

Portishead Residents Annual meeting minutes Wednesday 26 May 2021

This was a hybrid meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions

Meeting venue was online and in the Folk Hall, Portishead

The meeting was recorded

Council Chairman's welcome (Councillor Patricia Sterndale):

- Welcomed all online and in-person.
- Recommended hosting meetings for residents later in the year once restrictions are lifted (several residents and Councillors agreed).
- Reminded residents to pass any news, issues, positive stories etc. to the Council office to be considered at future Council meetings.
- Councillors will not answer questions today to save time, but questions can be sent to the Council Office for a later response.
- Requested no personal or unpleasant comments, but positive constructive comments are welcome.
- Anyone present can speak, but only Portishead residents can vote.

Minutes of the previous meeting (8th May 2019) (Council Chairman):

- Requested those present to approve the last minutes, which are on the Council website.
- Paul Maltby: thanked the Council Chairman for writing the minutes.
- Annette Hennessey: unhappy that the 8 residents who regularly request that agendas are emailed to them were not sent the previous meeting's minutes and recommended that they are not approved until the next meeting.
- ***It was resolved that the 2019 minutes will not be approved until 2022.***

The Council Chairman requested a resident volunteer to facilitate the public discussion.

- Paul Maltby agreed to facilitate.

Paul Maltby requested a resident volunteer to note key points on the flipchart.

- Jenny Parry volunteered.

Discussion

- Paul Maltby will abstain from public voting but will keep the casting the vote. No time limit will be set for speakers but please be succinct.
- Paul Maltby:
 - Councillors should feel free to answer questions if able.
- Ann Townsend:
 - There have been some improvements in giving residents a voice, but unhappy with Council decision to hold Full Council meetings bimonthly and public participation reduced to 15 mins.
 - Requests further meetings for resident are planned.
 - Agreement was made to hold further meetings subject to COVID-19 restrictions.
 - The Council Chairman responded:
 - Council meetings were agreed to be bimonthly with the also themed meetings agreed. Other Town Councils do the same.
 - In total, the Council still has 39 meetings planned throughout the year.
 - Public participation time is not reduced. Standing Orders says duration will be no more than 30 mins.
 - What consultation was carried out to reduce number of meetings?
 - Does not agree with reduction as has used Council meetings to raise issues.
 - The Council Chairman responded:
 - The Community Matters Committee has delegated powers to agree many issues.

- All Councillors should vote on everything
- Councillor Bob Cartwright:
 - There should be 4 residents' meetings per year.
- Ken Smith:
 - Remember when the address was Avon, was not good for communication.
 - North Somerset wants to join West of England tier, will we have to pay money to them?
 - The Council says if there is a problem, it's up to NSC.
 - Where are the letters to say we didn't agree with their decisions e.g., the gate?
 - Has the golf course ever had trees? Why have they been planted?
 - Not happy with the online meeting format.
- Kim Jones (Portishead Youth Centre PYC) gave an update:
 - PYC generates income as much as possible to support children and young people.
 - COVID-19 meant that the doors had to close for some of the time and PYC had to move to online delivery.
 - Lots of uncertainty and anxiety across young people so this work is even more important.
 - PYC now also supports children under 5 with pre-school drop-in sessions, plus parent and child support, which is well received.
 - Kim thanked all who have supported PYC including with fund raising, national and local grants.
 - The Council grants funding to run the youth centre, which is very welcomed as there is little revenue operating funding available elsewhere.
 - COVID-19 impacts will be felt for many years.
 - PYC is launching town-wide consultation on resident provision, what young people and senior citizens need.
 - Paul Maltby:
 - The whole town thanks Kim and team for their fantastic service and superb facility.
- Craig McMurray (Portishead Christmas Lights) gave an update:
 - Thanked volunteers for their hard work and support.
 - They got most of the display up last year, despite COVID-19.
 - Had to forego money raising events but applied for and received £20k from National Grid to replace all cables.
 - Local businesses still supported even though most were closed.
 - Received a welcomed grant from the Council.
 - Hopes for an event at the 2021 launch and Victorian evening.
- David Cook (Portishead Chamber of Commerce) gave an update:
 - Traders have had a terrible year, of course.
 - Some are setting up online with support from Weston College.
 - Bristol City Council also support businesses.
 - Other areas limit national chains to increase small businesses.
 - A great characteristic of Portishead is that organisations rally around and support each other.
 - Thanked the Council for all its support
 - Recommends all businesses to join the Chamber for £45.
- Lisa Spring:
 - Has been a resident in Portishead for 21 years.
 - Understands the previous speaker's sentiments re. the online meetings and small numbers, but people are scared to come in because of COVID-19.
 - Biggest concern is loss of X5 bus service, which is a worry for people's wellbeing who have already lost transport to Clevedon and Cribbs Causeway.
 - Asked for help from the Council to petition for a return of the bus service.
 - Councillor Caroline Goddard responded:

- Has joined North Somerset Council and been invited to meet with Transport Leads about a fund for Parishes for transport in the future. The meeting is on the 16th June.
 - She will represent local residents and see what funding is available.
 - Lisa and Paul thanked Councillor Caroline Goddard.
- Peter Wright:
 - Moved to Portishead in 1998.
 - His pride in the town is disappearing due to antisocial issues, vandalism, litter, and speeding on Phoenix Way.
 - What will it take to improve this?
 - PC Tony Hussey (Local Beat Manager):
 - Offered to contact Mr Wright after the meeting.
 - Urged people to report problems.
 - He pulled off the statistics last month and there were very few reports (reports were mainly for the Marina & Wyndham Way)
 - Patrols are only made following demand. The Police can then start people on Anti Social Behaviour models and try to understand why the problems are happening.
 - Councillor Caroline Goddard:
 - Offered to meet residents on site to discuss the issues.
 - Councillor Bob Cartwright:
 - The final connection is due for the additional CCTV cameras, funded by the Council. Questioned the Police coverage in Portishead.
 - PC Tony Hussey (Local Beat Manager):
 - Recommends the Council contacts the Policing Crime Commissioner about deployment.
 - Councillor Caroline Goddard:
 - Thanked Tony and his team for doing a difficult job.
 - Councillor Tina Mason:
 - Has seen a significant police presence.
 - Pressure on the Police is a national issue.
 - Ken Smith:
 - The Courts need to back up police.
 - Does not see the police presence, and asked if more police are coming
 - Councillor Bob Bull:
 - Suggests restarting the PACT group meetings to regularly communicate with the police.
 - PC Tony Hussey (Local Beat Manager):
 - The Neighbourhood policing team is very committed.
 - Tony is keen to understand the local issues so the team would attend PACT meetings.
 - The Police produce a monthly newsletter showing monthly activities and people can subscribe online.
 - Some smaller towns have Community Speedwatch to combat motoring offences.
- Lesley Cottrell:
 - Thanked the community groups for excellent reports.
 - The Chairman should give a Chairman's update at these meetings.
 - Disagreed with the number of meetings given.
 - Perturbed that CCTV is not yet fully operational.
 - Taking too much time to get it up and running.
 - 2 years' ago, it was said that £2m of S106 not claimed, what's happening with that?
 - Community Speedwatch – suggested a speed van in Nore Road because lots of speeders.
 - Portishead did use to have Community Speedwatch, Lesley is happy to volunteer.

- Councillor Bob Cartwright:
 - Police has asked on Facebook for Community Speedwatch volunteers.
- Discussion about using under-18s for Speedwatch, generally agreed this was impractical.
- Lyn Morrissey:
 - Used to run Community Speedwatch, very strictly organised.
 - Stopped as volunteers fell away for various reasons.
 - Police acted well on the information.
 - Covered Bristol Rd, Nore Rd, Wyndham Way.
 - Recommends restarting
- Councillor Sue Mason:
 - Also thanked community groups and volunteers.
 - PACT meetings were worthwhile to get updates and challenges from police. NSC also attended at 1 point.
 - Sue would willingly attend PACT
 - Community Speedwatch did a good job but hard to find volunteers.
- Annette Hennessy:
 - The bus question was previously raised at a Council meeting.
 - PACT: very few residents attended and it became quite stagnant.
 - An independent PRAM chair avoids political agendas.
 - Standing Orders doesn't say you can't have independent chair.
 - People voted for independent chair.
 - Not happy with the publicity for this meeting but agrees that people may be scared.
 - Suggests moving to a larger hall.
 - Decorations and flags going up in High St, cheered her as it signified return to normality.
 - Residents must not be given incorrect information online, e.g., skate park, CCTV up and running (has complained to returning officer – he said Councils are controlled by purdah but political parties are not). Requests that people do not do that going forward.
 - Lakegrounds: no further forward with progress. Appreciates that COVID-19 has impacted but the area looks a mess and it is hard to push wheelchair.
 - Bins: all new Marina bins rubbish is sent to landfill. Why are they not recycling?
 - Battery Point rewilding did not get a satisfactory answer. The planting is inappropriate.
- Ken Smith:
 - Pre-election comms will not change.
 - Urged everyone to remember police and other services deserve our respect.
- Councillor Tina Mason:
 - Mutual respect is vital
- Annette Hennessy:
 - Need to learn from past mistakes, must be based on integrity and people held to account.
Expects honesty
- Councillor Bob Cartwright:
 - Bin recycling: 2 billion disposable cups used a year. Only 6% recycled nationally. Paper cups also add to the problem. Trying to get cup bins to they are separated.
 - Lakegrounds: marshland is decaying but this acts as a sea buffer. Wall is also decaying.
 - Grills recently put on to take run off from cricket field but no barrier for mud.
 - Seafront benches need painting, has asked NSC if community group can paint.
 - Holes in road previously patched.
 - The Lake lifesaving rings are in disrepair.
 - The £250k will not cover much of these problems, estimates over £1m minimum costs.
- David Cook (Portishead Chamber of Commerce) gave an update:
 - Residents also need to take more personal responsibility for recycling.
 - Businesses encourage people to take their own cups.

- Annette Hennessy:
 - Memorial benches are NSC approved, people who supply them also pay to maintain them
- Councillor Tina Mason:
 - Lake Grounds consultation is coming from NSC to prioritise improvements
 - Annette Hennessy:
 - Questioned the Council's consultation
 - Councillor Tina Mason:
 - It is joint consultation
 - Councillor Ben Aldridge:
 - Supports moving the boat house
- Paul Maltby ended the discussion
- Council Chairman, Councillor Patricia Sterndale:
 - It was an interesting meeting
 - The Council will consider issues raised and hopes to have more people at the future meetings.