

**MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
FOR PORTISHEAD HELD AT THE FOLK HALL  
HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD  
ON WEDNESDAY  
7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014**

**PRESENT** Councillor Cameron, Vice Chairman of the Town Council –  
Presiding

Mrs Jo Duffy – Clerk (taking Minutes)

**APOLOGIES** Councillor: Burden, McMurray, Mrs. Philpot, Terry, Walters, Mrs.  
Koops

There were approximately 37 residents present.

**MINUTES OF 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2013 (Agenda item .3)**

The Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 had been circulated and presented to the meeting.

It was agreed that the Minutes be approved.

**RESOLVED that:-**

The Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting for Portishead held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013, copies of which have been circulated be confirmed as correct.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS  
UNDERTAKEN BY THE COUNCIL IN THE 2013/2014 MUNICIPAL YEAR (Agenda  
item .4)**

Councillor Cameron, the Vice Chairman of the Town Council presented Councillor Burden's Annual Report and review of the business undertaken by the Council in the 2013/2014 year.

Councillor Burden's report is attached to and forms part of these minutes. (Appendix A)

*Clerks note. These minutes record what was said during public speaking and were views expressed by the speaker named and not the Town Council.*

**ELECTORS FORUM - PUBLIC SPEAKING (Agenda item .5)**

- Mr. David Fitzpatrick wished to object to the proposed skate park at Parish Wharf. He asked why the Town Council is reconsidering the site when North Somerset Council ruled it out. The location is too close to the houses. Why is Portishead Town Council going down this route again?

- Cllr. Mrs. Knight pointed out that Cllr. Clark and she voted against re-looking at the site. Cllr. Mrs Cruse did not attend the meeting but would have voted against it. Cllr. Mrs. Lord said she wanted the air to be cleared once and for all regarding whether North Somerset Council made a refusal of the site due to noise.
- Mr. Fitzpatrick asked for clarification on whether there is a directive on how close a skate park can be located to residential housing. He went on to say the residents of Station Road already experience noise issues with the MUGA, with activities going on until 1am.
- Dist. Cllr. David Jolley spoke about his opinion of the proposed skate park location. The area has seen a lot of development recently with the Mirage and the school. He does not think it's a suitable site because of the possible noise issues. He went on to say that he favours Kilkenny Fields.
- Mr. Fitzpatrick asked why the skate park can't be located in Kilkenny Fields?
- Mrs. Hennessy suggested that Cllr. Pasley should answer the question.
- Cllr. Pasley informed the meeting that Kilkenny Fields was turned down by the North Somerset Council Executive.
- Mrs. Hennessy responded to Mr. Fitzpatrick's question regarding Kilkenny Fields. She said that Cllr. Elfan Ap Rees of North Somerset Council objected to it because he received an objection from the Ward Councillor at the Lake Grounds, following a Freedom of information act request it was acknowledged that only one objection had been received. Mrs Hennessy went on to say that the NSC officers supported the location but the political wing of the council vetoed it.
- Mrs. Kay Chandler spoke about a danger issue with Battery Lane, its potholes and ruts. She pointed out that it shakes her car and is dangerous for walkers. Mrs Chandler says she has written to the District and Town Council and the press about the condition of the road. She suggested that the road be closed for access.
- Mr. David Oyns gave a personal statement. He spoke about the Lake Grounds Skate Park and his democratic right to object to it. He went on to say that the Lake Grounds was one of several sites considered. Since the Town Council refused the site he has received a great deal of abuse. Defamatory material has appeared in the press and on a website called Quargo. He pointed out that as far as he is aware the residents of Station Road and the Marina have not been subjected to abuse even though they have objected to a skate park at their location. He stated that he will be seeking legal advice in respect of a video that labelled him a Nazi, with the view to obtaining a writ and if successful damages. He went on to say that the comments have almost caused the cessation of an initiative to aid flood victims in Somerset. Mr. Oyns said he was not seeking publicity for this. He is not a councillor and has not sort office as such. Councillors are elected representatives of the people

and are aware that their decisions will not please everyone and therefore expect to receive criticism, but not abuse. As a private individual he does not expect to receive abuse and it is unacceptable.

