

PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

Present remotely – eight committee members were in attendance:

Chairman – Cllr Aldridge

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

There were approximately 3 members of the public present and no press in attendance.

CM.2053 Apologies (*Item 1*)

There were no apologies for absence, all committee members attending.

CM.2054 Declarations of Interest (*Item 2*)

There were no declarations of interest received.

CM.2055 Public Participation (*Item 3*)

There were no requests from the public to be heard.

CM.2056 To approve and sign as a true record the Minutes of the Community Matters (formerly the Recreation and Works committee) dated 26th February 2020 (*Item 4*)

Resolved – the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2020 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

CM.2057 To receive the Chairman's report (*Item 6*)

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

Merlin Park arrangements for new lease – have been discussed with North Somerset Council (NSC) and in principle a new 15-year lease at peppercorn rent for a slightly extended area is agreed. NSC has also agreed to reduce its legal costs to £200 for drafting of the lease.

All councillors confirmed that in principle they agreed with a new 15-year lease for the extended area and were happy to proceed with execution of new lease.

Action: New lease to be drafted by NSC and presented at next CM Committee meeting for approval and signature.

Youth centre drainage problem – just before lockdown the cause of the drainage problem had been identified as being a blocked and broken drain just outside the boundary of the building this resolved the immediate flooding problem. However, a bigger issue of the drain being blocked by tree roots and possible damage from building works on adjoining property was also identified. An insurance claim is being pursued for the remediation cost estimated by

AquaBlast to be between 2 and 3 days of work. It is proposed to commence the repair works as soon as possible, subject to the Coronavirus restrictions.

Action: Repair to be progressed with the contractor and the insurance claim pursued to replenish the Youth Centre earmarked reserves.

Water fountain update – It was noted that public comment had been received to the effect that what started off as a water fountain memorial has now become a ‘white elephant’ as there is limited demand for a water bottle filler and health issues with a drinking fountain. The project was discussed, and councillors agreed that an appropriate and cost-effective solution was going to be difficult to find at the current time. The ringfenced funds of £375 were also considered insufficient and further funds would be needed for a successful project. Accordingly, further consideration should be given as to how to recognise the WWI Centenary with a further report in October of alternative and possible solutions.

Action: Alternative means of commemorating the Centenary to be considered with a further report to be made in October.

Bins in storage at WW toilet block – 8 new bins are in storage and will be considered in the bin audit to be conducted by Cllr Cartwright when safe to do so. Bin nets are also held at the Folk Hall and will be distributed in conjunction with Turn the Tide, when safe to do so.

Carey’s tree ‘Sheep Pen’ solution – The suggestion to paint the frame to Portishead blue and put baskets on railings was noted. There was comment that there was a need to ensure that any solution was elegant and accepted by residents. It was also noted that this is NSC owned land and that it needs to be involved and potentially fund any solution.

Action: to consider potential solutions with NSC and High Street retailers once Coronavirus restrictions lifted with further report in due course.

Plans for post Coronavirus celebration – Cllr Aldridge explained he was working with local business and other groups to organise a celebration event towards the end of September, health and safety permitting. The current proposal involved closing the High Street and surrounding area to hold an event to show that Portishead was open for business. It was possible the organising group may ask for a PTC grant to partly fund the event. During discussion, several comments were made including the following:

- The need to clearly define which groups were involved/invited and how key workers would be recognised by the event
- That NSC were at the current time not sanctioning any events and there remained considerable uncertainty that large public gatherings would be possible this year
- Community and business funding to be sought and how this would be achieved. It was noted the group were currently in the process of applying for charitable status to enable the use of Just Giving
- A single event would be likely to overwhelm the High Street and would a large festival type event at the flower show field for example be better

- Whether a series of events with different focuses would be more appropriate
- An event after the summer would be weather dependent and if deferred until next year could an event in conjunction with the carnival be considered

Cllr Aldridge said he would take these points away and consider them in working up more defined plans that are inclusive for all.

CM.2058 To receive reports from Community Groups (Item 5)

There were none

Cllr Temple temporarily left the meeting.

