



Committee Members:

- Councillor Ben Aldridge (Chair)
- Councillor Paul Gardner (Vice Chair)
- Councillor Caroline Goddard
- Councillor Janet Davey
- Councillor Patricia Sterndale
- Councillor Polly Shepperdson
- Councillor Sue Mason
- Councillor Tina Mason

CM2328: Apologies for absence (Town Clerk)

Councillor Tina Mason

Councillor Polly Shepperdson

CM2329: Committee Members present

- Councillor Ben Aldridge (Chair)
- Councillor Paul Gardner (Vice Chair)
- Councillor Caroline Goddard (online)
- Councillor Janet Davey
- Councillor Patricia Sterndale
- Councillor Sue Mason

CM2330: Declaration of Councillor interests and requests for dispensations (Chair)

- Chair item 2342 (will abstain from vote)

CM2331: Chair's verbal report:

- Portishead High Street and Bristol Road Highway Improvements scheme (Chair)
 - Councillors Bull, Cartwright and Churchill met North Somerset Council (NSC) Highways team to discuss
 - Statistics show a high level of accidents / incidents in this area.
 - A public meeting will be arranged to discuss issues and solutions.
- Merlin Park pump track (Vice Chair)
 - A report is available online with the minutes.
 - A consultation exercise was started following requests from young residents which showed a clear demand in the town due to population growth.
 - This was a 6-week consultation using 600 leaflets and an online form.
 - Other locations were originally considered including Black Down Park Rd and Kilkenny Fields (2 sites) but NSC advised against them.
 - Councillor Slatter: Black Down Park also has issues as it's smaller and parking is more difficult.
 - Councillor Sue Mason: Agrees that Black Down Park even more difficult. Kilkenny NSC previously said no to a skate park.
 - Chair: experts say putting a pump track around the Skate Park is not feasible.
 - The consultation was inundated with comments from young people but they didn't complete the survey.

CM2332: Public participation relating to Merlin Park meeting agenda items

- Resident 1:
 - Asked how much of Merlin Park would be needed
 - Vice Chair: 40 by 30m
 - The track would have an impact on habitat.
 - Suggested not to limit investment to BMX riders, maybe spend money on draining or other site issues.
 - Chair: offered to take points and include in consultation. The Council will listen to residents.
- Resident 2:
 - Was pleased the Council has decided not to move forward at the moment with Merlin Park'
 - Disagreed with the representation of statistics in the presentation, his analysis reads that the totally negative comments outweighed totally positive. I.e., 64.5% not in favour of Skate Park in Merlin Park.
 - Statistics can be analysed different ways
 - Most commentors want parking, facilities, graffiti walls, etc.
 - People who want the Pump Track also want the whole site developed.

- Suggested more equitable ways to phrase the consultation question.
 - Vice Chair agreed to look at the figures.
 - He assumed this project will not move forward now.
 - Chair: said this is correct, the Council will look at alternative sites.
 - He thought parking is a major issue.
 - Resident 3:
 - Asked the Council why the proposed budget is not being invested into the Skate Park.
 - If any further consultation is planned, asked if -all Merlin Park residents should be consulted.
 - Felt that beautiful spaces are increasingly used, the track will prevent other users.
 - Chair: Council meeting next Weds to discuss financial contribution to the Skate Park.
 - Resident 4:
 - A Merlin Park resident, moved for the park where she, her granddaughter and dog walk.
 - Lots of users live elsewhere in the area, so they haven't been consulted.
 - It is a nice safe field for elderly people to walk.
 - Space behind the tennis courts on Lake Grounds is not used, maybe that could be a BMX track.
 - Chair: NSC is likely to say no as tennis courts to be extended.
 - NSC said they would discuss Merlin Park depending on the consultation, they did not agree to go ahead regardless.
 - Asked where Skate Park will be on the Lake Grounds site.
 - Chair: in the fenced area, next to the café. Banners should be on site
 - Resident 5:
 - Thanked Council for not moving forward with the scheme at the moment.
 - Does not disagree with the idea, it's just the wrong location.
 - The Park is sanctuary for people of all ages, a haven for wildlife, increased traffic does not help the environment.
 - Councillor Sterndale:
 - Everyone seems to agree, however it's difficult to find space for young people for leisure, wildlife, dog walkers, etc.
 - So much development makes it difficult.
 - Councillors are sympathetic to residents' point of view.
 - Councillors did their best to distribute leaflets but apologies if any houses were missed.
 - Resident 6:
 - Asked if developers could be engaged to support the Skate Park.
 - Chair: developers should contribute but doesn't happen. Previously asked for contribution for another project but told to apply for £1k community grant instead.
 - Councillors will ask developers to contribute to the Skate Park project via S106.
 - The Council needs to increase facilities for young people and listen to people's opinions.

