

**MINUTES OF THE PORTISHEAD RESIDENTS ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY MAY 8th 2019 AT 19:30 IN THE FOLK HALL, PORTISHEAD**

Note : These minutes were compiled from a voice recording only, so unless the speaker gave their name audibly, not all of the speakers could be identified. If you made a comment and your name has been omitted, this will be corrected at your request.

Present :

Approximately 100 members of the public.

Apologies : Mark White, Steve Temple, recently elected District Councillors who were currently at a meeting in Weston, but would attend later.

The meeting was opened by the Town Clerk. She explained that the Chairman of the outgoing Town Council was unable to attend but had written a statement congratulating the new council and wishing them well for the future. He felt that his presence tonight might have inhibited discussion. The outgoing Vice Chairman was also unable to attend but wished everyone a successful meeting.

The Clerk asked for nominations to chair the meeting. Paul Maltby was proposed and seconded, and his appointment was confirmed by a vote. The Chairman stated that anyone who speaks would have their names put on the minutes unless they expressly requested not to. He clarified that the meeting was a people's meeting, not a Council meeting. The next Town Council meeting would be held the following week, where again everyone was welcome to attend and put their point of view. If anyone wanted a specific questions to be dealt with by the Council it may be more appropriate to present it at the Council meeting. There would be no time limit, within reason, for people to speak tonight.

He also stated that there were no Councillors present as those who had just been elected were still Councillors in waiting. So all present were there as members of the public. However, if anyone wanted to ask a question of one of the Councillors in waiting, could they say so, and he would ask if any one of them was able to answer. He also said that as Chairman he would not vote on any proposal, although he could make a casting vote if necessary.

The Chairman asked all councillors in waiting to briefly present themselves but he would not allow any political speeches. The following introduced themselves to the meeting & thanked the public for voting for them : Caz Goddard, Janet Davey, Tanya Slatter, Bob Cartwright, Ben Aldridge, Polly Shepperdson, Paddy Sterndale, Bob Bull and Sue Mason.

The Chairman informed the meeting that it was being live-streamed and people watching from home could also submit questions to the meeting.

The Chairman asked the meeting to approve the minutes of the Portishead Residents Annual meeting held on May 30th 2018 and the Special meeting held on November 6th 2018.

Re. the meeting on May 30th 2018:

- Ann Townsend : It was queried why the minutes are not verbatim. The Clerk said that she was not the Portishead clerk at the time, and all she knew was that the external minute taker did not produce verbatim minutes.
- Annette Hennessey : Wanted recorded that the revised Town Council minutes of the meeting held on May 9th 2018 have never been made available. There were errors in the published minutes which should have been corrected. The Chairman said that in the minutes of May 30th it says that the minutes of May 9th were briefly discussed, and it was agreed that they would be signed off.

- It was agreed by a majority vote that the minutes of May 30th 2018 should be signed off.

Re. the meeting on November 6th 2018:

- There were no comments on these minutes, therefore the Chairman proposed that they should be agreed as correct and signed accordingly.
- It was agreed by a majority vote that the minutes of May 30th 2018 should be signed off.

The meeting then moved on to the residents' forum.

The Chairman had received one comment in advance as the person could not attend the meeting, which he proposed to deal with first.

Mark White proposed the removal of the parking bays adjacent to Lloyds Bank opposite the bus stop at the bottom of Combe Road. This would improve the safety of the crossing and cars exiting from the car park behind Lloyds Bank. It would also ease congestion in the High Street between the two roundabouts.

- The Chairman proposed that this should be discussed at the next Recreation & Works Committee meeting.
- Lyn Morrissey said that this had been discussed before, and for some reason unknown to her had not been done. She believed that most residents would think it a very sensible idea.
- Sue Mason said that the problem arose after the zebra crossing was put in, and agreed that the parking spaces should be removed, but believed this was a North Somerset Council issue.
- It was proposed that this should be referred to the Town Council.
- The matter had been discussed previously with the police, who agreed that it was dangerous, but North Somerset Council did not agree.
- There were limited parking spaces in the Town Centre as it was, with people parking in inappropriate places, so the study should also look at the wider issue of parking. If parking spaces were to be removed, we should look at other options to provide more parking.
- The issue was not parking, the issue was with the buses. If they were early, they parked there until it was time to move. He had asked the bus companies if they could move their breaks to higher up Avon Way. He had experienced five buses all waiting there as they were all early.
- Agreed. If the buses were not stopped at that point, there would be ample room for the two way traffic.
- This should be discussed with First Bus, who have until now said they will not move their waiting place.
- It was agreed that this should be taken up by the Recreation & Works Committee.

