



**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11th JANUARY 2023 AT THE FOLK HALL, 95 HIGH STREET,
PORTISHEAD, BS20 6PR**

This was a hybrid meeting to enable community participation

Members present:

Councillor Paul Gardner (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Ben Aldridge

Councillor Bob Cartwright

Councillor Janet Davey

Councillor Alan George

Councillor Sue Mason (Arrived 7.34pm)

Councillor Tim Snaden

Councillor Bob Bull

Councillor Paul Churchill

Councillor Simon Faulkner

Councillor Nicola Holland

Councillor Tanya Slatter

Councillor Roger Whitfield (Arrived 7.33pm)

Members online:

None

Officers present:

Wendy Coulter - Town Clerk (Taking the minutes, IT & Cameras)

Rachel Johnson – Responsible Financial Officer (Online)

Others present:

Mr Paul Maltby

Mr Ken Smith

Mrs Beth Hobbs

And 8 further Members of the Public

Others present online:

Mr David Cook

Ms Lisa Screen.....

Councillor Paul Gardner Chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor Patricia Sterndale (Chairman).

TC22.315 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Patricia Sterndale.

TC22.316 Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations:

To declare any interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Clerk (Localism Act 2011 s29-34)

The following declarations of interest was made:

- Councillor Ben Aldridge – Item 6 (Lake Grounds Wheels Park) – Pecuniary - Director of WASP & Chairman (did not comment and vote on the item).
- Councillor Tanya Slatter – Item 6 (Lake Grounds Wheels Park) – Pecuniary - Director of WASP (did not comment and vote on the item).
- Councillor Paul Gardner – Item 6 (Lake Grounds Wheels Park) – Personal – Councillor representative with Wheels Park (did not vote on the item).

TC22.317 Chairman's update report

A verbal update report was received from Councillor Gardner (Town Council Vice Chairman) on the following matters:

- Brackenwood Land – The Land Titles have now been transferred to the Town Council and land purchased. The seller of the land is kindly distributing proceeds from the sale to Portishead Charitable organisations.
- Update on Post Office Situation – All enquiries relating to the Post Office are being directed to the local MP.

TC22.318 Public Participation

The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.

Mrs B Hobbs – Portishead Resident

Concerned about the level of the Precept. Any rise would have a direct impact on residents already struggling with cost of living.

Mr P Maltby – Portishead Resident

Concerned about the rise in the level of the Precept. There are people in Portishead that are on the breadline. The Council should consider decreasing the Precept.

Mr K Smith – Portishead Resident

Heard reports that the Town Council are going to buy the Lake Grounds for One Million Pounds. Councillor P Gardner stated that this rumour is not true.

What are North Somerset Councillors doing? What have they done about all the new houses being built, the post office, schools. The infrastructure has got worse. We need the post office back. The people that represent us need to be strong.

Ms Reyna-Knight – Portishead Resident

Concerned about the raising of the Precept. It is easy to raise the Precept but not easy to save money. The number of staff have increased.

Has the Town Council bought a new flag? Concerned that the Town Council was not being transparent.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor P Gardner responded that the Town Council had bought and installed a new flag.

Ms R Nash – Portishead Resident

Thanked the Town Council for the support for the Wheels and Skatepark at the Lake Grounds.

TC22.319 Lake Grounds Wheels Park

Members considered the adoption of a Maintenance and Management Plan for the Lake Grounds Wheels Park and whether to release £40,000 from the CIL funds to provide additional funding for the Lake Grounds Wheels Park.

Members noted that the total cost of the Wheels Park construction is circa £360k. Working together, the WASP group and PTC have to date raised a total of around £340k with more than 500 donations from members of the public and local business donations plus several significant grants. Grant providers include the National Lottery, Veolia Environment Trust and North Somerset Council. All the funding applied for has now been confirmed and will be received accordingly in line with the grant providers terms and conditions.

PTC has previously approved a grant of up to £50,000 in match funding to match fund community donations raised by WASP. WASP has surpassed the match funding target and has raised more than £60,000 via crowdfunding and other donations.

Members further noted that there was a shortfall versus the Wheels Park construction costs of £20,000 and other cost items such as additional landscaping. Members were asked to consider allocating a maximum of £40,000 from CIL funds to cover the shortfall in Wheels Park construction costs and include an allowance of £20,000 for additional landscaping works and any other unexpected costs that materialise during the construction phase.

