

**MINUTES OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
29th JUNE 2016 7.30PM**

PRESENT:- Councillor Oyns - in the Chair
Councillors: - Clark, Mitchell
Staff: - Sharon Sherborne – Assistant Clerk
Public: - North Somerset District Councillor, Mrs Reyna Knight

RW1564 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors: - Koops, Lord, Cottrell, R.Cruise, M.Cruise

Assistant Clerk note: Emailed apologies were received from Councillor Huffadine-Cooper after the office had closed on the day of the meeting.

RW1580 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following correspondence was read aloud by the Assistant Clerk:

Mr Jason Breakwell would like the Town Council to ask:

1. Firstbus to redraw their map so that Portishead is in zone 1 rather than zone 2. He believes this will make bus travel to/from Bristol more affordable and will help bridge the long gap until the train services start.
2. Firstbus to operate X2 and X3 to Temple Meads station rather than the bus station, so we can easily connect to the train services.
3. the Highways Agency if they can change the lane on the southbound exit slip at J19 so there are two lanes for Portishead, as there are on the roundabout. It is widely recognised that the rush hour traffic jam in lane one between J18 and J19 is extremely dangerous, mixing stationery traffic with very fast moving vehicles and drivers who try to get into lane one too late. A second Portishead lane will reduce the jam in lane one and it would be even better if lane two could be used for both exiting and through traffic. The investment in some paint and signs will be much more

cost effective than the expensive illuminated sign recently erected at J18, which basically tells us that fuel costs the same at the next three service stations. I cannot see any value in this. It would actually be more helpful if it told drivers they can save £0.15 per litre by filling up in Portishead. Whilst there they might spend some money with our local business.

Councillor Reyna Knight spoke in favour of a second slipway at the Portishead Marina to assist Portishead Yacht and Sailing Club (PYSC) cadet training due to the varying levels of tide height. She explained that there was insufficient S106 money previously to introduce a slipway in the Marina by Pill Park.

Councillor Clark added to Councillor Knight's comments, he believed that there was a previous slipway that was destroyed by the Mirage building. He understood that there was an agreement for local residents to have access to the water, which should be investigated.

Assistant Clerk note: *the meeting was informed that there should be access to the water for PYSC under the Parish Wharf agreement but the level of water would naturally determine the amount of access.*

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

RW1581 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN ORDERLY

The meeting was informed that the Town Council did not receive any applications in response to the post it advertised. It discussed the option of re-advertising the post and employing a member of staff. It was generally felt that the lack of response was due to the type of work involved and that it is understood unemployment in this constituency is 0.8%.

Councillor Mitchell suggested using community service hours e.g. those wanting to put something back into the community rather than have a custodial sentence for minor offences. This would have a minimum cost impact.

RECOMMENDATION that: the Town Clerk writes to the appropriate body (Magistrates Court) to investigate the possibility of using Community Service hours to undertake the work of a Town Orderly in Portishead.

RW1582 TO DISCUSS THE TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

The meeting noted that due to an air flight strike Councillor Cottrell was not available to provide a verbal report. The matter was deferred to Town Council on 13th July 2016.

Councillor Mitchell, whilst on the subject of the website and communication between the Town Council and members of the public, took the opportunity to introduce Elonex. Elonex is an outside stainless steel high brightness totem used for communication, bit like a large iphone that you can update from your office PC when updating the website. He is currently looking into the costs and potential revenue generated from the digital marketing. It had been suggested that by placing one in the precinct it could potential generate £50k.

RECOMMENDATION that: Councillor Mitchell gathers information regarding the system to feedback to Portishead Town Council.

RW1583 TO DISCUSS ‘KEEP CLEAR’ AND NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL’S H BAR POLICY

The meeting discussed North Somerset Council’s revised policy in which local parish and town councils would now be responsible for determining H Bar requests in the town. It was overwhelmingly felt that Portishead Town Council does not have the expertise to process such requests.

Councillor Clark moved that the recommendation outlined in the Clerk’s report be actioned.

RECOMMENDATION that: Portishead Town Council writes to North Somerset Council to advise that

1. it is disappointed that there has been no consultation in advance on this policy,
2. it is not prepared to handle parking or H bar restrictions but
3. it would be prepared to consider taking part in a procedure similar to the disabled parking bays process, where the application is made to and the final decision made by North Somerset Council as the highway authority.

RW1584 RECYCLING BINS AND GENERAL LITTER

Councillor Oyns referred to correspondence received from Chris Joannou and PACT requesting that a dog bin be installed at the East end of Down Road, which is a particularly bad area for dog fouling.

Councillor Mitchell and Clark believed that people do now act more responsibly and felt a provision should be made available in the area.

RECOMMENDATION that: Portishead Town Council arrange for and cover the cost to supply, install and maintain the provision of a dog bin to the East end of Down Road, Portishead.