Colin Howells from the Portishead Railway Group: I welcome the new Town and District Councillors in waiting. Funding has been secured to re-open the railway line between Portishead and Temple Meads for passenger trains. There is still a lot of work to be done, but it is hoped that now the funding is in place, real progress can be made. The scope of the project has been agreed and the Development Consent Order is about to be submitted, and hopefully approved. While it may be tempting to want to make changes, any changes at this stage could cause serious delays and possibly serious unintended consequences. I hope to be able to count on support for the railway from all Councillors to ensure the project keeps moving forward. Should any councillors feel they need more information on the latest position, Portishead Railway Group would be only too happy to meet with them and to fill in any gaps in their knowledge on any aspect of the project. Important decisions need to be made in the

coming weeks, and it is vital that these decisions are not delayed so that the project can be delivered in a reasonable timescale.

Ann Townsend read out a statement for consideration by the new Council. She said: I am proud on behalf of the local community and the part they played in the local elections. The issues were put before you, you listened and took action at the ballot box. This is an historic time for us all, and we are finally at the stage when the residents will drive the agenda. My congratulations to Portishead Independents who not only ran a positive campaign, they also did their own fundraising. I would like to formally table a list of unresolved issues for our new Council to consider. First and the most important is communication. A plan is needed to significantly improve how the residents and Council communicate and share views. The existing public participation section within Council meetings has failed. Residents' views need to be treated with respect and new ideas need to be explored and not ignored because they do not fulfil a political objective. I request that as part of the overall communication plan, the new Council puts in place an open and transparent system whereby the residents are able to communicate rapidly and easily. One such tool to gather residents' feedback is SurveyMonkey and I am sure others are also available. Second point, neighbourhood plan. I probably do not need to tell anyone in this room of the importance of this plan. I know that this was a talking point when out canvassing residents' views. I am sure that I am not alone at finding it extremely frustrating to constantly read in our local paper how other towns in our area are getting their plan signed off and potentially having our money directed towards them. This will bring huge financial benefits to Portishead. Third, monitoring. I believe that Portishead residents would like to know how all our dual-hatted independent Councillors vote at North Somerset Council. This has been a bone of contention for years. In the interests of openness and transparency, I think feedback on this should be a regular agenda item. Next one – finances. I request that the new Council provide an independent and audited statement of account so that there can be no doubt for the residents about our local funds. Finally, I would like to understand the current legal status of the land also known as Portishead Golf Course and what the ground maintenance plan will be. I hear the rumours, but I would prefer the facts. And finally can we please rid ourselves of this Life magazine. This has come up time and again. This used to cost us £250,000 a year. Goodness knows what it costs now.

Michael Johnston: I congratulate the New Council, and note that there was not a Tory in sight. I want to talk about the precept as Chairman of the Gordano Civic Society. Civic Societies throughout the land have a motto which says 'we care about where we live', as do all of us. The precept in Portishead has been continually eroded over the last twelve years. Comparing Portishead with our two neighbouring large towns, Clevedon & Nailsea, the population of Portishead is roughly 28,000, and our precept is about £295,000, Nailsea, population about 16,000 has a precept of £471,000, almost double ours, and Clevedon, population about 22,000 has a precept of £357,000. So we are right down at the bottom, and even back in 2009 our precept was £304,000. We need to get this higher. The voluntary groups in Portishead do a fantastic job, but money could be spent on a lot of other things to up our game. Some of the following are perhaps in the hands of North Somerset Council, but I don't see why we can't as a Council here get some of them done. For example, just outside here we have a zebra crossing. There are two signs, one in each direction, warning vehicles of a new zebra crossing ahead. They've been there for years, get rid of them, it's street clutter, we don't need these things. The pedestrian crossing in the High Street by the Post Office. It's almost worn away. Why don't they hire a white lining gang to come in and repaint the pedestrian crossing? It's getting dangerous. The cycle track through the Vale and Heron Gardens, you can hardly see the line down the middle. All these things can be done. Hopefully the Council will up the precept in February next year. I was also delighted to see the new map here this evening. Myself and two rangers were responsible for that map and our thanks go to the Town Council and North Somerset Council for providing funds to publish it and perhaps over the next four years we could get some new cycleways put out through Gordano Valley towards the Avon cycleway at

Clapton-in-Gordano and maybe enhance the cycling facilities to help families and young children to gain the confidence to cycle on our roads.

