this was that outline planning permission during February, 2015 and full planning permission during June were both given albeit with 21 conditions.</p> <p>These conditions include the need for a geological survey, but only because one foresighted resident did read the plans and spent many hours finding out what they actually meant. Why did she have to do this? Most of our Councillors didn't. During 2015, residents worked tirelessly to try to safeguard the land. We've provided much evidence, so the Town Council was able to succeed in getting asset of community value on the land. Many hours were spent in collecting evidence for town green status, which if it had succeeded, would have safeguarded the land from building forever. This application involved residents filling in lengthy forms provided by us, at an approximate cost of £400.</p> <p>The Town Council refused to fund this, although they eventually took ownership of the application. No Town Councillor offered assistance in any way in the collection of the evidence. Indeed, four Town Councillors were seen passing by on the other side whilst we were campaigning. Town Green Status was refused as there was planning permission on the land. However there were questions on the validity of the planning permission as it was not for development. A judicial review could well have found in our favour, but the Town Council was unwilling to commit funds to support such a challenge, even though they have something like £600,000 of our money in the bank.</p> <p>During October 2015, we applied for two rights of way on the land. Sufficient evidence was collected again at our expense. On March 29th, 2016, we attended a meeting at Weston Town Hall to put our case to have the rights of way applications heard quickly, as the waiting list for this is in excess of 20 years. Having requested support from our Councillors, both town and district, only one Town Councillor came to support us. A further Portishead District Councillor, one of the ward Councillors for the golf course, had been asked for his support by ourselves and others. He spoke first in total opposition to us. Indeed, he was seen smiling as he accused us of lack of support. The land has one safeguard on it: Local Green Space, with a caveat that it can be built on in very special circumstances. So if the Councillors wish</p>

	<p>anything could happen, the land is not safe. We are doing this for Portishead, not for ourselves.</p> <p>The campaigners are all passionate about this piece of land, a passion clearly not shared by our Councillors. It seems to us that our Town Council has fought us all the way, and any support has been grudging, one wonders why. I do hope people will continue to use this land. It is our right, and it is our heritage. Thank you.</p>
Cllr Cruse	[Inaudible] reply, please. [crosstalk] No, nothing. [crosstalk] I didn't expect it to be refused. [inaudible]. Councillor Jolley?
Cllr Jolley	All right, I saw in the local paper, The Times, a couple of weeks ago a photograph of Mrs. Townsend, Mr Dunn, Mr Bull, and others collecting signatures outside Waitrose.
Paul Dunn	I wasn't there actually.
Cllr Jolley	Sorry?
Paul Dunn	I wasn't there. My ghost was but I wasn't.
Cllr Jolley	Collecting signatures. The placard in front of Mrs. Townsend was, "Preserve our golf course." So what I would like to say is I would like to express my delight at this, which supports North Somerset Council policy and has done since North Somerset came into being, as a unitary authority. We had it down as public open space, and that's how it's going to remain. The message that Ann Townsend is helping to support for us with to developers is, "Hands off. This land is not for development." That's all I have to say. Thank you.
Cllr Cruse	Mr. Green. Dixon, sorry I beg your pardon. Why did I call you Mr. Green?
John Dixon	Yes, John Dixon.
Cllr Cruse	Sorry.
John Dixon	Mrs. Davey says a lot about the golf course, and she's right. Now, the golf course has very very few golfers there. You can count them on your fingers. When I was there, all that there was in the way of collection of golf fees was an honesty box. Now is the golf course really a golf course, or is it pretending to be a golf course and this is a landfill site? [crosstalk]
Cllr Jolley	Just one point on the landfill, please. I have spoken to people who have considered that the discussion about the landfill ... A landfill, to me, represents black sacks with seagulls ripping them open. That's what a landfill is. The land [crosstalk] Well this was the impression that was given to me by somebody who actually signed your petition, so -
Cllr Cruse	Can we have one person at a time please so we can hear distinctly what they say.
Cllr Jolley	[inaudible] The landfill would come from the development of [Saint Joseph's] on the other side of the road, being a green option. That is all controlled by the Environment Agency and Transfer Notes. A Transfer Note has to be produced before a landfill can be removed

	from a building site. It has to then be delivered wherever the transfer note is recorded. There are four transactions, but it's all closely monitored. There is no way that that would have happened, that we'd have black sacks and seagulls. That's all I can say. I think that was an entirely wrong misrepresentation. It will come from St. Joseph's, they cleared and levelled the land out as you know, it would cross the road in a lorry and that will be the end of the story.[crosstalk].
?	That's a joke
Marilyn Koops	Excuse me [inaudible], I have had my hand up, and I was standing here for quite some time. I feel have a right to respond.
Cllr Cruse	[crosstalk] You will all have time to speak. This meeting is not time limited.
Marilyn Koops	[Marilyn Koops], Waterside Park. I'm going to have to respond to some of the allegations that have been made against me. Whilst I was chair for the Planning Committee, I was not the only person on that committee. There were a number of other Councillors on that committee. All of us took the decision ...We looked very carefully at the design and access statement. I would suggest that some of you reread it. I have reread it now several times. I would actually still make the same decision after reading the design and access statement. If you read it very carefully the 16,000 tons looks, on the face of it, as if was being rearranged within the site itself, not being imported. There's no mention of importation on the design and access statement.
Janet Davey	There was
Marilyn Koops	Perhaps you read a different one.
Janet Davey	Can you read the [inaudible]
Marilyn Koops	<p>We did not get that. We did get as much as North Somerset did, and I'd like to correct you on that, too. The, umm, bund. Let's go back to the bund. There's no mention of a four to five meter bund. If there had been, I think if we had known, we would have been just as horrified as you are about putting four to five meter bund at the edge of the coastal path and its ramifications. We know that there are springs coming down from all those houses. There are deep water pipe springs coming down.</p> <p>We would have been equally as concerned as you are, about the impact on not only an SSSI, but Ramsar Site of which I am very keen on too. I find that the accusations that we get, we try very, very hard on these committees. We try very hard to read everything. We have plans. We try very, very hard. As has been said, we are not experts on this. We have to find our own way through the plans. We have to look. I'm certainly no expert on plans. We look as best as we can. We do the best we can for you. Okay, we stick our heads above the parapet, we stand there, we get them knocked down. By God, do we get them knocked down.</p>

Janet Davey	You haven't seen [Mark Houseman] report? He wrote to the -
Marilyn Koops	I wrote to Mark Houseman [inaudible][crosstalk]
Cllr Cruse	Can I have one at a time please?
Marilyn Koops	Mark Houseman's report was, I believe, after our meeting. [crosstalk] not implied that it was before.
Janet Davey	No, it was [crosstalk]
Cllr Cruse	Mrs. Davey, can you wait until Mrs. Koops is finished? Then you can have another go.[crosstalk]
Marilyn Koops	Have you finished?
Cllr Cruse	Mrs. Koops, would you like to finish, please, and then [crosstalk]
Marilyn Koops	Yeah, I will. I just would like to say that we do our best and I hope that most people do appreciate that we do our best. We do as much as we can, we do it free of charge. We get elected by you people in Portishead, which we're very grateful for your support. We do do as much as we can, bearing in mind that we are not experts, as has been said many times before. We will make mistakes. I hope that that is something that is not going to be something that bites us in the bums in the future, I must admit. We read that design and access statement, and I was not the only person who read it. And we were convinced that there was no impact. When I saw some of the North Somerset site, my opinion was totally, totally different.
Cllr Cruse	Thank you.
?	Mrs. [Duffy], which way to the end of the line?
Cllr Cruse	Yeah, that lady in the green was next.
Elizabeth Courtney	[Elizabeth Courtney]. I live on Nore Road.
Cllr Cruse	Could you say again, please?
Elizabeth Courtney	Elizabeth Courtney.
Cllr Cruse	Elizabeth Courtney.
Elizabeth Courtney	I live on Nore Road. I did the first application for the footpath before these two ladies that you know very well. They really took over because I had other things I had to do last year and they've worked very, very hard and I'm amazed at what they've done. I just want to say that we've talked about heads above the parapet and all sorts of things, but from my collecting signatures, the work I did at that time. All I can say is that if any of this landfill goes ahead, any of this stuff that we've been upset about, you will have more trouble than two ladies chained to railings, because there are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of dog walkers and recreational walkers, that walk over what you're calling, "the golf course," and claim it is their right of way. You will have a fury. You will be worried about it and you will regret anything you try to do to destroy that land.[crosstalk]
Cllr Cruse	[inaudible] Sorry, I've forgotten your name.