CM.2059 Portishead Lawn Tennis Club 'Pay & Play' Financial Support (Item 7)

Lee Fedder and Tim Perkin of PLTC updated thar plans on hold at moment and the new courts may now not get built this year, however they were still keen to reach an agreement in principal regarding PTC grant funding that can be considered by PLTC members.

The proposal in the report were discussed with clarification that although it was considered that a very high proportion of the potential users would have internet/smart phone access to book courts that an alternative contact could be provided for those unable to book online. After further discussion the following was resolved.

Resolved – To recommend the proposals in the report, namely the payment of a £8,000 capital grant and further annual grants of between £500 and £1,500 per year, to the Town Council for approval. The matter to be presented for a decision in principle at the next Town Council meeting.

Cllrs Bull, Davey, Gardner, Mason in favour of the motion.
Cllrs Aldridge, Goddard and Slatter opposed the motion.
Motion passed by four votes to three.

CM.2060 Purchase of Beach and Street Cleaning Boards (Item 8)

Cllr Temple returned to the meeting

Resolved – To approve the purchase of one Beach cleaning and one Street cleaning board by PTC in support of the Turn the Tide community initiative to keep the Portishead coastline and town clean. The total cost of the boards not to exceed £700 (excl VAT) with the cost being funded by community donations, organised by Turn the Tide.

All eight councillors in favour.

CM.2061 Production of Bin Net Distribution Information Slips (Item 9)

Resolved – To approve the production and printing of information slips to be used in connection with a bin net trial to be undertaken in conjunction with Turn the Tide. The cost of printing around 800 slips not to exceed £100 (excl VAT).

All eight councillors in favour.

CM.2062 Play Area Service Level Agreement (Item 10)

Cllr Mason noted that the Slade Road area no longer had equipment installed and so should be removed from the draft SLA.

Resolved – With the removal of references to the Slade Road play area the draft SLA is approved, and that the Town Clerk and/or Chairman be authorised to enter discussions with GB Sports & Leisure to reach a final agreement that can be recommended to the CM Committee.

All eight councillors in favour.

CM.2063 Future CM Grant Award Process (Item 11)

Cllr Mason asked about how small ongoing grants of less than £1,000 would be dealt with. It was suggested that Seed and Small grant categories should be combined to cover all small grants, of both a seed and ongoing nature.

Cllr Mason also volunteered to be a member of the CM Grants Working Party that will consider grant applications.

The following matters were voted upon and resolved.

Resolved:

Recommendation 1 that the PTC grant award process is managed by the Community Matters Committee was agreed.

Recommendation 2 that a Community Matters Grants Working Party is established to review grant applications, comprising the CM Committee Chair, Chair of Staff & Finance Committee and one other councillor (Cllr Mason) was agreed.

Recommendation 3 that with amendment of Seed and Small grants into a single category, that grant funding bands and funding rules for each category are established was agreed.

Recommendation 4 that the supporting information and form of grant applications will be established based upon the criteria set out in the report was agreed.

Recommendation 5 that subject to Seed and Small grant categories being merged that it is recommended to the Town Council that the Community Matters Committee is granted delegated authority to consider and approve Seed & Small grants and Medium grants and it shall consider and make recommendations for approval to the Town Council in respect of Large and Strategic grants.

All eight councillors in favour in respect of all five recommendations.

CM.2064 Future Community Matters Meetings (Item 12)

Resolved – To recommend to the Town Council that future Community Matters Committee Meetings be held on the second Wednesday of each month and until October 2020 and to be held (where physically meetings are possible) in the main hall of the Folk Hall. The location of meetings to be reviewed from October 2020 onwards with the intention of rotating council meetings to other halls, where feasible, to encourage participation by residents in those areas.

All eight councillors in favour.

CM.2065 Gertie Gales and North Weston Allotment Rents (Item 13)

The proposal to amend rents from 1 April 2021 was discussed and in view of the current uncertainties and future funding needs to the allotments an alternative proposal to leave rents unchanged for 2020-21 and review them in November 2020 as part of budget planning was proposed.

Resolved – To leave allotment rents unchanged for 2020-21 and to review the level of rents in November 2020 as part of the annual budget process.

All eight councillors in favour.

The Meeting Closed: 22:02

Signed (Chairman).....

Date.....