Lyn Morrissey: I welcome the new Council and would like to encourage them to champion the green belt which surrounds the town and I am hoping to see action. I live on the Bristol Road so for the past several years I and other residents have tried to keep an eye on the development potential that was highlighted by members of the past council and outside developers. I also support no development on the fields below Weston Bigwood, places on Sheepway, places on Portbury Hundred. I think it is necessary for the Town to fight all development on the green belt so we don't sprawl out onto the Gordano Valley. I believe North Somerset Council recently had an inkling that land owners and potential developers were invited to put forward what land they need for building. I was glad to see that Bristol Road was not one of those. I think that those areas are safe for the next four years, but I would like them to remain safe for the future. On Bristol Road in particular, we have the problem that our B class road is used as a bypass for any problems on the motorway. North Somerset Council have promised to resurface the road this year, I know it's in their plans and I know they've done some survey work to see how far down they have to go to get a good level of build-up. I don't believe they've done surveys to minimise any sinking and if they're not going to do that then I don't think it's right that HGVs should come through there. Mr Burden in his manifesto wanted to restrict the size of vehicles allowed to come along there and I hope the new Council would support that. Other issues on Bristol Road include the pavements, lack of crossings and so on. The Council are also moving towards getting a 20mph limit at least near the school, as residents are not able to get out of their cars, not able to get across the road, not able to get the children across the road to school, not able to get across to the football pitches. I think 20mph would be a good thing to have right the way down there if possible, and I would like the new Council to help us with all these endeavours.

David Cook: I would like to congratulate the new Councillors on their appointment. I have a question which I don't expect them to answer now. Could they, as soon as they are reasonably able to, let us know what their plans are for future expenditure and what they see as the future level of the town precept.

Eleanor Williams: I have a request to make to the new Councillors. That they have a look at the issue of parking on Newfoundland Way where it causes problems for the buses getting through, and potentially also emergency vehicles, and also look with First Bus at re-instating the bus service around the Village Quarter and the marina. I know that the previous North Somerset Council painted the yellow lines and Mr Pasley told me that they had done that, but it doesn't seem to have solved the issue because there are still buses not able to get through, there are still cars parking badly and I've not known any action taken against cars that are poorly parked. We need a traffic warden down there to ticket cars to stop this.

John S Clark: Portishead Skate Park - I suspect that most if not all of the new councillors are not aware of the past situation there. Some years ago, the council was approached to look into the question of a skate park. A sub-committee was formed, a lot of money was raised, a professional was engaged and produced a design which sited a skate park between the promenade and the lake. It went to North Somerset Council, where it was turned down. The principal opponent was then Councillor Pasley. It went to appeal, the officer turned down the objection, it went back to North Somerset Council and they turned it down on Landlord's permission. They wouldn't give Landlord's permission. That's how it stands. My interest is that I was chairing the sub-committee back in 1990 something and I'd like to see this Council pick it up and run with it and succeed where I failed. Then Councillor Cameron, one of the opponents of the scheme is quoted as saying 'I do not believe in supporting poppies'. That was typical of some of his comments.

The Chairman recognised the hard work Mr Clark had put into the skate park project and thanked him for his input.

Ken Smith: I am a Tory but also a democrat and I congratulate the Independents for winning the elections. I saw your man on the television. He was asked one question. What are your policies? He went off into his gobbledegook, which he's been doing for the last eighteen months. I've no idea what it means, I hope the people who voted for the Council know because I'm blown if I do. The first thing you've got to do is deliver the infrastructure for this town before you allow any more building. Enough's enough. You start talking about infrastructure. What are you talking about? What actually needs to be done? It's a big word, infrastructure. Break it down. Tell us what actually has to be done, and then you'll may be able to get some proper planning for the housing building. Since I've been here from 86 I've not recognised the place. It's absolutely terrible, especially when I drive around. So you've certainly been talking the talk, it's now time to start walking the walk. Be clear what you're going to do. About the precept, we can look forward to the Independents hitting your pocket.

Geoff Hardman: Congratulations to Town and District Councillors on winning your seats. Your work doesn't start now, it started last Saturday. I hope you've been doing a lot of research and a lot of reading because you've got a lot to learn, policies, procedures, what you can and can't say etc. Good luck on that. There are things you have to do. There are people who will be asking you to spend some money. The only problem you have at the moment is that the last council slashed the amount of money they could get from North Somerset by taking money out of other funding areas, so there's not much money in the kitty. To quote a phrase, there's nothing left in the till. Regarding the comments on WASP, I am still co-chairman of WASP and I've had another meeting earlier on tonight. We are looking at different avenues and we will come up with a few ideas, and we've approached one or two other companies. We will keep you updated on that. The plan is still to go ahead and get a Wheels & Skate Park. Good luck to everybody. For the Town councillors who haven't attended previous meetings, you're in for a culture shock. Remember you've been voted by the people of this town to be Town Councillors, not Councillors. Treat it as an honour. Do not disgrace the title. Good luck to everybody and I hope it is a good, smooth four years. Hopefully the desecration of this town can be reversed.

