

PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was held remotely with video and telephone attendance due to
Coronavirus social distancing restrictions.

Present remotely – seven committee members were in attendance:

Chairman – Cllr Aldridge

Councillors – Cllrs Bull, Davey, Gardner, Goddard, Mason, Slatter

There were also 7 members of the public and 1 member of the press in attendance.

CM.2083 Apologies (*Item 1*)
An apology for absence was received from Cllr Temple.

CM.2084 Declarations of Interest (*Item 2*)
Cllr Slatter declared an interest in item 11 by virtue of being a trustee of Portishead Youth Centre.

CM.2085 Public Participation (*Item 3*)

Cllr Aldridge – noted that the council fully supports the Portishead Lido Pool and the decision of its trustees not to open this year due to the Covid-19 circumstances. Although not familiar with all the background to the decision to remain closed, the uncertain public health and economic reasons at the time the decision was made are understood. However, the Council remains willing to help the trustees to reconsider that decision should they wish to do so.

He also confirmed it was still hoped to hold a physical council meeting in the Folk Hall in September. Although the limitation of public meetings to 30 people and the recent requirement to wear face masks from 8 August in indoor public spaces is a complicating factor. Furthermore, local outbreak and local lockdown actions also need to be accommodated and for these reasons it will still be necessary to have remote meeting attendance in addition to any physical meeting that may be possible. Accordingly, PTC is endeavouring to arrange hybrid physical and remote meetings.

Annette Hennessy - said it was important to understand the facts why the pool did not open this year. She felt the pool trustees had not been forthcoming with all the facts and requested the modelling undertaken be shared with the residents, as there had been a large number of volunteers willing to help to open the pool and the full reasons behind the decision are not understood. She understood the reason was not wholly financial and that the full reasons should be explained. Cllr Aldridge said he would respond to the email he had received from Mrs Hennessy and would be happy to discuss it further with the pool trustees if that would be helpful.

Cllr Bull noted that it was not a decision of the council and that PTC could not instruct the trust how it should operate the pool. Annette Hennessy commented that the trust operates the pool for North Somerset Council and is funded by the community and PTC grants. In her view as a community pool

the Town Councillors should be interested and assist the trustees in resolving any problems, they may have in opening the pool.

CM.2086 To approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Community Matters meeting dated 8th July 2020 (Item 4)

Resolved – the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2020 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

CM.2087 To receive the Chairman’s report (Item 6)

The Chairman gave a verbal update in respect of the following matters:

Merlin Park repair & improvement – the quotes for upgrade works at Merlin Park have been received and will be considered later in the agenda.

Youth centre damage to fence – a car accident has caused significant damage to the youth centre fence and an insurance claim has been made. A police report is awaited to progress the insurance claim.

Action: To obtain the police report and forward to insurers or request our insurer to request the necessary details from the police.

Marina litter bins – having installed 6 litter bins at the North end of the Marina for different reasons based on resident feedback. As people will have seen the two bins by the shops are problematic as the volume of waste is causing people to leave rubbish around them when full. The combination of good weather, take-away waste and the Covid increase in waste generally are a problem at this location. It is therefore proposed to remove these two bins and discuss the problem in conjunction with Turn the Tide, North Somerset Council and local businesses at that location to find a better solution to resolve this behavioural problem.

In addition, a bin audit is being conducted to consider wider bin provision around Portishead again in response to comments and suggestions received from residents. The objective is not necessarily more bins but better waste and bin management.

No cycling signage – Cllr Aldridge confirmed that signs by Gordano School will be installed on Saturday, the delay caused by damage to the signs when trying to fit them. No Cycling signs have also been installed by North Somerset Council on the High Street but unfortunately, they are only a temporary measure, being Corex plastic, so further discussion is needed with NSC to see if more permanent signage can be provided. Alternatively, PTC may fit similar signs to those being fitted at Gordano School.

Action: Cllr Aldridge to fit signs at Gordano and to provide a sample sign to see if similar can be fitted along the High Street.

Esplanade Road – Cllr Gardner explained that a proposal had been received from NSC to replace the wooden posts with a metal bar gate that can be

opened and closed in response to Covid-19 and other events, such as storm flooding, that may require the temporary closure of the road. He considered it may be a good practical idea but that it would be better to take a step back and consider any further measures in conjunction with a longer-term strategic plan for the Lake Grounds. He proposed that the Lake Grounds Management Committee should consider these issues, particularly as the current management plan expires next year, and that short-term tactical changes should be avoided until a proper consultation about future investment and changes had been undertaken.