Dr Camplin	Dr. Camplin. South Road but, can I just make a point here? Wouldn't it be wise for Councillors to seek out those people who do have expertise within this Portishead district [crosstalk]. It took me half an hour to sort out what the SSSI was doing, simple as that. There was mention in the Council meeting [inaudible] Thank you.
Cllr Cruse	Thank you.
Jo Duffy	I think nobody likes to interrupt on these things, but just to let people know we're given a very short space of time to respond to these applications, and we have to wade through more of these applications than you see at meetings. We have to try and make a decision on what is important, based on the information that's provided on North Somerset Council's website. Sometimes, we're given the details of an application, but it doesn't appear on the website for weeks afterwards. So we are then left with a very short time in which to make any decisions on the stuff. As several of the Councillors have said, we aren't trained. All the officers of North Somerset Council have degrees. We do not have degrees in planning. We just have to base it on the facts we've got in front of us, and quite often it's at very short notice. We can't find this information -
Dr Camplin	All I am saying is we want to help, simple as that.[crosstalk]
?	It's about engaging the local community, as we said before, many times [crosstalk]
Cllr Cruse	Mrs. [Hennessy]. [crosstalk] say your name.
Annette Hennessy	<p>I think, umm. Oh sorry, I'm [Annette Hennessy]. I thought you just said it, actually. [Crosstalk]. I think what Mrs. Davey was trying to say was that the two Councillors who approved the plans for the golf course, one of which was a Town Councillor, as well as a District Councillor, didn't read the paperwork. I don't think it's a criticism at anyone in particular, but it's clear that people did know within North Somerset Council. They were also Town Councillors, yet nothing happened until those two ladies stepped in. I think it's important that that that's clear. It is frustrating, especially for the people who are passionate about those issues. I've never known a year where Portishead Town Council has been brought into disrepute by its own Town Councillors to the extent witnessed from May, 2015, to tonight.</p> <p>Residents have previously been misled. Attempts have been made to silence and ban public participation. So sorry you were wrong tonight. You said that it had never been tried, but Councillor [Arthur Terry] tried to do it, and it was only campaigners outside the door with placards, that actually hopefully influenced the Council to decide not to take any action on that. The public has been prevented from asking valid questions, and worse, when they have persisted in their questions for the good of their town, they've been treated inconsiderately by Councillors and accused of being hostile. I've got the written evidence</p>

of that. The difference in this past year is instead of just a few residents standing up for themselves and for our brilliant town, because it is a brilliant town. We're very lucky. More people have attended meetings. More residents are campaigning for greater openness, honesty, and transparency in local politics. More are prepared to question decisions that are made by this Town Council, and also North Somerset Council.

Certainly in the latter case, as has been witnessed in this particular Council as well, their decisions sometimes appear to benefit the political agendas at North Somerset Council's Executive, rather than Portishead. I'll come on with some evidence in a moment about political agendas, because one of residents in this room tonight said he'd never seen any evidence of it, well if you read enough paperwork, and you read enough of the emails and Freedom of Information, you will see plenty of evidence. More people, in fact, seem to be doing what we expect our Town and District Councillors to do.

We are tirelessly told by this Town Council that Councillors work hard for little thanks. But I have heard, and I have done it myself, thanked Councillors in this room. I know lots of us residents who are here tonight have done that in the past. Sadly, we rarely get time to do it nowadays. However, I rarely hear the Council praising the residents who have done their jobs for them. I do acknowledge that Councillors like Mrs. Cruse did thank various residents. Councillors who don't want to put their time, the hours of research, the emails, the liaison with North Somerset Council offices or organizations, or any outside establishment, should consider stepping down.

Having the title "Councillor" doesn't mean that once elected, they can just turn up for meetings and do nothing more. Residents in Portishead do a lot more sometimes than some of our Councillors. But they are happy to do it not for the title of Councillor, but for their town because their town is more important than the title of Councillor. They don't even have the luxury of having photocopying paid for, for them. They fund their own research themselves. They fund leaflets circulating the facts where people have been misled, they fund phone calls. So when a Town Councillor complains about the hard work, we know how hard it is. Harder, actually, because we bear the cost without any public expenses.

Without the public in Portishead, so many issues would be swept under the carpet. Worse, vital amenities, services and public rights would have been lost. We cannot manage without the public in Portishead. But could we manage without Portishead Town Councillors? I personally think we could manage without political

Portishead Town Councillors. I would like to see a day where we have nothing but independent Councillors. I have seen too much damage caused by party politics in Portishead, such as damage done to play areas. And by that, I mean a personal campaign group had to fight to get the play equipment down at the Lake Grounds. Fight, because the original playground equipment was refused landlord's consent. They have to work really hard. I know the Town Councillor provided a lot of help and assistance, but without that public group it wouldn't have happened.

The Skate Park which I'll go on to in a moment, has probably been one of the worst issues in Portishead, but I think the golf course is coming a close second, and the Nature Reserve and Port Marine Management is probably a close third. We have the open-air pool under North Somerset Council. Fortunately, it's run now by the public, I still worry that North Somerset Council actually own the pool, and they're still the holder of the trustee. I'm really pleased to see that the café is now being run by Portishead Open-air Pool which was the suggestion on the original report that we produced for North Somerset Council.

The old sea wall coastal path, another pathway which would've been lost. Now, even our Lake Grounds, where on the whim of a Tory Executive Assistant, a Green Flag award comes before vital maintenance and improvements. And when residents of this town expressed their concern about the green flag, they weren't against the green flag, they just wanted to see improvements to the Lake Grounds vital maintenance before a Green Flag was even thought about. Sadly I've heard from John Flannigan at North Somerset Council, that the management plan is proceeding. Yet strangely, they only held one meeting for the people in Portishead.

They held two private meetings for Portishead Town Councillors, and I've made my feelings very clear to the Clerk of this Council about those meetings, because this Council is not allowed to hold scheduled meetings without the public being present. In other words, they can hold them, but they cannot ban the public, and we were banned from those meetings. As a resident of Portishead I'm quite sad about that, more sad that you had two private meetings as a Town Council, and the residents had one and we haven't had any feedback as such. You can go on the Council website to see some of the changes but there were gross errors in that management plan, and sadly they were not corrected.