Annette Hennessey: I am happy for my name to be in the minutes. Mine is very quick because this is probably the first people's meeting I've come to for many years when I've walked through the door, and it feels as if a cloud has been lifted off our town. We had to endure a lot of party politics, and that is with utmost respect to some of the people here like Sue Mason who is still representing a political party. But things haven't always been great even from that party. But to know that people in this Council and at District level, who don't represent party politics is a relief to me. I feel as if our town is moving forward and our town is safe from some of the dishonesty that we have had over the last few years. I am not going to name names because I think most people know who has conducted the unsavoury behaviour and who hasn't perhaps been as open, honest and transparent as they should have been. It's been quite an ordeal coming to some meetings trying to ensure that we get the facts out, and it's been very difficult. I'd like to think now we're moving forward, and above all I feel that we can move forward and know that at least Councillors will be open, honest and transparent. If they're not then we'll hold them to account as much as we would the party politicians that were here for the last twenty years. The last twelve years in particular have been awful under this Council and I do feel that Portishead has lost vital facilities because of party politics. We've had to correct so much information. In fact one time I did bring a sack truck into this hall with information on it piled high, and said to the Councillors, if you don't know the facts, please ask me for them because I can give them to you, particularly on the skate park. Yet we still heard meeting after meeting, inaccurate information. I don't care who is in charge of our town as long as they speak the truth and as long as they're honest and that's all we can hope for. I don't expect the new Councillors to be able to do everything that is asked of them. They're not going to have the

time to put right all the wrongs, but I do feel confident that they'll go forward with a new breath of fresh air, and they'll go through honestly and that's all I can ask of them. If they get something wrong, as long as they say we've got that wrong and we'll try and do better next time, that's all we wanted from the last Councillors. So good luck to you all, I do feel that you've saved Portishead. We are the best town in the world. We've got our town back again, and I just hope that progresses over the next few years. With regard to the skate park, John S Clark who spoke did wonderful work on the skate park along with Liese Stanley, and a lot of other members. Liese Stanley is still fighting now for the skate park with Portishead, as is WASP who Geoff represents along with Ben Aldridge. I feel now that we've got different Councillors, hopefully we can go forward on that honestly and democracy can be restored because we have to remember that before, one site did get planning permission and it was turned down for political reasons on landlord's consent and all their work went down the pan and it was so sad that that happened. The only other thing I would say on the skate park, please support Geoff Hardman and WASP, and I feel that if everybody supports them then we could see real progress and if it does come to fruition, I really feel that Liese Stanley should open it because that lady did not stop her hard work over the years. I think it's over ten years now that it's been going on, seventeen years from the time this Town Council said they would provide a second large central skate park, which is why you see that on the signs on my car. Seventeen years is a long time to wait for the youth of this town who are now grown up. Hopefully now we can all move forward on this subject. Not everybody wants a skate park, not everybody wants double yellow lines. People are going to debate it and want their views heard, as long as we all listen. The final thing I would say on the skate park, I have been made aware of some comments on social media. It's not always a good forum because those people don't always put their voice out at meetings such as this, but they hide behind the screen and they make comments about people, and some people have made comments about Liese Stanley and her good work on the skate park. Some people feel they know better than others. There'll always be people in this town who've got more experience than other people, some people have more knowledge, but if we all work together surely that's a good thing. I feel it was very sad that pre-election, two people were saying various things on the skate park as to where they wanted it and where they didn't want it, because that worked in with the politicians they were working along with. Post-election, they're saying something different. I don't want that type of thing for Portishead. I like to think that people are consistent and honest. If they think one thing then go with it. I've had my views changed quite often. Sometimes I don't always see things as they should be seen and I have had my mind changed, but I'll be honest and say I was wrong on that and I'll put it right and I'll move forward. The other thing I saw on the internet this week was someone saying 'Independent Councillors, I hope you put everything right now, you need to do this and you need to do that'. We cannot expect the new Councillors to do everything, and we can still do so much ourselves. We have Portishead open air pool. Roger Whitfield is here who originally was part of that group who saved the pool. That was down to the people. Portishead in Bloom is down to the people. Even the parking and the Bristol Road, Lyn Morrissey. I can pinpoint lots of people in this hall who are not political but they do so much for our town. If we all do that and when we have a problem, take accountability yourself and try and do something. By all means contact your Councillor, but try and do something yourselves because we can't leave it to just the Independent Councillors, we've got to do it ourselves as well. I feel now we can all work together, and next Wednesday it will be a pleasure walking through that door to a Town Council meeting with the cloud lifted, knowing that at least we're moving forward as a town. We haven't got that party political nonsense dragging our town down and anybody who's read the media over the last few years will know how bad it's got. I'm pleased and I think that Portishead is pleased by the election. I think we all need new beginnings.