The matter was discussed with the following points being made:

- No more money should be spent, or temporary measures taken until there is plan for the Lake Grounds. It requires a Lake Grounds meeting to take some serious decisions as the current infrastructure is not fit for purpose.
- The closure of the Esplanade is causing chaos on surrounding roads and parking problems around the area that need to be resolved.
- Although gates may not be a bad idea to cope with temporary events and storms the continued closure over the summer is a bad idea.
- That town and district Cllr Charles should be involved and assist Cllr Snaden as it had already been promised by NSC that more permanent gates would not be installed.
- Temporary gates are not required to deal with storms as at times of high danger other more cost-effective measures can be taken to temporarily close the road. Investment in gates is a waste of resources.
- To open the Esplanade as soon as possible is most desirable.
- There is distrust of NSC on this point and it may be felt that Covid has given NSC an excuse to close the road and so communication and consultation will be key to any further measures. Any future measures need to be thought through with consultation so that Portishead feels it is being talked to and not talked at.
- If gates are put in there would have to be keys held locally so that decisions around closure can be taken at a local level.

Action – That PTC write to NSC to express these views and its opposition to further measures without longer term consideration and consultation on the future of the Lake Grounds. PTC remains of the view that Esplanade Road should be reopened as soon as possible.

Travellers – Cllr Gardner explained the recent traveller encampment at Clapton Land had an extremely negative impact on residents and demonstrated that current laws suit neither residents nor the traveller community. A government consultation which concluded in March recommended action to modernise regulation and PTC would like to write to the local MP to support legislative change to provide additional powers to the police.

Resolved – That PTC write to the local MP to request a status update on the proposals and call for swift legislative change such as that recommended by the consultation. *All Cllrs in favour.*

CM.2088 Grant Applications (Item 7)

Grant applications from the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity and the Lions Club Portishead were considered.

Resolved – The payment of a grant of £2,000 to the Great Western Air Ambulance charity is approved and should be paid in August.
All Cllrs in favour

Resolved – The payment of a grant of £1,189 to the Lions Club Portishead is approved and should be paid in August.
All Cllrs in favour

CM.2089 Gertie Gales Tree Works (Item 8)

Resolved – to accept the quote from contractor C for £2,000 (excluding VAT) and to progress the tree works once the bird nesting season has ended in October. Purchase order to be raised. *All Cllrs in favour*

CM.2090 Community Hall Refurbishment Project (Item 9)

Cllr Davey updated on works to the heritage display cabinet and the picture timeline. She updated that the WC&P railway group had offered the loan of the South railway shelter that is 90cm wide and can be installed beside the piano in the main hall. She sought approval for this installation that will complement historical items in the display cabinet. The shelter will be used to display information and items connected with the railway.

In connection with the timeline, Quay Digital will be engaged to put the pictures on to A3 blocks and an additional £110 is requested to cover this additional work.

Cllr Bull also updated that the hall sound loop does not work properly, and it is a mandatory requirement to have a working sound loop. To resolve the problem an additional cost of around £2,000 will arise, which although a mandatory repair, will account for the remainder of the hall refurbishment budget. In future the loop and sound system will need to be tested on an annual basis and the sound system will be serviced as part of the sound and vision proposed expenditure of £1,750.

Resolved – to approve the following items of expenditure for the hall refurbishment project.

New FH Projector & sound system service	£1,750
LED lighting replacement of main Folk Hall Lights	£1,500
Picture boards timeline display, additional cost	£110
Recovering of 32 Folk Hall chairs	£768
TV display for Reynolds Room	£500
Microwaves for kitchens in the 3 halls	£150

Resolved – To approve the loan and installation of the WC&P South Station in the Folk Hall (by the piano) and the display of WC&P historical items. *All Cllrs in favour.*

Thanks, was also noted to the Gordano Society for the donation of the heritage table glass top.

CM.2091 Merlin Skate Park Repair & Improvement works (Item 10)

An update on the proposed works to Merlin Park skate park was provided. Quotes to resurface, move the entrance gate and rubbish bin were considered; a quote of £4,800 for wooden edging and £5,000 for concrete edging (both exclusive of VAT).

It was noted that it would be helpful to have a plan and design of the skate park works, to clarify the additional works to be undertaken and confirmation of the additional equipment to be installed. It was confirmed that NSC would cover the cost of foundations for the new equipment, but its purchase and installation was not included in the current quote. It was confirmed that this was a continuation of the works started under the previous council and there was some uncertainty as to whether aspects of the work had already been approved.

Action – To circulate the plan of works, clarify the cost of additional equipment (ramps) and to determine if aspects of the works have already been approved. To seek approval for the expenditure at the next Community Matters meeting, that may include the new equipment (ramp).

CM.2092 Youth Centre New Taps (Item 11)

The proposal to install self-closing taps at the Youth Centre for Covid and water saving reasons was discussed. It was questioned if PTC was responsible for internal building items and that it should be considered who is responsible for the building fixtures and fittings.

Resolved – to approve the purchase and installation of self-closing taps at the Youth Centre at a cost not to exceed £700 (excluding VAT) subject to confirmation that PTC is responsible for those fixtures. The cost to be met from the protected Youth Centre reserve.

All Cllrs in favour with the abstention of Cllr Slatter.

CM.2093 **Date of next meeting** (*Item 12*) – the next Community Matters meeting is 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th September.

The Meeting Closed: 20:53

Signed (Chairman).....

Date.....