RW1585 TO DISCUSS THE SLIPWAY AT THE MARINA

Councillor Oyns invited Councillor Knight to join in the discussion. He believed that Quays Marina, who has a 999 year lease on the Marina, is opposed to having a further slipway on the grounds of supervision and insurance.

Councillor Clark believed that there was a post-war agreement that gave rights to the Town Council and residents to discharge personal cargo. He believed this to be separate to the agreement for the Parish Wharf winter boat storage and the time for Portishead Yacht and Sailing Club's cadets to sail their dinghies.

Councillor Oyns felt it appropriate to form a Working Party to look into the feasibility and the legalities of introducing a further slipway near the Pill Park area of the Marina. He suggested co-opting Councillor Knight to the Working Party as she had extensive knowledge in dealing with Quays Marina and Portishead Yacht and Sailing Club. Councillor Knight duly accepted.

RECOMMENDATION that: Portishead Town Council form a Working Party to include Councillor Reyna Knight as a co-opted member to the Working Party to investigate the feasibility and legalities of introducing a further slipway to the Portishead Marina.

RW1586 TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE PORTABLE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS

The meeting considered the report provided by the Town Clerk detailing the number of activations at specific locations during the period 21st April to 19th May whilst the portable sign was on loan to Portishead Town Council.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding speeding and unsafe drivers it was felt appropriate to write to Avon & Somerset Police to draw their attention to the top three excessive sites.

RECOMMENDATION that: Portishead Town Council writes to Avon & Somerset Police to inform them that following a recent exercise to monitor speeding around the town the top three prolific problems areas are Clevedon Road (near Mead Road) with 12,946 activations between 28th April and 5th May, 10,445 activations on Nore Road (by Raleigh Rise) between 13th and 19th May and 10,527 activations on Weatherly Drive (by Nightingale Rise) from 19th May 2016 (no end date as battery failed).

RW1587 TO DISCUSS THE SETTING UP OF AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR DEFIBRILLATOR UNITS FOR PORTISHEAD LIONS

Councillor Oyns reported that the Lions Club had requested financial assistance with the electrical supply to two defibrillators it would like to install at the junction of Rippleside and St Mary's Park Road and the footbridge that joins Brampton Way to Heron Gardens.

The meeting understood that there is one defibrillator in St Peter's school but this was installed following the death of a pupil's father in the knowledge that the pupil has the same heart condition. This defibrillator is therefore not accessible to members of the public out of school hours.

Councillor Oyns reported that the energy required to run the transformer in the defibrillator would be minimal and energy could be drawn from a street light.

RECOMMENDATION that: Portishead Town Council writes to Portishead Lions and asks it to submit a proposal with detailed costs to the Town Council for consideration.

Assistant Clerk note: *Councillor Knight left the meeting 8.25pm*

****** Exempt Items ******

It was proposed 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. The proposal was seconded and duly voted on.

RW1588 HEAVEN'S FIELD – UPDATE

The Assistant Clerk had nothing to report.

There was no recommendation.

RW1589 TO DISCUSS THE LAND AT SLADE ROAD

The meeting considered a letter received from Mrs Rita Baker dated 18th May regarding the Town Council's intentions for the play area.

The area was viewed on the Earthlight system. It was noted that part of the area is on a severe slope and that there are routes that are walked by members of the public from Leaside and Briary Road. At the present time there is no play equipment on the site.

Councillor Mitchell asked for clarification to be sought in terms of any legal obligations or covenants to maintain this as a play area on the Title Deeds.

RECOMMENDATION that: The Town Clerk investigates and provides details of any legal obligations or covenants that the Town Council would need to observe in respect to the play area at Slade Road.

RW1590 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

Councillor Oyns said that he has aspirations to develop the playing fields on Bristol Road into a sports centre. He feels that the existing facilities do not match the local area.

This would need funding, hopefully from grants (Sport England and The Football Foundation), council commerce and public support. Councillor Mitchell believed that providing the centre is multi use with a 3D pitch for football and rugby, a grant may be available from Rugby Football Union (RFU).

Councillor Oyns informed the meeting that in order to apply for grants the first hurdle would be for the Town Council to agree a minimum lease of 25 years for the football club. The existing lease has 16 years remaining. Councillor Mitchell agreed that this should be the way forward providing it's a sport for all centre.

Councillor Oyns has taken advice from a colleague at North Somerset Council in terms of grants and understands that a Needs Assessment will have to be drawn up to highlight the demand for such a centre in the area.

RECOMMENDATION that: Portishead Town Council agrees to and progresses with a new lease of at least 25 years on the land at Bristol Road playing fields, in order for grant applications to progress to provide a multi-use centre on the site.

RW1591 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Heavens Field
2. Slade Road Play Area
3. Parking Regulations – Marina
4. Bristol Road Playing Fields – Cllr Oyns
5. Assets – Cllr Mitchell
6. Elonex Totem – Cllr Mitchell

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.