Chairman: A quick point. That design for the skate park was very expensive, it was a well-designed, professional job, and I wouldn't be surprised if that still resides in North Somerset's planning files.

Dave Chillistone: I'm also a member of the Portishead Railway Group Committee, but that isn't what I wanted to speak about. Firstly, congratulations to all those who have been elected. It is a breath of fresh air. I fully agree with that. However, picking up a number of points around the room, and I don't want to centre on just the skate park, important as that is, one of the responsibilities of any competent Town Council is to serve all the people within the town including those who can't vote. The average age of the population of the town has sunk. Many of us in this room are old compared with the average of the population, but a town dies if it doesn't carry its young people with it. When you look around this town the amount of facilities that are targeted to the young people is woefully inadequate. For a town of about 28,000 getting on for 30,000 the amount of money that is put aside for facilities for young people is inadequate. We heard from Ann about the need for open accounting. I absolutely agree. Let's broaden the audited accounting to include that amount of money that is due to the town that is being spent in other towns. Let's have that out there on the table, because one of the ways to move opinion outside of the Town Council, and I'm talking about North Somerset Council is the embarrassment factor. Use it please Councillors to show up what is going wrong. About the precept in the town, for a town this size it is woefully inadequate. It's money that could be used for the benefit of the town for everybody.

Dennis Small: Does the planning permission for the skate park still exist?

Chairman: No. I believe it expired after two years...some discussion as to whether it was two, three or four years.

Ben Aldridge: Planning permission, unless otherwise specified is effective for three years. Any extension is down to the discretion of the relevant bodies. The permission for the skate park is gone, so we do have to go through the whole planning process again, which I agree will cost money. But we must be positive and see what we can do.

Jeff Lucas; I'd like to support the speaker who said that we have to confront the problem of the ludicrously low rate of precept for Portishead. Nobody likes paying their taxes, but I think we do have to recognise that they are something that we have to pay to live in a civilised and pleasant environment.

Ray Shields: Can I just pick up some of the points that have been raised about traffic. Just down the road from here is the junction between High Street and Brampton Way. This is an exceedingly difficult junction, because it's got a mini roundabout and a lot of people use this. I live on Brampton Way and coming out of Brampton Way is extremely hazardous because people drive straight down the High Street without any consideration for that junction. The other one is the Harbour Road area near to the roundabout, at the junction with Quays Avenue and Phoenix Way, there is a problem with traffic and car parking near the Health Centre. I'm involved with Portishead Porters and we have to drive in and out of the Health Centre, and with the number of cars parked there it is extremely difficult with all the cars and lorries going along towards Waitrose. It causes immense difficulty there. I wondered if that could be looked at.

General discussion about the number of cars parked on the pavement, and to what extent they are breaking the law if at all depending on the width of the pavement.

Adrian Bailey: There were 16 cars parked along the pavement in that area, so that is an issue. That problem also occurs in Channel View Crescent, which is virtually a car park all the way along the footpath, along Channel View Road through to the top of Avon Way. There is very little sign of any enforcement of anybody.

Michael Rowland: Channel View Crescent is just one example. West Hill, the buses have trouble. It's not confined to the Village Quarter and the Marina. It's all over and there is no sign of any enforcement from any quarter.

Kevin Last: I lived on Martingale Way close to the restaurant Aqua, soon to be released I guess is the Portishead prison. The parking there is only going to get worse. There's a planning application in for the land next to Aqua for 27 apartments, with minimal parking which I think is ludicrous, it's only going to create more and more disruption and more and more parking issues. The whole parking issue in terms of yellow lines, where you can and can't park needs to be sorted.

Lyn Morrissey: About the railway, this was part of the infrastructure carrot for all of the development we've had so far, so I feel we ought to be strong about the fact that if, sorry, when, the railway is going to be in use it's not an excuse for more development. It's a catch up. So all the houses and the flats and everything have been built on the promise of the railway, and that will get us to the status quo. So I think it needs to be given time to embed and it needs to be monitored to see how successful it is or it isn't and if it's actually going to bring more cars along Bristol Road because people will be coming from Clevedon hopefully to use the railway. So our problem is not going to go away, if anything it will increase. We don't want stuff built because it's there.