- Mrs. Tracey Fowler (Press) asked it to be clarified that the abusive and defamatory remarks in the press and on the website are nothing to do with the North Somerset Times.
- Mr. Oyns confirmed the comments were in the Bristol Evening Post and Quargo.
- Mrs. Mary O'Hara spoke about Bristol Road and the issue with traffic speeding around the corner outside her house. She feels that she is being palmed off, she doesn't want the road reconstructed, and just a mirror to aid manoeuvring would help. Since she last attended a meeting she has had so many near misses exiting her drive. She has been told that the situation is being looked at but nothing has been done.  
What are the rules and regulations for people having bonfires during the day time?
- Cllr. Pasley suggested that Mrs. O'Hara contacts NSC.
- Mr. Rigby spoke about the infrastructure in the Town not developing at the same rate as the housing. Infrastructure is not coping with the expansion of the town.
- Mr. Chris Holman spoke to the meeting regarding Avon Way. He has witnessed cars leaving the road at Avon Way and ending up in Welly Bottom and in the gardens of the old people's bungalows. Speeding cars have hit residents of Avon Way and residents have had their cars written off. A petition was organised, but it has got them nowhere. Residents have tried in vain to get road calming. Racing at night has led to damaged cars. Mr. Holman gave an overview of the speeding statistics for the road, stating the average speed has been recorded at 40mph with 1,300 speeding offences being committed everyday whilst a NSC speed check was in place. Mr. Holman listed various accidents that have happened over the years and concluded that speeding and racing are two different issues, one involving young drivers and the other the whole community. He said the Town Council must get its priorities right and speed cameras, potholes, speed bumps take priority over art sculptures. He asked who is on the road safety action group? Who represents Bristol Road, Wyndham Way and Avon Way? Will NSC CCTV unit include their roads? He attended a PACT meeting where the agencies blamed each other but didn't do anything. Mr. Holman referred to the half a million pounds sitting in the Council's bank account, it should be used towards the safety of the community. He went on to ask why Cllr. Felicity Baker is on the road safety panel, when she does not support the Police Chief Constable? Mr Holton commented that the Highways agency has invested in road calming in sheepway and all the Gordano villages and felt the money should have been spent in Portishead. He wants action not talk.

- Mr. Paul Maltby reminded the meeting that the Town Council purchased a speed gun and gave it to the police to use in Portishead, why is it not used on Avon Way, Wyndham Way and the Lake Grounds.
- Mr. Shaun Hill spoke about his son being knocked over on Avon Way. He has also had his car written off outside his property. He went on to say the road is used like a race track and someone could be killed. Will the Council do something about it?  
PC 3781 Simon Tamilia offered to follow up on the progress of the driver who ran into Mr. Hill's car.
- Cllr. Pasley said that he sympathises with the various points. He explained that several District Councillors will be having a meeting with the most Senior Police Officer at Police headquarters to discuss the lack of action with regard to speeding and anti-social driving. Cllr. Pasley suggested that members of the public attend a North Somerset Council Meeting in the public session and make the Council aware of the issues that are affecting them.
- Mr. Dixon said the answer to the speeding issue is that no-one under a certain age should be allowed to own a vehicle. He also suggested that there should be traffic lights at the bottom of Avon Way; the traffic lights will stay red until the vehicle approaching them has reduced speed and then turn green.
- Mrs. Hennessy said she supported the views of Mr. Holman and Mr. Hills, and spoke in support of the Police. She went on to say that when she requested information from the Police regarding Avon Way, the police were very proactive and helpful. Mrs Hennessy said that when she asked for a comparison of speed incidents and accidents Bristol Road, Avon Way and Wyndham Way came out the worst. Mrs Hennessy reminded the meeting that last year the People's Meeting discussed the railway and they took a vote that a letter should go to the MP and suggested that in this instance a letter could go to the MP and the Police raising the meetings concerns regarding motoring incidents and speed in Portishead as a whole. The letter could also go to Cllr. Nigel Ashton (Leader of North Somerset Council) and Cllr. Elfan Ap Rees as Executive Member for Transport issues. Mrs. Hennessy asked the meeting to vote on whether a letter should be sent. She pointed out that we are a town with cameras, but they are not as effective as we want them to be.
- Mr. Rigby disagreed with the meeting taking a vote as he said it was outside the meetings remit.

The wording of a letter was put to the meeting.