It worries me that Portishead residents pay Special Expenses for the Lake Ground's maintenance. Clevedon residents don't pay for their sea front area. They do pay for some areas in Clevedon. Weston

residents don't pay for their sea front area, so why do we in Portishead? And on top of that North Somerset Council now wants our help, yet they and Portishead Town Council, excluded us from their scheduled meetings. It just seems bizarre to me that we're asked for our help as residents, but we're not given the courtesy of attending meetings. I still don't know what went on in your second private meeting, but we should have been attended.

Now to hear the management plan is, as I said, going through, I think it's quite sad. I still don't know what the plan is for the Lake Grounds if enough volunteers don't come forward. We can't even run the Lake Grounds so how on earth can we then begin to run the Nature Reserve? I'll come onto Port Marine Management in a moment, but I'd like to get back on to the Skate Park and back onto the comment that some people before made that they'd never seen any political agendas or any political engineering. Sadly, I have seen plenty. I'm not going to be able to give you all the information today, but I have got a lot of archive material where it's very clear. I have got some, just to give you a taste of it. Sadly, some of our decisions locally are made for political reasons, and, sadly, that's a Conservative political reason.

To quote you an email from [David Pasley], Town and district Councillor. When the Skate Park location was being discussed, especially at the Lake Grounds, he said, "This is a Tory District Council initiative, and therefore, any further moves to attempt to locate a Skate Park on the Lake Grounds, regardless of the outcome of the hearing, will be unhelpful and counterproductive to our efforts. With the 2011 elections fast approaching, we need to be singing off the same hymn sheet and at the moment, it seems we're not on the subject of the Skate Park in Portishead. Your North Somerset colleagues have made it clear: No Skate Park on the Lake Grounds. We are clearly divided. I suggest we meet before the next 2011 meeting on the 20th to resolve what appears to be a serious issue." So that was a Councillor leading his fellow Tories into making a decision that was not in the best interest of Portishead. Around the same time, a member of the Lake Grounds who is now a Town and District Councillor, was issuing newsletters to residents at the Lake Grounds.

We don't know how many were issued, but in that newsletter he said, "Portishead Skatepark Project, were advised that at the outset, that this permission for a lease would not be given." And by permission for a lease, that means an application for a lease, application for consent. That man knew because he was a close ally of David Pasley, who was involved in the process, that landlords consent was not relevant to that stage. In fact, from a freedom of information requests ...It clearly states on the 14th of September, 2010, the issue was raised by the leader;

for those who don't know, that's [Nigel Ashton] and Councillor David Pasley, when an application was reported to the North Area Committee it was agreed it was a separate matter to grant permission, even completely two separate issues. But a campaign was waged against the Skate Park Project on that basis alone.

Then, we had the group who were trying their hardest to get a skate park in this town, but a Councillor had made unfounded allegations against them regarding dart throwing. Without going into huge details and embarrassing the Councillor, although I would like to ... he implicated a past chair of this Town Council. Now the group clearly felt that they had a right to address of this. They wrote to the Councillor, concerned, and low and behold, it was all fabricated. In fact, he couldn't even remember who he had spoken to even though he previously told the District Council and the group that it was a Town Council issue. David Pasley had said that it was the clerk of the Council, and then he retracted it after many, many emails said, "I talked to many people who are associated with the Town Council on that day, so it is possible that may not be the clerk who informed me of this behaviour."

Sadly, he was unable to provide any evidence that that had actually happened. It was in a crucial stage of the Skate Park application. Then, the Skate Park went to the North Area Committee, and the District Councillor who's actually District Councillor of Pill wanted it tabled as an agenda item. When it came to the North Area Committee, instead of discussing Councillor Davis's concerns, so that the Skate Park got a fair hearing, Councillors Terry and Pasley embargoed the discussion, and they weren't allowed to discuss it at all. I don't call that fair play on the Skate Park.

Then we have [Kilkenny Fields], because everybody always wants to know what happened to the Kilkenny Fields. That's another saga. Kilkenny Fields was an ideal site for the skate park. It was favoured by North Somerset Council originally. In fact, even David Pasley said it was one of the favoured sites, so why was there no interest? He said that in 2013, 4th of February, 2013. Yet, that Councillor knew why that was vetoed because in other freedom of information Councillor Ap Rees has been very clear about Kilkenny Fields. He says very clearly that there were sound conclusions as to why Kilkenny Fields was totally inappropriate. Sadly he didn't give us those reasons, but in this email he actually does go on to say that the group should consider the Lake Grounds site, which he then later denied saying. So anybody who thinks it's not a political issue ought to read some of these things.

On top of that, we then had Councillor Ap Rees saying that Kilkenny Fields was not progressed because of unfounded objections from the ward Councillor, and the ward Councillor at the time was Councillor David Pasley. As part of the inquiry into the skate park, people wrote various letters to the Planning Inspectorate. On the 23rd of November, 2009, a Town district Councillor of Portishead wrote a very lengthy email. It makes me almost cry to read this email, because if you read it you would think that Portishead was an area of drug trafficking, violence, anti-social behaviour, graffiti, abuse, threatening behaviour and so on. And that went to the Planning Inspectorate. Despite that, fortunately a member of the North Somerset Council, an officer who was involved with the environment, said that both of our most successful and least troublesome sites are in high-profile public locations, e.g. the Salthouse Fields in Clevedon and Nailsea Millennium Park.

That is just a sample of some of the things that people have had to fight against to get a skate park. And now it really concerns me that the man on this Town Council who is supposed to be progressing the skate park, is the same man who led the campaign against the Lake Grounds, and is also the same man who said a skate park was not needed, not in anybody's backyard. And that is on a tape recording and that's Councillor [David Oyns].

So we then go on to [PMML]. Some of us who have been involved in Sea Wall coastal path recognize a lot of the names that have come up on Port Marine Management Nature Reserve saga. And their press report, that went into the North Somerset Times. I do forgive the editor for actually printing what I think is a little bit of a fairy story concocted by Nigel Ashton, who's also obviously the lead player in the fairy story. And there are good guys and the bad guys and the innocent victims, but sadly there's not a fairy tale at the end. And sadly, Nigel Ashton seems to think he's the good guy in all of this. But there are some things that I would like to point out today for people who may not know, having read this report, who might be taken in by Nigel Ashton and this Portbury levy issue.

Before I mention this, can I just mention that anybody who's taken in by Arthur Terry thinking he's on the side of [Avon Wildlife Trust], and the friends of Avon Wildlife Trust, because he led people to believe recently that he was for the levy remaining. Arthur Terry's manifesto before the election, not only did he say that toeing the party line at a local level achieves very little and he accused the present administration of political party, party political involvement. He actually said in a newsletter, "I believe it is time to request North Somerset

