

**MINUTES OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
27th JULY 2016 7.30PM**

PRESENT:- Councillor Oyns - in the Chair

Councillors: - Cameron, Clark, M. Cruse, R. Cruse, Huffadine-Cooper, Lord, Mason, Mitchell

Staff: - Jo Duffy – Clerk to the Council

Public: - There was 3 member of the public in attendance

RW1564 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item .1)

There was one declarations of interest recorded in the Declarations of Interest Register.

Councillor Oyns stated that any views expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts currently known. He would be exercising his right to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

APOLOGIES (Agenda item .2)

Councillors: - Burden, Cottrell, Koops & Pasley

RW1592 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda item .3)

There were 3 member of the public in attendance who wished to address the meeting:-

- Mrs. Ann Townsend spoke about the Golf Course and a request from the tenant to get in touch in order to discuss “Access by Permission” signage on the site. She asked if North Somerset Council (NSC) has consulted with the Town Council regarding the permission notice.
- Mrs. Janet Davey raised concerns about the possibility of the skate park being sited at the Bristol Road football grounds. Mrs Davey was very concerned that the “Access by Permission” notice provided by NSC with regard to Portishead Golf Course could affect future established rights on the site, apart from the two claimed footpaths. Permissive Rights are not as strong as “as of right”.

- Mr. Geoff Hardman asked why agenda items are exempt from the public during meetings and whether the Council is going to sell assets? He spoke about the Precinct and asked if NSC want the Town Council to take on ownership and pay for the levelling and straightening of the slabs? He asked if the Town Council can supply a breakdown of the Section 106 payments due to Portishead (he quoted a figure of £1.3m). Mr. Hardman asked for progress on the Football Clubs 40 year lease.

Cllr. Oyns said his chief aim with the Bristol Road sports ground is not a skate park, it is to improve the facility and increase community use within that ground. He went on to say that he supports Kilkenny Fields as a possible venue.

Cllr. Lord confirmed that the Town Council agreed at the last Town Council meeting to speak to solicitors about obtaining a 25 year lease for the sports ground.

These minutes summarise what was said during public participation and were views expressed by the speaker named, not the Town Council. The Council cannot be held responsible for checking the accuracy of statements made by the public.

RW1593 TO DISCUSS THE ELONEX SYSTEM (Agenda item 4.)

This item is deferred until after a meeting can be re-arranged with Elonex.

RW1594 TO DISCUSS RECOGNISING RUBY HARROLD AND LIZ KINCAID'S ACHIEVEMENTS WITH REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN AT THE RIO OLYMPICS (Agenda item .5)

The Clerk ran through comments supplied by Cllr. Cottrell.

The meeting discussed various ideas for recognising their achievements representing Great Britain at the Rio Olympics.

It was suggested that on behalf of the Town Council, the Clerk sends a communication to Ruby, Liz and the team, wishing them well at the upcoming games. A vote was taken with all in favour.

RECOMMENDATION that:

Portishead Town Council awards a Town Plaque to Ruby Harrold and Liz Kincaid at the September Town Council meeting.

Portishead Town Council revisits suggestions to recognise their achievement at the next Town Council meeting.

RW1595 TO RECEIVE A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE (Agenda item .6)

The Clerk briefed the members on the initial meeting with the website designers and the process for formatting the website.

RW1596 TO DISCUSS PARKING REGULATIONS IN THE MARINA AREA (Agenda item .7)

Cllr. Mitchell spoke about a meeting he attended with Cllr. Cottrell, Dist. Cllr. Knight and Mr. David Brown NSC Highways Engineer.

They toured the Marina and Mr. Brown stated that he will be moving regulations forward. From a legal point of view it is hoped that this will be completed by October 2016. Research has been going on for some time to establish the problematic areas, which amongst other issues include parking on corners, crossing, and the inability of buses and emergency vehicles to get through. The problems are generally caused by an excess of vehicles parking on the highway, either due to residents not using their allotted parking spaces or more cars per household than the approved planning permission allocated for. North Somerset Council will carry out an audit of the current number of parking spaces and indicate how many on street parking spaces could be lost. A copy of the draft proposals will come back to the Town Council for comment.