Anon: The issues with law enforcement from previous Town Council meetings is that they're only going to come up here if they're going to make some money, so they're going to stick to Clevedon & Weston where they charge people for double parking and stuff like that, so that's one battle we have to overcome. Regarding limited car parking spaces on Channel View Crescent, and West Hill which is a problem for buses. We have also got really silly planning applications. For those of you who are not familiar where Solelution is, there is a drive with a car wash where there is a plan to build twelve flats with spaces for 9 bicycles only. The law states that if it's on the High Street, they don't need planning permission for cars, so where do people park. So we're limited to Stoke Road, we're limited to the High Street, we've got two on Combe Avenue which people are now talking about dispensing with although it's the responsibility of the buses to move somewhere else. So all these things we've got to contend with. One of my main concerns, whoever gets into North Somerset is that they might put public car parking spaces as pay and displays, and I will publicly jump off a great height to make sure that does not happen. Regarding the surgery, one option is that where there are cars parking on the main road is to widen the road but then you're encroaching into a potential railway car parking area. But if you widen that road there into two lanes plus parking, because there are not enough car parking facilities around the back of the doctor's surgery, and there never will be. It's not going to happen.

Chairman: one comment from Slido from Tim: Can we agree a master plan for future development including CIL payments to be made and delivered prior to work commencing on site.

Janet Davey: CIL is Community Infrastructure Levy and it's a roof tax, and without a Neighbourhood Plan any housing proposals can only have 15% of that levy spent in this town up to a cap of £100 per dwelling but if you have a Neighbourhood Plan you may get 25% of that to be spent in the town. So that's another reason why we need a Neighbourhood Plan. The Community Infrastructure Levy has replaced the S106. Apparently there was a meeting planned in May where we are going to be told by North Somerset Council Officers exactly where the S106 money currently stands.

Cathy Knowler : At the last resident's meeting, I came up with a long list which I was going to present to the Council. One of the questions I was going to ask was what has happened to this

money, because there seemed to be quite a rush to try and find out where that money was and get it spent.

Janet Davey: We asked the Town Council what had happened to the S106 money prior to Christmas. We haven't received an answer to that. As far as I know, the Town Council had a meeting with North Somerset Council about S106 money which we weren't invited to as members of the public.

Sue Mason: It was for Councillors only, that particular meeting. But we also asked the people there if they would come as part of an open meeting for everyone. But as far as I am aware, that meeting has not been arranged and it is not because the Town Council has not tried. I am sure we have asked North Somerset for a meeting. They have said they are not available to come to the Town Council. I am sure the Town Clerk can update you better on that.

Janet Davey: I have talked to the Town Clerk about that and I was under the impression that there was going to be something in May, but maybe you can update that.

Town Clerk: This came from the November meeting that was presented to the Town Council as four motions, all of which have been discussed by the Town Council. Regarding in particular, the section 106 moneys, the North Somerset Council officers said they would be very happy to come to hold an open meeting, but it would be better if they came when they have all the figures. Now the way the Section 106 gets calculated, all the transactions are done at the year-end, so it makes sense for them to come once they have closed the accounts and then the public can have the complete picture of all S106 transactions, what projects they are, what that actually means, the schedule of works, the whole lot. So the Town Council agreed to do that and it's been reported at a number of Town Council meetings that it will be in May/June once North Somerset Council have closed the accounts and that's been agreed. So regarding S106 moneys, there's no way to go back to the developers because it's all been planned and it's all part of the spending programme within the S106 agreements. They're legal agreements. If that's been the case, then we cannot go back. But I will take this up with North Somerset Council at the end of May to say when will you be ready to hold a public meeting. It will be a meeting rather like this, everyone will know, it will be advertised on Social Media, our own websites and on notice boards, in the North Somerset Times and any other press articles.

Anon: Where is it laid down that it's going to be spent in Portishead? Where is it in black and white that it's got to be spent in Portishead?

Town Clerk: S106 and CIL money has got to mitigate the impact of that development of the area, and so therefore some of it goes for example to the Libraries, some goes to highways infrastructure, some goes to affordable housing, some goes to education, and some goes to leisure & recreational areas. It's quite complicated, but that's how it's split. But it is to mitigate against the impact of that development.

Anon: Is there a time limit on this?

Town Clerk: It depends what the agreement is. So for example, some agreements are closed. They have trigger marks, so if it was to build say 500 houses it may be that they will phase in the moneys according to the 253rd house built etc. But it very much depends on the agreement. If it's to do with infrastructure, then obviously when putting in new roads or whatever then that obviously has to be dealt with in a completely different way. But these questions that you're asking now are useful for me because I did say at the Town Council meeting that if any member of the public has got questions on S106 infrastructure levy, if you contact me because I'm gathering questions forward to send and work with North Somerset Council Officers, so when they come to the open meeting they can be prepared and give those answers integrated into their presentation and then answer anything on top.

General discussion on S106 money.

Anon: We've got all these things going on round the town. That money has been deposited by developers and other people. So if that money has not been spent, that is working against the interests of the people in Portishead.