	<p>Council to take over the funding of the facility directly from the Council Tax.”</p> <p>He, then, even quotes how much it would cost us in Council Tax. So don't be led astray to think that Councillor Arthur Terry ... sadly, he's not here tonight, but at a previous meeting he, and in fact it's even in the minutes from last year's annual Town meeting, he denied several things; he also denied that some people hadn't paid the levy. I told him that they hadn't, yet he denied it, yet they are now saying that some people hadn't paid the levy. So be really careful what people say to you if they happen to be a Councillor. Because unfortunately, Arthur Terry was a Conservative Councillor, he was a director of Port Marine Management, and I'm not convinced now by anything that he has done to oppose that.</p> <p>So just looking very quickly, and I hope you can bear with me, there's several things in this report that just need to be commented on. The first thing was, that it mentions serious financial errors within the way the reserve was funded have been uncovered by the Council and it fears that unless it steps in, then the site may suffer in the long term. This is all connected to the report that David Pasley is writing. I'm sorry his name keeps cropping up, but sadly he is involved in many issues in Portishead which are not necessarily open or transparent.</p> <p>Now, Port Marine Management, they haven't just existed for eight years, I think it was. They've actually been in existence for 11 years. And the solicitors were involved back in 2011 and 2012 when Nigel Ashton became a director, so this isn't a new thing. It makes it sound like, “Oh, we've got the solicitors involved, and everything's great now, we're going to sort it all out.” They were involved at the time. And what they don't say in this report is the involvement of really crucial directors, one of whom of Port Marine Management was [Carl Haley] who just happens to be a member of Persimmon, also involved in Crest Nicholson. Sadly, that was the man who we have to come up in contention with on the seawall, because he just so happened to be a chairman of the Portbury Sea Wall Commission.</p> <p>Strangely, a lot of money of the Portbury Seawall Commission went to the solicitor, and now we have an article saying, “[Liberata] have looked into everything and, low and behold, the directors are actually directors and they can comment.” We knew that. We knew that they were directors. How much money is Liberata taking, or Liberata, in payment for all of this work they're looking into?</p>
Cllr Cruse	<p>Could I just stop you there Annette. It's nothing to do with what you're saying. Could I ask Geoff if you could open the door at the back, please, because we've got people who are feeling very hot.</p>

<p>Annette Hennessy</p>	<p>Nigel Ashton is Chairman of Port Marine Management, Limited. He's also the leader of North Somerset Council. Yet, he claims he hasn't got a prejudicial interest. He claims he hasn't got a personal interest, and we have tried to challenge that with North Somerset Council. And unlike what they say in the report that nobody has made a complaint ...Yes, they have made a complaint, but strangely North Somerset Council say it's not a matter for the Standards Board and with regard to Nigel Aston's declaration of interest, "Oh, it's a matter for the police!" And so in order to get it investigated, it had to be registered as a crime. Then, after it was investigated by the police, the police then said, "No, this is a matter for the Standards Committee." And so we're going around in circles, so who makes these Councillors accountable, because from what I can see, there's no accountability.</p> <p>Then, we have the report saying that the Council is able to manage this reserve, because it has done since the turn of the year. It can't manage the Lake Grounds, so how can it manage Portbury Nature Reserve? I've mentioned already, it says here "founded in 2008," but by my calculations, that's not 11 years so the date of PMML is not accurate. It mentions Liberata, but what it doesn't say is Liberata is actually PMML's company secretary. They're all based in [Castlewood], which, strangely, is the same base as Nigel Ashton, the leader of North Somerset Council. The whole thing is really worrying. What it doesn't mention is a company called [Remus], and Remus was the original collecting agent who collected the money and then passed it to PMML, who held it in their reserves and didn't spend it all. Well who made that decision that we're going to collect a lot of money from residents and not spend it all?</p> <p>Then, Nigel Ashton, oh I don't actually know who has given him his words, whether it's David Pasley's word or Nigel Ashton's. It says he couldn't possibly have returned the levy that's standing in the reserve funds because we don't know who paid it and who didn't pay it. Well that's strange because I've got a lot of paperwork when we were looking into the sea wall, and they knew exactly who had paid the levy and who hadn't paid it, which why I said to Arthur Terry last year, "People haven't paid yet," and, Arthur Terry denied it. The whole thing just goes on and on.</p> <p>Just to finalise a few extra things. We've talked about the inaccurate contribution that Nigel Ashton says about the reduction of the levy. He's really worried about all those people paying the levy. He wasn't worried about those people paying the levy, nor were any district councillors that I know of, nor town councillors, when the levy payers were paying for the sea wall when that sea wall did not protect their homes from flood! We have a real battle on our hands distributing</p>
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information to the residents. Only after the campaign by the people, not by Councillors, not by directors of PMML or Remus, only then did they take off the portion of levy that was going to the sea wall. That's why the levy was reduced to [inaudible], I don't know if it is less than that now. So again, there's a lot of inaccuracy. I can forgive the editor for not knowing. He's probably unaware of the whole history of this sorry state of affairs.

Then, Mr. Ashton has the cheek to say ...He tells the North Somerset Times that Avon Wildlife Trust was honourable. Yes, they were honourable. What I think is terribly sad, he's saying that merely to make us feel good about Nigel Ashton. I think his conduct has been dishonourable. I wish he was here tonight so he can answer some of the questions.

Then, with regard to transferring the money to North Somerset Council that stands in the reserves of PMML, that would be the most appalling thing I think could ever happen in this area. How can we have a private company, Port Marine Management, holding money, whose chairman is the leader of North Somerset Council, transferring money to North Somerset Council if they take ownership. If that's not a prejudicial interest, I'd like someone to tell me what is. I think the final thing on that is that on the funding issue, there are claims about how much North Somerset Council says PMML has in the bank. I think it's £ 400,000.

Strangely, at the Lake Grounds consultation meeting ... Many of you will remember that one, it's the one where the public were upstairs, but couldn't attend the Town Council private meeting beforehand. At that meeting [Ed McKay] said, "The Nature Reserve came with 13 years of funding." Nigel Ashton then says in the press, "Only 10 years of funding," so for goodness sake, they've already lost three years of levy payers money, before we've even taken ownership. Again we've got a lot of inaccurate material in this paper, not through the fault of the editor, I may add, but because he's had information pedalled to him by Nigel Ashton and North Somerset Council. As a resident, I'm really worried. I don't live on the marina. I don't pay the levy, but that will involve me at some point if the people of Portishead have to pay Council Tax towards it. I don't even know what I feel about that, but at the moment all I feel is they can't maintain our Lake Grounds, how on earth will they be able to maintain our nature reserve? Or Portbury Nature reserve.[crosstalk].

Just to end on a separate matter, I would also like to mention the minutes because when we come into these meetings, it's really hard to read through all the paperwork. I thought that I'd been sent a copy of

	<p>the draft minutes a long time ago, but these aren't the same as the ones I was sent, but there is an error, actually, it says here under my name, and I would like it corrected. I know you've approved the minutes, but I would like the correction noted. It says that what she does recall saying is that, "Avon Wildlife Trust is going to transfer to North Somerset Council." No, that wasn't it. It was the nature reserve. There was talk about that at the time, and also in the minutes it mentions a gentleman called [Chris Gayle], and that man should be [Chris Giles]. That needs to be corrected as well.</p> <p>Finally, when I came in, you very kindly passed me this leaflet on cycleways and pathways in Portishead, or across the area actually. To be honest, I walk and I cycle a lot in Portishead, but I'm very concerned by this map because I don't think it's very clear. I'm more concerned with cycle route number 26 that goes along [Harbour Road] is no longer on the map. I'm not sure why that is. Also, the route that goes through the precinct, we've just campaigned to get those "No Cycling" signs taken down off those lamp posts. The police, luckily ... the North Somerset Council, police support officer helped us out on that. Again, that was done by the people of Portishead, not by Councillors, so another campaign won. There is a blue line which indicates paved area. It does not indicate a shared pathway and it should do. If I was looking at that, there's lots of lovely blue lines, pink lines, pink dotted lines and so on, but that's not a clear map that would help a cyclist know where to go. I would like to know why route 26 isn't on this map in its entirety. Perhaps one of the Town Councillors could take it forward. And I haven't seen a draft of this as a member of the public in any of the Council minutes but if it had been had seen, we could have raised the point.</p>
Cllr Cruse	It was around.
?	I think they actually had it up on one of the noticeboards at one point.
Annette Hennessy	But it was not in the minutes. If people aren't able to come to a meeting, they're not going to see that, are they? It should be a public consultation so people can contribute.
Cllr Cruse	I think we don't wish for a discussion about that now, thank you. [crosstalk]. Have you finished, Mrs. Hennessy?
Annette Hennessy	No, I'm not. No, sorry I'm not. I wish I was, but sadly ... before someone says, "We've heard quite enough from you," as David Oyns always said to me a few years ago, [crosstalk] when I was correcting him on something he was saying that was incorrect. There are just a couple of things that it was mentioned by Ann Townsend on Council last year, about changing public participation. Yes, this Council has discussed it and decided not to do very much. One thing that we have raised year after year ... and it's in minutes, it's in emails. We need a

