

Portishead Town Council

The Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR Tel: 01275 847078

www.portishead.gov.uk



Portishead Town Council meeting 19 May 2021

This was a hybrid meeting due to COVID-19.

1. Chairman's welcome

- a. The Chairman welcomed any attendees which had joined between the Annual Town Council meeting and monthly Town Council meeting

2. Apologies for absence

- a. No

3. Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations (exemptions)

- a. Councillor Aldridge & Councillor Gardener were involved in the Portishead Town Football Club lease negotiations.
- b. Councillor Mason is the Council nominated representative on the Fairtrade group.
- c. Councillors Slatter and Shepperdson later declared interests in the Portishead Youth Centre.

4. Chairman's verbal report:

a. Recommendations: COVID-19 Community Memorial (Councillor Gardener)

- i. It was suggested that a fitting memorial could be created to recognise the community spirit and hard work by all during COVID-19.
 1. Councillor Sterndale: this should recognise the care, support and bravery from all people involved and affected.
 2. Approved Proposal agreed by all Councillors present:
 - a. To start a small consultation exercise to identify a fitting memorial to be further discussed at the July Town Council meeting, including members of the public to join the working group and ask people for ideas.
 - b. Councillor Slatter to chair and organise a working group.
 - c. Councillor Aldridge: offered to join.
 - d. Town Clerk: A member of PTC staff will also join.

b. Verbal update: Neighbourhood Plan

- i. Chairman:
 - o Evidence gathering is underway around the 3 main themes
 - o COVID-19 hampered direct public engagement.
 - o The Commonplace consultants are supporting the exercise and all are encouraged to complete a survey. Also paper surveys are planned.
 - o The next phase is to write the Plan and understand the regulations
 - o If any other residents and businesses would like to get involved please contact the PTC Office.

5. Town Councillors' reports:

- a. **Recommendation to clarify wording in previous Decision outlining the Council's support for the Fairtrade Portishead** (Councillor S Mason)
 - i. The report is included on the Council website.
 - a. Approved Proposal agreed by all Councillors present to add this wording to the previously agreed resolution:
 - i. To offer Fair Trade goods - for example products carrying the Fairtrade Mark - wherever possible and available, when catering for Council meetings and functions.
 - ii. To implement Fair Trade through our procurement processes and those of our suppliers wherever possible.
 - iii. To appoint a named Council representative to support the work of the Portishead Fairtrade Steering Group and to make other staff and resources available as and when appropriate and available.
 - iv. To promote Fair Trade issues and practices among local business, commercial and other organisations.
 - v. To support the Group's communication plan.
 - vi. To share best practice with regard to Fair Trade and sustainable development with other public bodies, stakeholders and partners.
 - vii. To work with the Steering Group to ensure that Portishead continues to meet and exceed the requirements necessary to maintain its status as a Fairtrade Zone.
- b. **Verbal update: Portishead Wellbeing Partnership** (Councillor Shepperdson)
 - i. This work has become even more important post COVID-19
 - 1. Before COVID-19, infrastructure had started to change e.g., care systems integrated, health, social care and wellbeing services joined, this was mainly Government led.
 - 2. Wellbeing is increasingly expected to be community-led and COVID-19 has strengthened our local partnerships. Portishead is a great example of how this can work well.
 - 3. The next steps are scoping activity to avoid duplication / widen the network and focus on outcomes and the Council's role.
- c. **Verbal update: Portishead Lakegrounds** (Councillor Gardner):
 - i. NSC is planning to invest £250,000 in this area.
 - ii. Clearly this amount (although very welcome) will not solve all the important issues, so Councillor Gardener has been working with NSC on their consultation exercise to determine how the money could be invested
 - iii. This is due to start in early June 2021 and will be widely publicised.
 - iv. We encourage residents and businesses to complete the surveys.

- d. **Verbal update: Waste & Recycling** (Councillor Gardner):
- i. There is a growing amount of discarded litter in the town, and although some service improvements have been made, there is much more to do
 - ii. Councillor Gardener has asked NSC to consider Portishead for a recycling pilot.
 - iii. Nicky Mills (PTC team) successfully applied for a 'Green Seas Bin', these innovatively designed bins raise awareness of marine plastic and encourage plastic recycling. Portishead is only the 7th destination to win one. Councillor Gard thanked Nicky for her hard work.
- e. **Additional verbal reports**
- i. Weston Bigwood (Councillor Gardner):
 1. Councillors have observed drilling and investigation works around this ancient woodland SSI site.
 2. Some members of the community believe the Wood should be protected.
 3. PTC plans to host a public meeting to gauge residents' views on the matter.
 4. A decision on any spending on activity will be taken to the next Community Matters meeting.
 - ii. Building cladding (Councillor Gardner):
 1. Some Portishead residents have told Councillors that they have been left unsupported by the current national arrangements.
 2. PTC plans to host a meeting for those impacted by this decision.
 3. Councillor Gardner: plans to write to Liam Fox MP to invite him.
 4. Councillor Aldridge: has seen cases where flat dwellers have not been supported and agrees that the Council should facilitate a discussion.
 5. Councillor Shepperdson: agreed and asked Councillor Aldridge to look out for best practice in terms of community communication and support.
 6. Councillor Aldridge: suggests that individual groups and residents should unite and work together to be a stronger voice. In his opinion, the Government should underwrite all developments which do not meet the standards and developers should underwrite the losses of dwellers.
 7. Councillor Sue Mason: a virtual public meeting was held with Baroness Pinnock (Member of the House of Lords involved in this work) and many Portishead residents attended. Councillor Mason had heard that the Government has sent proposals to House of Lords, but they were amended and sent back more than once. She agrees that a local meeting will be useful and that groups should come together. She said that the local MP made an amendment but did not vote.
 8. Councillor Aldridge: suggests the letter should ask for an independent panel of experts to review the policy, not politicians.
- f. **Verbal update: Yellow & white lining requirements** (Councillor Gardner)