It was proposed by Councillor N Holland and seconded by Councillor R Bull that the Maintenance and Management Plan be approved now that all the funding applied for has now been confirmed and will be received accordingly in line with the grant providers terms and conditions, and that a further £40,000 from the CIL funds be allocated to the Lake Grounds Wheels Park to cover the shortfall in construction costs, any additional landscaping works and any other unexpected costs that might materialise during the construction phase.

A vote was taken: 10 in favour, 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the Maintenance and Management Plan be approved now that all the funding applied for has now been confirmed and will be received accordingly in line with the grant providers terms and conditions, and that a further £40,000 from the CIL funds be allocated to the Lake Grounds Wheels Park to cover the shortfall in construction costs, any additional landscaping works and any other unexpected costs that might materialise during the construction phase.

TC22.320 Budget 2023/2024

Councillor P Gardner presented the Budget for 2023/2024 (attached to record minutes). It was noted that there were currently high rates of inflation and costs were increasing for all amenities and services.

Members considered and debated the current Cost of Living Crisis and noted that an Emergency Community Fund had been included in the Budget for 2023/2024 to assist with the Cost of Living Crisis.

Councillor T Slatter wished it to be recorded that she was voting against the Budget as she did not feel it was appropriate to increase the Precept during the current cost of living crisis. The Budget was proposed by Councillor R Bull and seconded by Councillor P Gardner that the Budget for 2023/2024 be set at £909,071 (Nine hundred and nine thousand and seventy-one pounds).

A vote was taken 11 for, 2 against. The motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That the Portishead Town Council Budget for 2023/2024 be set at £909,071 (None hundred and nine thousand and seventy-one pounds).

TC22.321 Precept 2023/2024

Members considered the Precept for 2023/2024. With reference to the cost-of-living crisis members debated whether it was appropriate to increase the Precept Level for 2023/2024. It was proposed by Councillor R Bull and seconded by Councillor P Gardner that the Precept for 2023/2024 be £866,700 (Eight hundred and sixty-six thousand, seven hundred pounds) or £83.13 per Band D Household.

A vote was taken, 11 for, 2 against. The motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That the Precept for 2023/2024 be £866,700 (Eight hundred and sixty-six thousand, seven hundred pounds) or £83.13 per Band D Household.

TC22.322 North Somerset Councillors' reports

Councillor Nicola Holland reported that the future of Castlewood had been debated at the district meeting, it is an inefficient building and costly to run. There was nothing on the agenda about Portishead.

Councillor Tim Snaden reported Adult Services the amount of people going into care homes has reduced as people are staying at home but needing support and then going into nursing homes, missing out the middle step of care homes.

For Portishead, he is chasing round getting drains cleared, and making sure dustbins are emptied on various estates.

TC22.323 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor S Faulkner and seconded by Councillor N Holland that the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council meeting held on 9th November 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 24th November 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A vote was taken 12 for and 1 abstention. The motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council meeting held on 9th November 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 24th November 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

TC22.324 Grit Bins

Members considered the purchase of 5 Grit Bin to continue the programme of updating and replacing Grit Bins in the Portishead Area.

It was proposed by Councillor R Bull and seconded by Councillor T Slatter that the Grit Bins be purchased at a total cost of £439.75 to be taken from Budget Head 4240 (Bins – repairs and maintenance).

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That 5 Grit Bins be purchased at a total cost of £439.75 to be taken from Budget Head 4240 (Bins – repairs and maintenance).

TC22.325 CCTV Policy

Members considered a recommendation from the Staffing and Finance Committee to adopt an updated CCTV Policy in-line with the upgrade works being carried out to the Town Council's three community halls.

It was proposed by Councillor R Whitfield and seconded by Councillor S Mason that the Town Council adopt the updated CCTV Policy.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

Councillor R Bull asked that thanks be passed to Mr M McDonald (Community Halls Manager) for putting together the policy.

RESOLVED: That the updated CCTV Policy be adopted.

TC22.326 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next Ordinary Town Council meeting is Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm.

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 8.36pm.

Patricia Stendale

Chairman Portishead Town Council