The people attending the Annual Town Meeting of Portishead the meeting raised concerns about speeding and traffic incidents in the town, in particular Bristol Road, Avon Way and Wyndham Way. The meeting doesn't feel that anything is being done and would like the Town Council to send a letter to Avon & Somerset Police, the MP, the Leader and Deputy Leader of North Somerset Council to express the meetings concerns that Portishead is being forgotten.

A vote was taken with a show of hands, with the majority of meeting in favour of the letter being sent.

- Cllr. Mrs Cruse asked if the Clerk could forward a copy of the leaflet on bonfires to Mrs. O'Hara.
- Ms. Liese Stanley spoke about the funding for the Lake Grounds speed bumps. She went on to say that she was confused as to why funding cannot be provided for Bristol Road and Avon Way in the same way as it has for work to be carried out on the Lake Grounds.  
Ms. Liese explained that she had been a Town Councillor for 4 years, and had got very involved in the skate park committee and supported the need for a skate park in the Town. Seven years on the Town is no further forward, during this time she has seen pre-determination, lies being told and people being misrepresented? Currently there is a primary school crisis and those children will become teenagers and will want to go out on their scooters, BMX's, roller blades and skateboards and the town offers no facilities for children over the age of eight and definitely nothing for the 12+ that is free to use. She asked that all councillors (District and Town) get back to her with any feedback on the current situation with regard to new sites for a skate park.
- Mr. Smith said that Portishead is a lovely place but the traffic is horrendous, he doesn't understand why it is so difficult to get anything done. Where are the rest of the District Councillors that represent this area, only one non Town Councillor is present? Why aren't the District Councillors here at the meeting to listen to Portishead's concerns? He went on to suggest that the £26,000 set aside for paying the Executive 'support councillors' would be better used on traffic calming on Avon Way and Bristol Road.  
He asked has anyone present tried to get a non-urgent appointment at the health centre or have you tried to get your children in to a Portishead primary schools? AP Burts is being knocked down and replaced by more housing, why don't the District Councillors put a stop on it? Give us the infrastructure and then build the housing. He went on to say that he doesn't feel the District Councillors are working for the Town; they have got to be seen to be representing Portishead. He asked why the skate park can't go on Kilkenny Fields; the District Councillors should challenge the Executive and ask them why they turned it down and what are the reasons?
- Cllr. Jolley responded regarding the housing numbers. He pointed out that the increase in housing is not due to North Somerset but the Government. The Government is hoping to revive the economy by house building. Under the last Government North Somerset was expected to have an additional 26,000 new homes by 2026. The North Somerset Council put forward a Core Strategy and their target was 14,000 new homes and this was agreed. Recently Bristol University challenged the Core Strategy because they want to build houses in Green Belt bordering Bristol. The inspector heading the enquiry has discounted the Core Strategy on a spurious basis that NSC are going to challenge and he has put the figure back up to 24,000. The Housing Minister

has agreed that NSC has issues due green belt and flood plain and is minded to put the housing figure back down to 14,000.

- Cllr. Lord spoke on behalf of the Town Council. She said that Cllr. Burden and she attended the Inspection Hearing as representatives of the Town Council. She went on to say that she was not surprised by the result as she didn't have a great deal of confidence in the reasoning of the inspector, but never the less they attended to ensure their point, that Portishead is full and requires no more housing was put across.
- Mr. Dixon spoke about speed bumps and how they affect bus passengers. He suggested that speed cushions could be used instead as the buses straddle them, but cars can't.
- Mr. Oyns spoke about traffic speeds on the Lake Grounds; he commented that there is a route that the speeding vehicles take as they travel around the town. The residents around the Lake Grounds grouped together and spoke to North Somerset Council, who has promised them speed bumps. He suggested that the residents of Avon Way, Bristol Road and Wyndham Way keep battering away at North Somerset Council until they do something. Mr Oyns then went on to suggest a number of traffic calming measures could be introduced around the town.
- PC Simon Tamilla from the Police team at Portishead. They are very aware of the speeding and traffic issues at Portishead and they have been trying to tackle the issues and alleviate them. They have had some success on Avon Way with covert patrols; they have given out s.59 notices to those driving in an antisocial manor, meaning that cars can be seized if they continue to cause a nuisance. They have worked with McDonalds and the landlords of the Wyndham Way Retail Park to make sure they are locking the gate at the end of the evening and drivers can't congregate into the early hours of the morning. In conjunction with North Somerset Council they have put in some speed monitoring stripes in Wyndham Way and that data is being analysed. On Bristol Road they are looking at what can be done with North Somerset Council Highways Officers. They are aware that in North Weston there has been nowhere to site the speed patrol vehicles; however the force has just taken receipt of two speed patrol motorbikes, which have the ability to park on grass and monitor speeds. The police are trying to tackle the issues and have had some success and are aware of people's concerns.
- Mr. Holman said he supports the Chief Constable.
- Mr. Dixon reminded the meeting of the Portishead Railway line and the fact that the town was promised a level crossing. It would appear that the town cannot have a level crossing now. Could a crossing be considered just for buses and certain authorised vehicles? Street lights are getting turned off, which he disagrees with. Mr Dixon suggested that the street lights can have a movement sensor and switch themselves back on with movement.

