



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2022
AT THE FOLK HALL, 95 HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD, BS20 6PR**

This was a hybrid meeting to enable community participation

Members present:

Councillor Patricia Sterndale (Chairman)	Councillor Paul Gardner (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Ben Aldridge	Councillor Bob Cartwright
Councillor Bob Bull	Councillor Paul Churchill
Councillor Janet Davey	Councillor Nicola Holland
Councillor Sue Mason	Councillor Tanya Slatter
Councillor Tim Snaden	

Officers present: Matt Ryan - Locum Town Clerk, Sharon Sherborne – Deputy Town Clerk and Rachel Johnson – Responsible Finance Officer

Others present: Residents 12 (including 7 in the room)

TC22.500: Apologies for absence (Town Clerk)
None

TC22.501: Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations
Councillor Aldridge – Item 11- Pecuniary interest and Interest
Councillor Slatter - Item 11- Not voting as works closely with the WASP group

TC22.502: Chairman's update report
The Chairman, Councillor Sterndale provided a verbal update as follows:

- **Portishead Neighbourhood Plan:** The draft Portishead Neighbourhood plan was published at the end of March and the statutory six-week public consultation has just concluded. The Council held four well attended public events during that time. The overall response was one of approval. The job now is to analyse the comments received from the public and statutory consultees and amend the document where required. The plan will then go to North Somerset Council for approval and onto a government appointed independent examiner before finally coming back to the public for referendum.
- **Heritage Centre:** The Heritage Centre, the brainchild of Councillor Davey, was officially opened on the 8th April. It has transformed a dreary place into a remarkable display of Portishead's history.
- **Slade Road Playing Fields:** The Vice Chairman, Councillor Paul Gardner, reported the results of the recent Slade Road playing field and play area consultation carried out by the Town Council. An overwhelming number of residents are wanting to keep the play area owned by the Town Council as a wooded area with sympathetic play equipment. A report has been commissioned on what best to do to achieve this for the play area and is expected next week. North Somerset Council who owns the playing field have been asked to remove

the field from the development list where 93% of residents did not want to see it built on but would like to see it retained as a community space recreational area. North Somerset Council has not come back with a positive answer on this although are undertaking their own consultation: <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/NSCLand/consultationHome>

Councillor Holland said that she has spoken with Councillor Bridger and would like to invite him to visit the site on behalf of the Town Council by way of a formal invite.

- **Community Hub:** The Community hub is open and functioning. It is a trial funded through the Community Renewal Fund to assess the need and desire for a permanent community hub in Portishead. The Hub is welcoming residents who want to ask advice about something, or just have a chat. Rooms are available for hire by start-up community groups, and other organisations. The trial will continue until later in the year when the success of the project will be assessed to see if it should be made permanent.
Councillor Churchill advised the Council that the term of the project had recently been extended to the end of November and that there is no obligation but the option to run to that period.
- **Jubilee Events:** The Council are organising two events to celebrate the Queens' Platinum Jubilee. On the 2nd June there will be the lighting of a Beacon at Battery point at about 9.15 pm . On the 3rd June the Town Council is hosting a free event at the Portishead Showfield from 1pm to 8pm. The organisation of these events has been a massive undertaking; the Chairman thanked Nicky Mills and Ben Aldridge in particular for their efforts.

TC22.503: North Somerset Councillors' reports

Councillor Snaden confirmed that he has been made Chairman of the Adult services and social housing Committee

TC22.504: Public participation relating to meeting agenda items

Lin Morrissey: Asked if the Community Hub was a referral situation as she has not seen much publicity. Councillor Sterndale stated that the publicity is only just getting started but you don't have to be referred anybody can call in. Councillor Churchill confirmed that it is both of those approaches.

Paul Maltby: Would like to place on record his sincere thanks to Sue Mason for the way that she has chaired the Planning Committee. Councillor Slatter seconded everything said about Sue and was extremely grateful to Sue.

Ken Smith: Referred to the hedging at Harbour Road (Railway) and the state of the works carried out by North Somerset Council. The North Somerset Times had a pie chart from the Council – what does Servicing residents and democracy mean?. Councillor Gardner responded to say that it's answering 150 enquiries every week, dealing with a multitude of issues. Mr Smith asked about Wellbeing and was invited to attend the Community Hub. Mr Smith also stated about the Councillor resignations and that you should obey the law.

Lesley Cottrell: Has been sat listening carefully to what has been said and is disappointed. She has to rebut some things said this evening: She was supportive of a Neighbourhood Plan along with Councillor Mason, referred to a statement made that there was £2 million of section 106 money but does not recall seeing any evidence of that. Reference was also made to Skatepark funding and a parish poll that Portishead Town Council should pay for the Skatepark. Feels that the Council has failed Tina Mason and should have put in place a dispensation. Councillor

Sterndale responded to the last point highlighting that whilst aware that we had to hold face to face meetings for the benefit of the public, we did not know that attending on line did not count as attendance as both the legislation and Councils standing orders simply say that Councillors have to attend a Council meeting. They do not say it has to be in person.

Tina Mason followed up and said that she knows that she would have been given the dispensation, she has received nothing but support from the Council.

TC22.505: Finance

Proposed by Councillor Gardner and seconded by Councillor Mason

RESOLVED:

That the Council approves:

- a) the list of payments, reconciliation statement, summary income & expenditure statements, insurance renewal and the payment of the election invoices as detailed above.
- b) Changing the Councils current bank account provider from Lloyds Bank to Unity trust bank, and if approved to authorise the transfer of £350,000 (Precept) from the Councils Lloyds bank account to a new Unity Trust bank account

TC22.506: Halls utility contract – retrospective approval

Proposed by Councillor Gardner and seconded by Councillor Mason

RESOLVED:

The Council (retrospectively) agrees to contracting with Octopus Energy for a period of 3 years

TC22.507: Portishead Neighbourhood Development Plan - Local Green Space designations

Councillor Aldridge proposed and Councillor Cartwright seconded the motion

RESOLVED:

That Councils agrees for its sites: Underwood Play Area, Slade Road Play Area, Mead Road Play Area, Gertie Gales Allotments and North Weston Allotments to be designated and put forward for Local Green Space designation in the Neighbourhood Plan.

TC22.508: Portishead Wellbeing Coordinator

Councillor Davey proposed and Councillor Aldridge seconded the motion

RESOLVED:

That the Council agrees:

- a) to accept the salary funding offer from North Somerset Council; and
- b) to the recruitment and employment of a Wellbeing Partnership Co-ordinator by the Town Council for a period of up to 2 years.

TC22.509: Skate Park Project Management

Councillor Snaden proposed and Councillor Holland seconded the motion

Councillors voted 9 in favour with 2 abstentions

RESOLVED:

That £5,000 of the predicted Merlin Park pump track underspend is allocated towards the cost of external project management support of the Lake Grounds Skate Park project

TC22.499: Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 13th July 2022

There being no further business the Chairman thanked Councillors and those attending. The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

DRAFT