	<p>way of correcting what this Town Council writes in those minutes before those Town Councils minutes are approved.</p> <p>And I've been raising it for so many years, just bumping my head against the brick wall. At the March meeting, the fact that nothing had been done about it caused quite a lot of consternation. The reason it did, and I'm not going through all the details, but a member of the public had raised an issue and that issue was being denied by Councillor Cruse as Chair of the Town Council. At the April meeting, both me and another resident spoke out and said, "The minutes must be corrected, they are incorrect." The evidence had been sent to the chair at the meeting of the Town Council and to the clerk. Once the evidence has been sent showing that something was incorrect, those minutes must be changed. They cannot be approved. There's got to be a mechanism that minutes can be amended prior to approval, because otherwise you could sit up there at your Town Council meetings, accuse the public of all sorts of things, which, again, has happened this year, people have been called "offensive," not me, personally, but other people. They've had no right of redress because we are told The Town Council word is final.</p> <p>I'm sorry, that's not good enough in Portishead. The Town Council word is not final, because you represent us. And if there is an error, we cannot have minutes going into the archives which will later mislead people for generations and generations. I don't know how we get around this. We can't just say tonight, "Oh, well we'll put that in the minutes. We'll discuss it in another year's time." Because we've been discussing this for years. So can I ask you respectfully tonight, as the Chair, who's actually chair of this Town Council, as well, "How can we make sure that there's a mechanism for people to correct what's in the minutes before they're approved?"</p>
Cllr Cruse	I think we'd have to ask the Clerk that question, because the Clerk is the legal officer of the Council and I am not.
Annette Hennessy	Maybe ask [Jo] [crosstalk] Maybe afterward you would be prepared to answer the question?
Jo Duffy	We need to have a [inaudible]. I think to start with my website needs to function properly, and at the moment we can't load up large size documents or voice recordings, and we're in the process of a working party actually dealing with that issue and seeking new [inaudible] for the website. Hopefully, that will resolve that issue. Then it will be a case of, if the Council are in agreement, loading up the draft minutes as soon as they're written onto the website prior to the next month's meeting. They would have to have "draft" marked on them, so it's clear that they are a draft document. That would give members of the public

	the ability to have a look at them prior to coming to the next Council meeting for approval.
Annette Hennessy	But when it comes to the Council meeting, Jo, with respect, the minutes were approved after public participation. So even when there is an error, we cannot correct it through public participation.
Cllr Cruse	I think you have, Mrs. Hennessy. In fact, you stood up one day and said something was wrong in public participation, and we did change the minutes at your request.
Annette Hennessy	That was at this Annual Town Meeting.
Cllr Cruse	No, it wasn't. It was
Annette Hennessy	We aren't allowed to talk after public participation, Mrs. Cruse [crosstalk]
Cllr Cruse	No, no I didn't say that, Mrs. Hennessy.
Annette Hennessy	Well give me an example.
Cllr Cruse	I can't remember what was actually said, but you sat there and you said, "These minutes are wrong." [crosstalk] at public participation.
Annette Hennessy	Well there we go then. We're not going to debate this, Mrs. Cruse, because [crosstalk]
Jo Duffy	Right, so perhaps the way to resolve that is to actually move public participation in front of the minutes.
Annette Hennessy	Okay, that would be ideal. What a solution. Can we do that?
Jo Duffy	Yes. [crosstalk]
Cllr Cruse	[Crosstalk], no it's not. It's not. The minutes aren't approved [inaudible]
Cllr Cruse	Right, I think that we don't want to dissolve into an argument longer than [inaudible] We've got Mrs. - sorry, I've got your names wrong - [Townsend] to speak now.
Ann Townsend	Hello, I'm [Ann Townsend] and I live in Portishead. I'm picking up on a few things that was mentioned -
Cllr Cruse	Could you just add your road name please? [crosstalk] Thank you.
Ann Townsend	I'm picking up on a few things that was mentioned this evening by Marilyn Koops, Jo Duffy and Geoff Camplin. Both Mrs. Koops and Mrs. Duffy mentioned that they are not experienced at some of the work that they perform. Is that my understanding, Mrs. Koops, that you're not experienced at planning matters [crosstalk] Not an expert.
Marilyn Koops	I do my job well
?	Not an expert.
Ann Townsend	Not an expert.
Marilyn Koops	We work very hard [inaudible] and everything [crosstalk]
Ann Townsend	Can I carry on? It that okay, I'm picking on what you said earlier, and also Mrs. Duffy mentioned about the fact that you're not given that much time to look at the planning applications, et cetera, et cetera. Right let me go now to what Geoff Camplin said, and what Geoff said

was that, "Why don't we draw on the expertise of the local residents within Portishead." You haven't chosen to do that at all, and I will give you an example of why you haven't chosen to do that. Just to remind you of the address that I made: 13th of May, 2015. I started off with, "It would be reasonable to state that public participation witnessed during previous meetings has not always been productive and positive, as one would have hoped.

I'm sure at times it was as uncomfortable for members of the public as it was for Councillors. There was a clear interdependency between the Town Council and members of the public. One cannot exist without the other to be truly effective. I think we all agree on that. It is acknowledged that members of the Council provide a service to the community, and I acknowledge that. Which is not always recognized and is sometimes maligned. It must also be frustrating when members of the public appear ill-informed or combative.

Likewise, members of the public often feel they have no voice, and this year they're particularly poor at that or listened to, or are inconvenient to the running of an otherwise smooth meeting. As always, poor communication is most likely to be a root cause of many of the problems encountered in relationships between public and the Council. To facilitate improvement I ask that the working group, consisting of Councillors and members of the public work together to explore how public participation could be improved to make it a value-adding activity with mutual respect, in a safe and open environment. This is clearly an opportunity for all. We have the option to leave public participation as it is, or to make real improvements for the benefit of all.

At that meeting on the 13th of May, 2015 I ended with, "I now ask all Council members to consider this proposal, and for the Council to provide a full answer at the next Council meeting." That didn't happen. It's not happened since, and I've raised this a number of times since. I now hear tonight from the Chair [Ros Cruse] that it's your prerogative that there's public participation anyway, and I think effectively you said you weren't going to do anything about it.