- The planned Portishead road lining was delayed due to COVID19.
- PTC passed a large number of requests relating to road safety and parking issues to NSC for consideration; many came from residents.
- NSC has updated that they are now assessing list and will come back to PTC to discuss.
- If any residents have questions please contact the PTC office.

6. Recommendation to approve the Portishead Town Football Club lease and the process for signing of the final draft (Councillor Gardner):

- a. Councillors Aldridge and Gardner and the previous Town Clerk has been working with the Football Club to approve the lease details.
- b. The Club has over 1,000 players but facilities are limited.
- c. The Club is in discussion with potential funders but requires a 99-year lease to provide long term security to funders.
- d. The draft lease offers a 75% rent reduction as this is a community group which also provides junior football (min numbers are included), it also prevents sub-letting. This requires permission from the DCLG Secretary of State as it is below the market value.
- e. Councillor Sue Mason: wholeheartedly agreed with the decision, as did Councillor Slatter.
- f. Any future planning permission and major events will require PTC consent.
- g. Approved Proposal: agreed by all Councillors present:
 - i. Members to approve the Portishead Town Football Club Lease (with possible minor amendments e.g., text and grammar checks, dates, etc.)
 - ii. The Clerk to have delegated authority to finalise the details of the lease and conclude discussion with the Secretary of State.
 - iii. The Portishead Town Council Chairman to have delegated authority to sign the lease.

7. North Somerset Councillors' reports

- a. Councillor Holland:
 - i. has taken on a new role as Assistant Executive for a special skills and job recovery project as an NSC Elected Member.
 - ii. Part of the focus is ensuring job-ready, professional young people and a skills strategy is under consultation.
 - iii. Question for a future meeting: how could PTC support education providers and those can offering jobs?
 - iv. Is checking progress on Corporate Parenting.
 - v. The Offsted report for NS requires improvement and she is on a working group.
 - vi. Currently NSC is discussing the Safer Streets Fund, particularly looking at women's issues.
 - vii. She has no update on the Climate Change Working Group.

8. Questions and comments from residents

- a. Lesley Cottrell:
 - i. What rent would the Football Club pay?

1. Councillor Gardner answered £1,500 pa (after the 75% reduction).
- ii. Some time ago a drinking water fountain to commemorate the end of World War One was agreed, what is the situation with this?
- iii. Mrs Cottrell agreed that the Cladding issue is a dreadful situation.
- iv. Liam Fox MP was in meeting that morning and provided her summary of the meeting:
 1. That a Minister will visit Portishead in the near future and the affected residents will be informed of the details.
 2. He has met some local residents on this matter.
 3. He abstained from the vote as his amendment was not discussed, it had full party support and he signed his amendment.
 4. He mentioned the issue during the Queens Speech session and mentioned Portishead specifically.
 5. He said that as some residents will benefit from the proposed scheme, that residents were not united.
 6. Some contractors might benefit from the proposed scheme.
 7. He feels that taxpayers should not fund the work, and freeholders could be held responsible.
 8. The Government is revising guidance to reduce leaseholder burden in the short term.
 9. All present agreed that this was a very helpful summary.
 - a. Councillor Shepperdson commented: that in a vote yesterday evening, a motion was brought to ask the Government to force developers to make buildings safe by 2022. This motion did not go through, so good it is to hear that the local MP is looking at this.
- b. Ken Smith:
 - i. Added to the cladding conversation, that if contractors are made to pay that this will delay things.
 - ii. He doesn't like hybrid meetings but understands they are due to COVID19.
 - iii. Re. bi-monthly meetings: as they were not in keeping with the Portishead Independents' manifesto, he also felt the bi-monthly agendas were too long.
 - iv. Question: are the Committees allowed to spend money, is it officially delegated? Are they reported online so residents have to search for it?
 - v. Asked for an update on Wyndham Way
 - vi. He felt Councillors could be more available to meet people.
 1. Councillor Sterndale said as soon as mor face to face meetings were possible they would be arranged
 - vii. Mr Smith then made personal comments about 1 of the Councillors which have not been minuted.
- c. Heather Toms
 - i. Asked for support against the withdrawal of the bus service to Cribbs Causeway (the journey is only possible via Bristol)
 1. She wrote to the MP and had a positive response
 2. She did not have a positive response from NSC as the journey takes passengers out of North Somerset and requires a subsidy.
 3. This also affects Clevedon residents.