The members discussed at length the various parking issues affecting the Marina area.

RW1597 TO DISCUSS THE SLIPWAY AT THE MARINA (Agenda item .8)

Cllr. R. Cruse advised that a date has now been fixed for the sub-committee to meet and they will report back in due course.

RW1598 TO NOTE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE TREE SAFETY STRATEGY AND RISK ASSESSMENT PRODUCED BY IAN MONGER (Agenda item .9)

The Clerk explained that the report has a traffic lights colour system with red items needing to be acted on sooner rather than later.

The Clerk was asked to draw up a list of trees that require investigation, felling, cutting back or canopy lifting. Once the lists are drawn up, quotes for those works can be sought. Issues with the ownership of a number of trees will require further investigation prior to this process.

It was suggested that the opinion of a wildlife expert is sought to ensure the works do not have a significant negative impact on wildlife.

RECOMMENDATION that:

The Clerk is to seek quotes for the work and report back to the committee once the quotes have been received.

RW1599 TO DISCUSS THE CONDITION OF THE PRECINCT – Cllr. Koops (Agenda item .10)

It was explained that the next meeting with NSC regarding the Precinct has been delayed until September. Findings from the next meeting will be discussed at a future Recreation & Works Committee meeting.

RW1600 TO DISCUSS THE INTERVIEW PROCESS FOR TOWN ORDERLY (Agenda item .10)

The Town Council is now in receipt of a letter from Mr. John Cottrell who has expressed an interest in the Town Orderly role. It was agreed that the next step would be to invite Mr. Cottrell to meet with the Council and have an interview.

It was agreed that the Clerk, Cllr. Lord and Cllr. Oyns will form an interview panel.

RW1601 TO DISCUSS AND RESPOND TO UPCOMING SURFACING WORKS TO SOUTH ROAD & SOUTH AVENUE CONSULTATION (Agenda item 12)

The meeting referred to the email received from NSC.

The meeting discussed the natural calming effect parked cars have on the traffic flow. It was agreed that Councillors representing North Ward will review the situation and report back to the Town Council for a decision.

RECOMMENDATION that:

Councillors representing North Ward will review the situation and report back to the Town Council for a decision.

The meeting agreed to change the order of the agenda.

RW1602 HEAVEN'S FIELD – UPDATE (Agenda item .14)

The Clerk had nothing to report.

RW1603 TO DISCUSS THE LAND AT SLADE ROAD (Agenda item .15)

The Clerk read out the covenant attached to the Slade Road play area. The meeting acknowledged that the neighbouring plot of land is owned by NSC. The NSC land is designated for housing within the Sites and Policy Plan. It was noted that the Town Council purchased its land from Bristol City Council when Portishead Primary was located on the site. The land was purchased with the intention of being a play area. Over the years the wooden play equipment rotted and eventually all equipment was removed from the site. The current site is maintained as a wildlife area.

The meeting agreed that the site is unacceptable as a play area due to the lack of footfall following the closure of the school and the fact that it is not overlooked. Without a great deal of work it is unlikely that the footfall will return. If NSC plans come to fruition and the neighbouring land is built on, the Town Council can consider providing the amenity space and play area for the development.

RW1604 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS – CLLR. OYNS (Agenda item .16)

Cllr. Oyns offered to provide a visual presentation, the committee agreed that the presentation should be postponed to the next Town Council meeting. Cllr. Oyns gave a verbal report instead on the state of the facilities at the Bristol Road playing fields and his aspirations for the site.

Cllr. Oyns suggested that a Steering Committee could be formed, made up of people from the Football Club, the Town Council, NSC Officers and possibly Portishead residents.

It was suggested that an audit of facilities is carried out with the view to establishing where the town's shortfalls are.

RW1605 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Agenda .17)

1. To discuss the Elonex System

**** Exempt Items ****

RW1606 RESOLVED that:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s100 of the Local Government Act 1972 the

press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1.

RW1607 TO DISCUSS ASSETS – CLLR. MITCHELL (Agenda item .13)

The members discussed the notes from the Assets Meeting with North Somerset Council representatives.

RECOMMENDATION that:

Portishead Town Council notes the document and awaits further detail from North Somerset Council.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.32pm.