CM2333: Information item: Lake Grounds Skate Park update (Chair)

- The project has moved forward dramatically since some consultation to find the right space and Lake Grounds chosen.
- Wheels And Skate Park (WASP) was granted consent to use the site in 2020.
- Unfortunately, C19 halted progress, which is now ramping up.
- The formal partnership between the Council and WASP broadens options for funding and provides security for funders.
- The Clerk is working on items for next Full Council next week to move forward.
- The planning application is expected before the end March.
- A crowd funding page has already raised £10,000.
- Residents and businesses are being asked for support.
- WASP needs to raise at least £50k to draw down on the Council's proposed 22-23 budget.
- The team is also looking for grant funding.
- There is an event planned for the following Saturday at the Youth Centre.
- The team is working on the 2nd version of the design and it's likely to change again
- Resident 1:
 - Asked if the Skate Park would satisfy young people's needs.
 - Vice Chair: said there seems to be a demand for different uses.
- Councillor Sue Mason: The Pump Track has been discussed for many years.

CM2334: Information item: Redcliffe Bay Women’s Institute plans to plant a tree to mark the Platinum Jubilee (Chair)

- The Deputy Clerk is in discussion with the tree expert and NSC on a suitable site.

CM2335: Information item: Portishead Town Council’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations (Chair)

- Two Councillors are organising a celebration event on 3rd June at the Show Field, with a variety of entertainment, refreshments, stage with music, stalls and it is free entry.
- More information to follow.

CM2336: North Somerset Climate Working Group (Chair)

- The Project Manager attended the inaugural meeting, which closely aligns with the Council’s strategy. She will engage with local environment groups ahead of the next meeting.

CM2337: Information item: Play area refurbishment project update (Chair)

- At Heavens Field and Underwood, the Council’s play area contractors have surveyed the sites with the Deputy Clerk.
- Various tidy up and improvements are being made, including cleaning the surface, painting and signage replacement.
- Mead Road and the Lake Grounds gym equipment will be next in 22-23.

CM2338: Information item: Verbal update on Multi-Use Sports & Community Hub proposal (Chair)

- The pre-planning application documents will be available on the Council website.

CM2339: Public participation relating to other agenda items:

- Resident 1: it’s exciting to see the sports and Community Hub update and progress.
- She asked who would own the land / building and if there is a danger it could be sold on.
 - Chair: this is another fact finding mission, if it goes ahead should remain in Council ownership and leased. Would need to vary lease.
 - Vice Chair: this would require 2 separate leases, 2 obligations.
- Councillor Sterndale: this is an excellent report, which seems to have addressed all the issues / concerns
- Resident 2:
 - Asked of the Council would comment on the planning application.
 - Clerk: understands that it is possible to comment on own application. But according from an NSC senior Planning Team member, is it rarely done.

CM2340: Decision item: To delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk (supported by Councillors Aldridge and Churchill) to: Agree a renewed Allotment Tenancy Agreement with Portishead Allotment Association.

Agree a renewed lease from North Somerset Council for Beach Hill Allotments for 25 years at £250 per year plus an RPI increase every 5 years. Portishead Town Council would be responsible for lease legal costs (up to £300).

- The lease has lapsed.
- Vice Chair: did not believe the Council should be paying legal costs, or actually any rent, suggesting NSC gifts the land.
 - Clerk clarified the situation
 - The resolution was amended to Agree a renewed lease from North Somerset Council for Beach Hill Allotments for 25 years at £250 per year plus an RPI increase every 5 years, at no cost to the Council.
- All agreed

And agree a renewed Allotment Tenancy Agreement with Portishead Allotment Association.

- All agreed

CM2341: Decision item: To delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk and Councillor Gardner to approve funding for Lake Grounds Skate Park project management support up to £3,000 from the previously approved £10,000 seed funding 2021-2022 budget (this will make total accumulative project manager costs £6,000 in this financial year)

All approved

CM2343: Approval item: Minutes of the last meeting from 10th February 2022

- All agreed

CM2344: Date of the next meeting: 14th April 2022

Ben thanked me Town clerk

Signed:Cllr Ben Aldridge, Chair, Community Matters Committee