- Cllr. Jolley spoke about the proposals for a Portishead Station. Originally three sites were proposed, the District Council generally want the station to be sited in Portishead at the original station site, but it has been National Rails policy not introduce level crossings, which has led to this site being discounted. He felt it will be inevitable that the station will be sited further away from the town and there will be no level crossing.
- Mrs Hennessy spoke about people having a say at public meetings. She finds it ironic that people that seem to complain and tell people that they have heard enough of people speaking are the same people that criticise the people having a go at them and she finds that quite strange, because the only two impolite comments heard today have been from two gentlemen when somebody else has wanted to give some accurate information. She can certainly always evidence anything that she says and she is always happy to. If anyone ever wants documentary evidence please email her or phone her as she is happy to share it. But she does find it very strange that someone does say, that something is inaccurate or misleading the public they then get told 'I've heard enough of you tonight'. She went on to say that she was sorry, but people are not going to go away in this town and if they have got the truth, if they have got factual information, they can document and evidence, they have a right to speak and those people whether they are here tonight or the many that turn up for Town Council meetings, when quite often hardly anyone turns up, those people will continue to do so for one reason, they love Portishead. She loves Portishead and will not see people in this Town being misled. If anyone has any query about anything that she says or that she writes in the paper or in any other forum, please just ask her for the evidence and she will provide it. She went on to say that she really doesn't think it polite people being told 'be quiet' when they have got some factual information to give out.
- Mr. Hardman spoke; he said it is his first time at an Annual Town Meeting. He asked if anything from last year's meeting has been resolved. And if it has, where is it documented. Tonight's issues raised have been documented but what's going to happen about them. He has been told that the Town Council has got control of three things and one of them is dog bins. Where is the District Council, who are these people? Who are they accountable to, who are they accountable for? He has come to the meeting tonight, to find out what is going on in Portishead, because he has been in Portishead 11 years and this is his utopia. What is going to happen with last year's minutes, which everyone has agreed is factual, but what is being done about it? What's been resolved? What is the outcome of the letter sent to Liam Fox MP? Was the letter ever sent? Shouldn't there be an Annual District Councillors Meeting? Shouldn't it be advertised and be in Portishead. Portishead wants safety and a skate park for the kids. We have decided to build 1650 houses and we have put one school in, we now have to shuffle all the other schools to make enough space. Where are the facilities for the people that are coming here? There is nowhere for people to go, is there a village hall down there, no, is there a recreational centre down there, no. From his memory there is a chocolate shop and post office and a model railway shop. We are putting all these new things in here, but there is nowhere to park. A pub is put in with only 6 parking spaces.

- Cllr. Pasley said it is a very good suggestion to have an annual meeting with all six District Councillors. It's never been done before, but it is a very good idea. He went on to say that there are answers to many of the points that have been raised, there are logical reasons why the District Council works the way it does.
- Mr. Hardman said there should be a change in personnel and procedures because it's just not working. The District Councillors are not answerable to anybody.
- Cllr. Jolley explained that people have their say at election time and can vote. We are in the middle of a recession and the District Council have managed to keep the Council Tax bill down.

Clerks Note: A brief general discussion took place between various members of the public, with the Clerk unable to establish named individuals.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item .6)**

The Chairman asked if there was any other business

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Minutes approved at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting

-----  
Signed

-----  
Dated