I'll give an example about the working groups. Now I believe that had the working groups got together with the Councillors, we would have identified the experts within the field, within the residents. And I know a good few and I've only been doing this for a year. Basically, when the planning application comes in, that will affect every single one of us in this Town, being the golf course, or whatever. Then we could have time to look through it, and explore how we're going to raise the issue within that planning application. You see the trouble is that I don't like

	<p>to hear tonight that people like Marilyn Koops and Jo Duffy tell me that there are issues.</p> <p>Yes, there are issues that you guys have done nothing about. I raised this last year, almost a year to the day, and yet nothing's been done. The whole idea is that you've got issue. You've got problems. You're not experts. You are not whatever, lots and lots of excuses. You have the chance to do something about this Mrs. Cruse, and you chose not to do it. Now I believe that had that working group had been allowed to go into fruition, I believe that we could have helped enormously with this. Dr. Camplin's raised it. We have more [inaudible] we identified.</p> <p>You could have told you that this golf course fiasco was not going work, and it was going to cause a lot of problems within the community. It has caused problems because you failed to look at the planning application. You failed to look at it. You failed to actually do anything about it, all of you, Mr. Pasley and Mrs. Koops. You were the ward Councillor, Mr. Pasley, you did nothing about it. You didn't ...No, I won't [inaudible]. This is public participation and I can speak. I know it was you because you were the ward Councillor at the time. Mrs. Koops very kindly got up at the meeting last year, and admitted that she hadn't read it. I was there, and I heard, okay?</p> <p>Now, you've got reasons ...I didn't interrupt you, Mrs. Koops. If you would just bear with me, I'd like to finish. [crosstalk] Fair enough, you do that. All I'm saying is there were lots of ways around the problems that you've all identified tonight, and yet you've chosen not to do anything about it. All you want is the same thing. You want the status quo. You don't actually want any help from the community. You don't want to identify the people that could help, that could assist you when you've got very tight deadlines to meet when you get planning applications. [inaudible]</p>
Holly Shepherdsen	<p>I just got one thing to raise about [inaudible]</p> <p>[Holly Shepherdsen], [Queencote]. I just wanted to raise following on from Ann's point about ...I think you mentioned that you didn't have enough information at the time when you made the decisions, and there were a number of you making the decision together. [crosstalk] Okay, subsequently, information has come into your hands and you would make a different decision now?</p>
Marilyn Koops	<p>[Inaudible]. Yes, if give the information that is available now, [inaudible] information, the decision would have been different. Can I also say there were a number of residents at that meeting, shall I stand up.</p>
Holly Shepherdsen	<p>I'll stop. You start. [inaudible] we have to record it, don't we?</p>

Cllr Cruse	We've got another microphone here.
Marilyn Koops	Okay. [crosstalk] There were a number of residents at that planning meeting. The only issue that was raised by residents was the height of the trees that were proposed by Mr. Stutt to be put in as part of his design of the golf course. That was the only issue that residents raised, and it was people in Nore Road who were concerned about losing their view. That was the only issue that was raised at that meeting by public people at that particular meeting.
Holly Shepherdsen	Is that true?
Marilyn Koops	I've just been looking [crosstalk] No, I've just been trying to find it to find the actual minutes.
Holly Shepherdsen	The only point that I was trying to make is if I didn't have sufficient information for a decision to be made, and I made a decision and subsequently, I was given more information and I reflected on it, and went, "Got more information. I need to change my decision," I would probably publish the fact that my original decision no longer counted because of the new information I've received.
Marilyn Koops	<p>The decision we made was [crosstalk] as is always at any planning meeting. Bear in mind, that we [inaudible] very few members of the public to planning meetings, who are more than welcome. The only time we had a lot of people, I think it was 83 people, was for Battens Orchard up on St. Mary's Road. That's the only time you have a lot of people. Generally speaking, we get one or two residents. Okay, there are sometimes a handful of people, but very rarely. Councillor Cottrell and myself as previous members of chairs of the Planning Committee have welcomed people speaking. If necessary, we have given them longer than the 30 minutes, which is prescribed. Certainly, it wasn't even 30 minutes at the time, but we've always given them time, and far more time than you would get at North Somerset, for example.</p> <p>We had a load of information given to us. All the committee review that information ahead of time. We communicate with one another. As a Chair of the committee, as I was at the time, what we do is we put out the suggestion for whether it's going to be delegated, that means that it's not going to be discussed, or whether it will be discussed.</p> <p>We then ask ...All I have done ...I did this right from the moment that I became Chair of Planning. I, then, asked and requested all other members of the committee to comment, if they felt that my decision was wrong I had delegated, and they have been reversed. No member of the committee [inaudible] actually came to committee. It was agreed by everybody, that we had a lot of people and a lot of Councillors at that meeting, so don't just hang it on me. I was only the chair. The fact is that we all made a joint decision having read the information, having</p>

	looked at the information and the public that were at that meeting, the only concern was about the height of the trees that were going to be put in. Yes, afterwards we had other information come forward. There was at that point, it was requested that the District Councillors address the situation, because at that point it's out of our hands because it's gone to District. We cannot reverse a decision that we have made, that we have sent down to North Somerset.
Holly Shepherdsen	But you could publish that if you were able to.....
Marilyn Koops	At the time, I think it was Christmas in between. I'm probably digging a bigger hole. We had [inaudible] if I could look at actual minutes, which I failed to do, so that I -
Holly Shepherdsen	My only point is that if you do not believe that that decision still stands, in your own mind and that of the committee and that the new information, if it changes your opinion, you could publicly say so.[crosstalk]
Marilyn Koops	Actually the only time that I saw that information was after the North Somerset [inaudible] But, not at that time -
Holly Shepherdsen	We're here today. Now that we're [crosstalk] information has been [inaudible], if you believe that you would make a decision, it is worth saying so.
Marilyn Koops	If we were to have all the information, I'm sure we all would've done, but hindsight is a wonderful -
Holly Shepherdsen	Absolutely.
Marilyn Koops	[crosstalk] and expert opinion.
Cllr Cruse	[crosstalk] May I just interrupt a minute, please? Mrs. Koops is recovering from a serious operation. She has been extremely unwell, and you are lucky that she is even here tonight. I think that it is rather unfair to berate her when she has actually made an effort to be here tonight. Please, Mrs. Townsend, don't smile and dance around [crosstalk] because the lady has actually made an effort to come.
Ann Townsend	[inaudible]
Holly Shepherdsen	Yeah, but we're not berating her.
Cllr Cruse	No, no, you weren't. I know. [crosstalk]
	With respect to the questions, let the lady carry on.
Marilyn Koops	The first part of your thing that you just read out that I was thoroughly appreciated, the fact that you congratulated Councillors, in the [inaudible] suggested that we had a working party. Everything else I totally agreed with. Actually, you were asked whether you would like to come on the Council and you said, "No." [crosstalk] At that point, you could then have directly input that you want to have.
Ann Townsend	I haven't finished yet? [crosstalk]

Is this my [crosstalk] All right, okay, shall I just correct what you just said there about being asked to join the Council. Martyn Cruse phoned me, and he asked me to join the Tory party of the Council. Let's just get that right here and now okay? He asked me to join as a Conservative Councillor, and I declined, okay? What I do in my life is for me ...Mrs. Koops, please don't try and distract the situation here. What I've actually said, and this is the bit that I think has gone wrong over this year, is that if we had had a working group advising residents and Councillors, then I think we'll be able to work together. We could've communicated well, and I think the relationship would've vastly improved.

The trouble is you probably didn't want that. You just wanted the status quo. Why did you want the status quo Mrs. Koops? Would you please answer that for me? You have to admit you've been here, you've been the Vice-Chair. It has not been smooth, has it? We could have improved that as I read out just a moment ago, it was a year ago nearly to the day, that I asked for public participation to be improved. That is right at the heart of the problems that we're having here. If I didn't feel I was being ignored, and I think I speak for an awful lot of people in this room. If I felt I had a voice, there wouldn't have been all the problems that we've had this year.