4. Was often used to attend Bristol Eye Hospital
 - a. Councillor Sterndale responded: that this is on the PTC agenda for meetings with NSC.
 - b. Councillor Gardner: the Government has announced some possible national funding which would need support from the West of England Combined Authority.
 - c. Councillor Goddard: has been invited to meeting with Baroness Weir and will raise this route. It is recognised that further support is required.
- d. Paul Maltby:
 - i. Unhappy with the bi-monthly meetings and wrote to Councillors the day before.
 - ii. He felt that the Chain of Office should be worn at meetings.
 - iii. He questioned the efficiency of the technology used for hybrid meetings.
 1. Councillor Slatter: responded to the meeting schedule that they are only reduced by 5 and asked for any suggestions on how hybrid meetings can be improved (she commented that using the microphones helps)
- e. Annette Hennessy:
 - i. Unhappy with the layout of the room
 - ii. Was disappointed to hear that rubbish collected locally is sent to landfill not recycled.
 - iii. Questions: where is the Lakegrounds S106? Where is the separate consultation by PTC?
 - iv. Unhappy about the gates at the end of Esplanade Road.
 - v. Doesn't believe that PTC should be involved in integrated care.
 - vi. Unhappy that the Chairman does not live in Portishead.
 - vii. Important that pertinent discussions are held formally and recorded e.g. Slade Road discussions.
 - viii. Unhappy about political term used for Councillors at District level.
 - ix. Requested that public participation be at the start to include comments in decisions or allow questions outside the public participation section.
- f. Ken Smith:
 - i. Suggested requesting NSC to discount Council Tax for cladding occupiers.

9. Recommendation: to approve the finance reports (Councillor Bull)

- a. The Clerk had not sent the following reports to Councillors in advance
- b. Recent schedules of payments and bank reconciliations (report to follow).
- c. Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 (report to follow).
- d. Proposal Approved: all Councillors present agreed to receive these reports at the next Full Council meeting, along with the end of year Audit Report.

10. Recommendation: to approve expenditure to re-engage the Neighbourhood Plan contractor to support completion of the plan (Chairman)

- a. The quote from Place Studios is to support writing and completing the Neighbourhood Plan and regulatory processes at a cost of £22,025.
- b. Chairman:

- i. Place Studio is giving excellent guidance and advice, this proposal includes writing the Plan and Policies, recommendations for regulations, statements, assessments, and consultation so the Plan is ready to pass to NSC
- ii. PTC can apply for an £8,000k Locality Grant to offset the costs.
- iii. Councillor Holland asked if any further grants are available.
- iv. Councillor Garner: responded not to write the Plan. PTC has already received £9,600 in grants
- v. Councillor Slatter: this amount remains within the originally agreed budget.
- vi. Councillor Davey: PTC recently received £69,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funds. Once the Neighbourhood Plan is in place they % paid would be increased.
- vii. Proposal Approved: Councillor Shepperdson was not seen to vote online, possibly due to IT issues, all other Councillors present approved the proposal.

11. Recommendations: to approve Grant applications over the threshold of the Community Matters Committee (Councillor Aldridge):

- Portishead Youth Centre:
 - A grant of £9,999 was awarded to the Youth Centre at the April Community Matters Committee.
 - The Working Party recommends approving a top-up grant.
 - Councillor Sue Mason strongly agreed with the proposal
 - Proposal Approved: Other than Councillors Slatter and Shepperdson (Interests declared), all Councillors approved the following further grants to Portishead Youth Centre to be paid by the end of March:
 - £15,001 grant
 - Additional one-off grant of £5,000 for additional expenses / losses because of COVID-19.
 - Councillor Slatter thanked the Working Group and Full Council on behalf of Trustees and children

12. Process: Councillors received Committee Meeting minutes since the last meeting

- Planning Advisory Committee: 7 April 2021, 5 May 2021
- Community Matters Committee: 14 April 2021, 12 May 2021
- Staffing & Finance Committee: 28 April 2021

13. Recommendation: to approve the last meeting minutes from 17 March 2021 (Chairman)

- a. Proposal Approved: Councillor Shepperdson and Councillor Tina Mason did not vote, issues, all other Councillors approved the minutes

14. Date of the next meeting: 21 July 2021

Julia Stuckey, Town Clerk, published 08 June 2021