Town Clerk: The money must be spent according to the schedule of works of the programme. So if you've got a question it's much better, rather than me answering when we've got North Somerset Council officers coming in. They will be able to answer because they will be bringing project news for the different areas. It would be helpful if you could send them to me in advance because then they will be at that presentation, rather than giving a general one they can target that question on particular areas. Was that helpful?

Annette Hennessey: Each agreement is different. Going back 10/20 years, officers in North Somerset Council were non-political until they started to do what the Councillors told them to do. They were very helpful and some of the spreadsheets we have on S106 going back years have been shared and circulated. But what has transpired in the last five years is we found that each agreement could have a different date, a different time at which that money was going to be expired and I think Colin could probably tell you we had money for the railway. So for example a million pounds, and if that wasn't spent by the time that money was date expired, then that money would have been returned to the developer. They found something to spend that money on, I think it was buying a line, or was it for a survey.

Colin Howells: The million pounds for the railway is gone now and spent on the railway. Crest Nicholson money we always referred to it as, and it was for surveys, studies, all the initial work to get the railway up and running. I believe about £14 million has already been spent.

Annette Hennessey: The point I'd like to make as well. Each of that S106 money has got a very defined category as to what it can be spent on. However, in the past we've been told the money was completely defined and could never be spent on anything else. However, sadly it seems that in the last year or two, the political arm at North Somerset Council has found a way to use our town's money for other things. For example, Portishead Precinct. That should have been maintained by North Somerset Council. They failed to maintain it adequately. They were in charge of insurance, maintenance, the whole lot. They don't own it but they were responsible for it, and then they've used a big chunk of our S106 money that wasn't defined to maintain the precinct to actually now pave it. I don't know if you've noticed but it was paved almost in time for the election, but it didn't do them any good. But they can alter the definitions which we've only just realised in the last 10/20 years. So I think when they do come to this meeting, they can tell us exactly who makes this definition and how is it altered. There is a similar thing on Pill Park, Parish Wharf, which is the area outside the leisure centre by Bottelinos that goes around the walkway towards the school, and they are about to do work on that, but what is interesting is they were using planning agreements as part of S106 that had expired but they were able to extend those dates. So it does get really complicated because when they put in the cage structure that's there at the moment to store the boats that are going to be used for the new slipway there, we couldn't understand why they were doing it without planning permission. But they were able to do it without planning permission because they were able to use past agreements which we thought had expired, but it turns out they hadn't. So, it does get very complicated, but each agreement has got a very definite date, very definite definitions, but they can be altered. The criteria of altering them I'm afraid hasn't been explained to us, because I'm still none the wiser. So, it's one of the most complicated things for residents to understand because we haven't got all the facts unfortunately.

Heather Toms: With the new makeup of the North Somerset Council now, who is going to be there to answer all of these questions about what went on in the past, why they haven't done this and that.

New District Councillors arrive.

Ann Townsend: A quick question for the Town Clerk. You talked about the accounting period. Is that April?

Town Clerk: This coming year is April 3rd to March 31st.

Chairman: Asked the new District Councillors in waiting to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Paul Gardner, Huw James, Caritas Charles, Tim Snaden introduced themselves to the meeting.

Chairman: A question from Slido 'Those of you on the Council promised open and transparency. Will this mean ceasing the behaviour of censorship that they adopted in the run up to the election?'

Bob Ball: Simple, yes

Ben Knowles: Given the wish for more transparency and communicate, it is worth minuting that over 4000 people watched the streaming.

Anon: Transport, but not the railway. Refreshingly, one of the things that the previous administration of the town did was to draw up a working party that had to provide a response to the Joint Local Transport Plan. This is transport through to 2036. I am unlikely to see the outcome of that, but here is the issue. It's not the today issue for the Councillors but watch this and residents of Portishead watch this. If you think the M5 between about J25 and J16 is busy now you ain't seen nothing yet. The development in the Nailsea vale will absolutely swamp J19 with traffic as will the Avonmouth and Severnside developments. I was co-opted onto the working party and I effectively wrote most of the Council's response to the Joint Local Transport Plan. When you come to pick this up again, I'm there ready and waiting. The impact on this town, having lived here for about 50 years. This is a town that I staked my claim to back in 1988. It is the town that I will die in, and I do not want it to be cut off from the rest of the world. There are other fish to fry when it comes to J19. Something has to be done about it. We all know that the two crossings of the Avon are either the Avonmouth bridge via the motorway or the Cumberland Basin. Basically, those are the only two major paths over the Avon. It's just ludicrous for a population of the size of the greater Bristol area. This will touch the Town Council's business. But I'd ask you all to be aware that this impact is coming and there will come a time when you will need to be vociferous about it, Councillors and residents alike.