I write to my Councillor, Councillor refuses to acknowledge my email. I then go to Nigel Ashton's surgery a few days before the election, and he said "Oh, actually, Mrs. Townsend your Councillor doesn't need to respond to you." Now how the hell do you think that makes me feel? My Councillors don't need to respond to me. That has been told to me by the head of North Somerset Council. He is the leader of the Council, and he is encouraging his Councillors not to answer my emails, and not to answer any of my queries. So then, because I'm quite a determined person, I then wrote to the Council Officers. After all, they are the experts, so why don't I get the information from them? So much better than going to a third party anyway.

Questions got a little bit ...not to their satisfaction. You start asking about a landfill, you're start asking about the technical questions, they don't like it. And I think what's happened next, everyone is aware of. That's the problem, you see, the communication broke down a long time ago because we, the residents, your electorate are not being listened to and we feel extremely frustrated. I think I speak for most people in this room.

This is why we have problems with the nature reserve: The communication broke down. That Information was in people's hands,

	and yet they choose not to share it with people. They treated us like we were fools. They thought that we weren't going to ask any questions. They didn't even think we had any intelligence to ask the right questions. We can ask the right questions, and we do ask the right questions. It's not always well received, though, because some people don't want to give you the truth. They don't want you to have the answers. Now I find that quite sad. Our democracy is dying, if not dead, and that worries me quite a lot. Thank you.
	[Crosstalk].
Jean Lord	[Jean Lord], Councillor and I'm actually replying to Mrs. Hennessy. Just for information for all of you, the recreation grants are paid for by the residents, but it's through the Town Councils, where as in Portishead, the residents pay through the special expenses. So they do pay but via a different mechanism. It's something that I just found out how it happens by asking a question at the Lake Grounds consultation. I won't go into it in great detail, but if anybody wants to ask me about it later, they can. [crosstalk] Yes, special expenses is what I'm talking about.
Annette Hennessy	[crosstalk][inaudible], but not through the District Council.
Jean Lord	It's paid through the Town Council. [crosstalk]
Jonathan Mock	Hi, Jonathan Mock, [Windmill Avenue] I've been a resident of Portishead for over 40 years now. First of all, point of order for the minutes, Avon Wildlife Trust did not leave, nor as Councillor Pasley as stated in the press, walk away from Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve. They were forced out because their funding had been removed. Now without funding, what were they supposed to have done? Councillor Pasley thinks it's a dash unsporting for [inaudible] to work for free, perhaps we could ask him to work as an executive member with no income and see how long he sticks to the job. Speaking of whom, it's encouraging to see Councillor Pasley, of course, at Town Council Meeting. His lack of attendance recently has raised concerns that he may have to be added to the RSPB red list of endangered species. Although having read the PWRR report, a preservation order may still be necessary if he stakes his political credibility on that report. Now, given the six month delay in finally getting the report, I would say it comes across as being written on the back of a fag packet, except a fag packet contains a warning of factual substance. In this instance the report should carry a warning that should read, "Caution may contain heavy bias, errors, incomplete and inaccurate information. Dispose of carefully, may harm wildlife." Because by the wording of the report, Portbury Wharf, it seems, is no longer a nature reserve. It's a recreational resource. This subtle change of branding is alarming at best, and insidious at worst. That the report needs calling in to scrutiny

is obvious. Frankly, they're so much wrong with it, it needs binning and rewriting. I would say throw it on the compost heap but I am fussy about what I put on my tomatoes. Now I'm not going to cover line by line commentary on what's wrong with the report, because we all want to go home tonight. But the report gets off to a great start by mentioning the people who are refusing or are unhappy to pay the levy.

Nigel Ashton was on Radio Bristol claiming that he got hundreds of letters for support for scrapping the levy. No substantiation though, it's been asked for but nothing was forthcoming. The one piece of actual evidence was PMML's own figures that showed a 90% collection rate, better than North Somerset Council's own council tax, but this was left out of the report. North Somerset Council say that only 13 complaints were received, that is 0.65% of the total levy paying residents. That's a piece of information from the North Somerset Council that was left out of North Somerset Council's own report.

We're told the levy was unsustainable. If the levy is unsustainable, then what does that make our Council tax? If PMML was poorly run, what do we make of a County Council with an £11 million of unpaid Council tax, but also gives away valuable assets like a Winter Gardens for a pound? In the report the Council says it has a proven track record of looking after green spaces. A cynic may look at the Lake Grounds and its toxic algae outbreak. In fact, the algae was becoming such a regular resident by the Lake Grounds, it's in danger of being charged Council tax.

Here is the problem: The public were told, that there will be no comment before the report was published. Now it seems there will be no comment after the report is published. In fact, a long time observer may think that the only time some of our Councillors are willing to talk is when someone sticks a microphone in front of them. Trying to get answers right now should be considered an Olympic sport. For example, PMML is not a full time company, it's an odd Brigadoon-like creation that exists when the directors come together, then vanishes into the mist in between.

PMML minutes say Liberator were appointed as the company secretary, the point of contact. Liberator say, "Speak to PMML or Nigel Ashton."

Nigel Ashton's PA says, "Speak to the Liberator." Liberator say they cannot comment. [David Turner's] open letter of September, 2015, promised an open and transparent process, but his letter has since gone missing as part of North Somerset Council's migration to the new website. A letter about openness and transparency goes AWOL. And

PMML is an organization with problems. Thus far, honest and fair questions asked of Councillor Pasley, Liberata, Councillor Ashton, North Somerset Council offices remain unanswered. There is a deadline for public comments, but how are the public supposed to make informed comments if they do not have the replies they require?

Now, Portishead residents would hope that they will be consulted as part of the process. In fact, it was promised, but they were not. One would expect that Portishead Town Council would be consulted as part of the report, but none of the Councillors with levy-paying residents were apparently consulted. In fact, trying to find out anything, you begin to wonder if people are better off writing to Mystic Meg or indeed [inaudible]. The questions are, of the many questions, why didn't Nigel Ashton declare his interest in PMML in his 2013 to 2015 term? It's a fair question. Who were the directors the report claims were not properly appointed? Was Nigel Ashton one of them? If he wasn't properly appointed, then did he have the legal authority to send this letter that kick-started this whole process.

Now his letter said it was being clear about being clear that the levy will be scraped upon North Somerset Council's ownership of Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve, not upon publication of the letter. And yet the levy was not collected in the last year. Why? Who gave the order to scrap the levy and at what date? When it appears to be in total contradiction of the very clear comments made by Councillor Ashton in his letter.

Because by prematurely ending the levy, rather than waiting for North Somerset Council to take ownership, as outlined in the letter. Did that not also mean that Avon Wildlife Trust would be forced out early? There may be very good and reasonable answers to these questions, but no answers are forthcoming. We've had a year of unanswered questions. The deadline for comments is this Friday. The questions remain. Now we live in an era now where these questions will not go away. Social media means the public can be well-organized.

Now last week on Radio Bristol, Councillor Ashton requested that the so-called friends of Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve in a snide and dismissive tone. These are Councillor Ashton's taxpayers, these are his residents, his electorate. They're not politically motivated other than by default, they have to unfortunately deal with politicians. And here's the problem, the answers are out there, and it would be nice if our Councillors were as proactive in representing the concerns of Portishead residents as they are in promoting North Somerset Council's drive for people to volunteer for [Glendale], a profit-making Council contractor.

	<p>The question I'd like to ask our Councillors is this: You are here to represent us, you are here to help us, you are here to serve us. If the public are misinformed, is it any wonder? That's not a failure on their part, that's a failure on your part. If there's a funny smell, some of the Councillors should check their shoes first. I'll leave you with this: <u>How can anybody be enlightened if the truth is so poorly lit?</u> [crosstalk]</p>
<p>Cllr Cruse</p>	<p>It's ten to ten now, I think it's time that we wind up, unless somebody else wishes to speak.</p>
<p>Geoff Hardman</p>	<p>I'll make it short and sweet. Geoff Hardman, High View. First of all to Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Davey, thank you for all your hard work on the golf course. If it wasn't for you I'd probably be playing golf on some dustbins, dustbin black bags so thank you. Some of you ... there's a lot of new faces here that I haven't seen before. I would ask all the Town Councillors to stand up, but they're a bit shy and retired, certainly shy. They do work hard and they do try their best, however over the past couple of years the communication and the mistrust between the public and the Town Council is getting wider and it needs to be addressed. We need to look at how we can merge the two for the benefit of Portishead Town, not for one's own ego.</p> <p>Another issue which the Town Councillors may not know about because they don't come down the M5 at 17:30 or 18:00 in the evening. I for my sins work in Cardiff, 53 miles from my door to door. Before [inaudible] I hit the M49/M5 junction in 40 minutes; for the last five and a half miles, it takes me 25 minutes because of the traffic. Now why is the traffic there? The traffic is there because we have one ambition in this town, and it is to build loads more houses, no infrastructure. There are no schools planned. Last year there was a meeting about High Down, where the District Council agreed to build two new classrooms. In the paper it says two, at the moment it's just one plus a new office block.</p> <p>But the District Councillors, the Town Councillors, the Head Teacher, and some of the Governors were told not to say anything to the public. It then became apparent on a Wednesday on a Town Council meeting, which is most unfortunate because [inaudible] went on site on the Tuesday before. We need to address these issues. We need to build infrastructure. We need to build schools for the young ones, because of more and more young families here. We need to build businesses more shops, more recreation. At the moment, there's the school, Gordano, which has some facilities for the kids, there is the Youth Centre which doesn't cater for all ranges.</p> <p>That's all there is, nothing much else for our kids to do. So please, let's find a way of working together to make this place a better place. Finally to Jo, Sharon and all the Council Clerks: thank you for your</p>

	<p>hard work, they do work hard, they do work long hours and they do take a lot of stick. But they work very hard so thank you. Thank you everybody.</p>
Cllr Cruse	<p>It is now time to conclude the meeting. Sorry whose hand is that? [crosstalk] He hasn't spoken, so I suppose ... I do want to wind up by ten o'clock.</p>
Cllr Oyns	<p>Hello. Hi, I'll be as quick as I can. [Councillor David Oyns] and [Lake Road]. A couple of things I just want to mention straight away. There was a mention on the golf course that none of the Councillors actually did a great deal, that was what was kind of mentioned. I did actually try and help with the Village Green application. I also visited the golf course and I respect what they tried to do and I'm delighted that the golf course is going to remain in perpetuity, which I actually think it would have done anyway at that is there to be found by later generations.</p> <p>Okay, with regard to the skate park I have to respond to this. First of all I will make it absolutely clear and I am not, repeat not apologising for this in any way, shape or form. I do believe that Lake Grounds is not a place for a large skate park. I say that, that is my opinion and I believe that I am entitled to my opinion, so that is my opinion. Now on the Council there are a number of members, who actually support the provision of a skate park on the Lake Grounds. I completely respect that, I count them as my friends so I hope they still are, but the difference is that I seem to be able to remain friends, while actually disagreeing with them, and I think that that's such an important thing but I feel that's being lost somewhere.</p> <p>The comment about "not in anybody's backyard", that was meant to be and I'm pretty sure I put it over properly, but maybe I didn't, I don't know. But I would like to say, "not in anybody's backyard," was my reference to the fact that, something like that should not impinge on any residents. We should be able to find a place in this town, in the town boundaries where a skate park would not affect any residents, and at the moment, as soon as I joined the Council I immediately started looking for sites. And I intend to do so, despite the fact that there are some people for some reason, think that as a Councillor I'm not actually allowed to do it. I'm Chair of 'Rec and Works', Recreation and Works, and as far as I'm concerned I will continue to look for a suitable skate park.</p> <p>Okay, now I do understand and this was as a resident, I repeat this was as a resident, not a Councillor with privy to information held by the Council. I understand that what happened with the application by the PSP, for planning permission, I understand and I'm expecting to be corrected immediately, that I believe that planning permission was at</p>

	first refused. Then I understand that when it was decided to go again on appeal to planning permission, I understood the PSP was told that it was unlikely, very unlikely, that the land owners would agree to the skate park on that site.
Annette Hennessy	Wrong
Cllr Oyns	Okay
Annette Hennessy	You said that year after year Mr. Oyns. It's getting beyond the joke. You cannot stand there [crosstalk].
Cllr Oyns	Can I finish?
Annette Hennessy	No, you cannot. You cannot mislead the public. No it's ridiculous
Cllr Oyns	No
Mr. Rigby?	[Inaudible]
Annette Hennessy	No, well you're his conservative friend Mr. Rigby, you are bound to support him. You cannot stand there and tell lies.
?	[crosstalk]
Cllr Cruse	I think we don't need this argument, thank you.
Annette Hennessy	We've had enough of your lies [inaudible]
Cllr Cruse	Mrs Hennessy you have had your say, let Councillor Oyns have his say, please.
Annette Hennessy	Not if he is telling lies, Mrs Cruse, you cannot allow it.
?	You're out of order, I think [crosstalk]
Annette Hennessy	No, I'm sorry, you cannot have people telling lies – and you're a Tory as well.
Cllr Cruse	Out of respect [inaudible] I voted for [inaudible] skate park on the Lake Grounds, thank you
Andrew Koops	[crosstalk] just because she's Tory doesn't mean I'm Tory does it?
Annette Hennessy	We can't have people telling lies in a public meeting
Andrew Koops	Other people have been telling lies in this room
Annette Hennessy	Who has?
Andrew Koops	Oh shut up
Annette Hennessy	Who has?
Ken Smith	Hey, hey, hey you can cut that out for a start
Cllr Cruse	Right, if we're not going to ...
Cllr Oyns	May I continue?
Cllr Cruse	You may continue, if you are interrupted again I'm going to bang the gavel and that will be the end of the meeting.
Cllr Oyns	That would be a pity because there are some things I do want to say. Okay, I have been ... it's been said on occasions that there was a

	survey taken of the local residents to see whether or not, they were for or against a skate park on the Lake Grounds. I went around as part of a group of people that were very concerned, as indeed people were with regard to the golf course. It was a very similar thing. I went around with a survey, and I was extremely careful not to indicate whether I was for or against the skate park.
Annette Hennessy	You are the very problem of this town, Mr. Oyns, you're telling lies.
Cllr Cruse	Mrs. Hennessy, that is enough. That is enough.
Annette Hennessy	No, I'm interrupting because he's telling lies. You cannot stand there as a Town District Councillor telling lies.
Cllr Cruse	That's it. End of the meeting – I'm sorry I'm not prepared to go on. Everyone else. Thank you very much for coming the rest of you, and I'm sorry ...
Cllr Oyns	I would appreciate it if you stayed Mrs. Hennessy and listened to me.
	[crosstalk]

Signed

Date