Anon: Please can I ask that in future meeting people will give consideration to using the microphones.

Anon: Can I just ask what the current situation is with regard to Old Mill Road?

Anon: I believe that the leases have been extended by 3-4 years. You would have to speak to the owners of the shops. 3 years?

Anon: T G Woodware are talking the people who own that site to say they want a longer lease and they are entitled to it.

David Oyns: Just to say, I don't know how many people know this, but the plans that were put forward, originally it was only 20 dwellings. That was turned down flat by a Government Inspector. The meeting was held in Weston. So that was it, no problem 20 dwellings wouldn't be there. So the next thing we heard they'd put in for 120 dwellings. Then the next thing we heard was 350 dwellings, and I asked the question in here, some of you might have been here. Obviously I am totally against losing commercial premises. But I asked the specific question, what is the ratio of cars to dwellings. I don't know if anyone would like to guess what it is, and remember they're thinking about putting a cinema at the end, just as a sweetener perhaps, I know the kids would love it. The answer ladies and gentlemen is 0.9. Think about it. In East Ward, which was my area, it's 1.3, and that's one of the reasons why there is so much congestion in East Ward.

Chairman: Slido question, an anonymous question which says have all the issues of ownership and long term maintenance of the Nature Reserve been resolved? If there is money left in the fund, are there any plans?

Paul Gardner: No they are not all resolved. Work has to be done to establish the facts.

Anon: I believe that Nigel Ashton, and Arthur Terry are standing on behalf of the community on the board of PMML. Now that they are no longer Councillors will the new Council be replacing them? I request that they replace them.

Caritas Charles: It is definitely something that, particularly as a Councillor for Portishead East, I will be very keen to get answers to, and once we form the administration next week, it will definitely be something that we will do.

Anon: There has been lots of good discussion and lots of good questions. We've heard words like transparency, openness and honesty and trust. I'm not so sure as a newcomer to Portishead, where is the strategy, where is the long term vision of the town, where is the roadmap, where are we heading, who are the owners of the actions that need to be resolved. I don't see that today and I'm hoping that the Councillors can come up with more concrete actions, owners, transparency so that the people of the town can see what the long term strategy, the long term plan of the town is going to be. I don't see that.

Tanya Slatter: We have had some good questions. We aren't even Councillors yet. Next week we will be sworn in and that's when we will talk about the various areas that we need to work on, and are planning to own. So hopefully from next week, you will have a few more answers. Not all of them, obviously but a Town Plan will be the big one that we will encompass.

Anon: People need to see the reality of that so we know what has been worked on, what the status is, what the milestones are, what the targets are.

Tanya Slatter: Absolutely.

Huw James: I'm new to all this, but I think to my knowledge that this forms part of the Joint Spatial Plan for the West of England, because this is going to be decided rather soon. It goes to public consultation next month and that will continue for quite some time. I think the town plan will have to be done very soon unfortunately to feed back to the Joint Spatial Plan.

Anon: A correction of what was just said. It's the emerging local plan which will meet the spatial strategy and the views of the town, not the JSP.

Sarah Jackson: I'd just like to pick up on what's just been said. First of all, the main thing I wanted to say was congratulations to the Councillors in waiting. I think it was a fantastic campaign. I think it was pro-active. It was all about people having their voices heard. We want

you to represent the whole swathe of people and demographics across Portishead. Portishead is a very different town from when I first moved here and I've only been here 13 years so I'm still an outsider. My response to the idea of having an action plan, I totally agree with you. My offer as a resident is I would like to hear quite soon from the Town Council what it is that you want from us as residents. You said we're in this together. You need to show us how we're in it together and we actually have some duty as well to help you deliver what has to be delivered. So I personally would stick the working groups, committees, governance things and so on that just slow everything down. I come from the voluntary sector. We have forums, networks, we engage with people, we find out what's going on, we find out when people are unhappy, and I would like to offer individually to help because that's what I like doing. I would like you to come forward quite soon with a plan with which residents can get involved. You know that you've got a massive skill set in Portishead that we have not used in the last few years. We want to help you to get this done. Let's make Portishead great again.

Caritas Charles: Please come along to the first Town Council meeting next week. You will hear some new ideas and some of the direction we want to go in. someone asked the question how long is it going to take. Everyone in this room, everyone looking at this livestreaming and everyone who isn't watching is involved in this will have inputs. It's a lot wider than just housing, it's about how we are going to protect local businesses, how we are going to protect the environment. There's so much to consider, and we can't do it alone as Sarah said, we're going to need you and your expertise and your help, because we are in this together and looking forward we can do this together.

Martin Parry thanked the Chairman for managing the meeting. It has been very successful.