



## Portishead Town Council Community Matters Committee Meeting Minutes 12 August 2021

This was a hybrid meeting

### Committee Members:

Councillor Ben Aldridge (Chair)  
Councillor Paul Gardner (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Janet Davey  
Councillor Patricia Sterndale

Councillor Polly Shepperdson  
Councillor Sue Mason  
Councillor Tina Mason  
A vacant seat

### 1. Apologies for absence:

- a. Councillor Polly Shepperdson

### 2. Committee Members present:

- a. Councillor Ben Aldridge (Chair)
- b. Councillor Paul Garner (Vice Chair)
- c. Councillor Janet Davey
- d. Councillor Patricia Sterndale
- e. Councillor Sue Mason
- f. Councillor Tina Mason

### 3. Other Councillors present:

- a. Councillor Robert Bull
- b. Councillor Tanya Slatter
- c. Councillor Robert Cartwright

### 4. Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations

- a. Councillor Sue Mason: Beacon Hub (will abstain)
- b. Chair: Wheels & Skate Park pecuniary interest as a Board Member (will abstain)
- c. Councillor Bull: The Holocaust grant (will abstain)

### 5. Public participation (relating to the agenda):

- a. Mr Kenneth Smith:
  - i. Made comments about the Behaviour Policy, with which he was unhappy
  - ii. He was unhappy with the way current councillors speak to members of the public
  - iii. He was also unhappy with the hybrid meetings
  - iv. He said he may not attend further meetings until after the next election
  - v. Merlin Park Skate Park:
    1. Used to be part of the rail station, which attracted wildlife
    2. A previous scheme was not delivered
    3. Good idea to put the bike track on there
    4. Ros Cruse set up Merlin Park and worked to save the youth club.
- b. Mr Paul Maltby:
  - i. He was unhappy about hybrid meetings
  - ii. Made comments about the Behaviour Policy, with which he was unhappy
  - iii. He was unhappy with the way current councillors speak to members of the public now and in the past

### 6. Chair's verbal report

- a. Changes in Committee membership (Chair):
  - i. Steve Temple has resigned from the Town Council
  - ii. The Chair thanked Steve for 2 years of hard work

- iii. The vacant seat will be resolved at the September Full Council meeting
- b. Sheep pen (scaffolding around tree near Careys shop) (Councillor Davey):
  - i. The competition winners are now talking to the designers to simplify the idea to work in metal
  - ii. This should be complete by September
- c. Photo competition (Councillor Davey):
  - i. 5 winners have been chosen for the photo competition and put up in Folk Hall foyer
- d. The arch into the courtyard (Chair):
  - i. A grant was previously awarded for the arch
  - ii. Work has been delayed.
  - iii. Councillors are meeting shopkeepers and designers on the following Saturday
  - iv. The Chair hopes this will be finished soon
- e. Finger posts (Councillor Davey):
  - i. S106 funding was allocated to fingers posts
  - ii. Work has been delayed
  - iii. Sandy Tebutt chose the design
  - iv. Hopefully work will continue soon

#### **7. The Hidden Disabilities scheme (Chair):**

- a. Recommendation to adopt the scheme in Town Council buildings and generally across the organisation
- b. Cost will be less than £200 to purchase the kit and access training
- c. The scheme is recognised by lanyards with sunflowers
- d. North Somerset Council is relaunching the scheme and asked Town Councils to join
- e. Councillor comments:
  - i. Councillor Sue Mason: thought this a very good idea
  - ii. Councillor Tina Mason agreed
  - iii. Voted to approve: Councillor Sue Mason proposed, Councillor Gardner 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.

#### **8. Grant applications recommended by the Grants Working Group:**

- a. North Somerset Arts Week request for £1,000 (Chair):
  - i. To contribute to arts week
  - ii. Voted to approve £1,000 grant: Councillor Sue Mason proposed, Councillor Gardner 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.
- b. Portishead Beacon Hub (not café as named in the agenda), request for £5,000 (Chair):
  - i. The Hub will provide wellbeing support, run by Portishead Methodist Church
  - ii. Funding is not for the wider Methodist Church, but specifically to provide trained staff for wellbeing support at the Hub
  - iii. Pop-up events have shown demand
  - iv. Comments from residents:
    - 1. Mr Ken Smith
      - a. The Council must be clear this is not for the wider Church.
  - v. Voted to approve £5,000 grant: Councillor Davey proposed, Councillor Sterndale 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved. Councillor Sue Mason abstained.
- c. North Somerset Holocaust Memorial Day tree planting request for £245
  - i. To plant a commemorative tree
  - ii. Would like opinions on site for tree (Councillors recommended asking Portishead in Bloom (PTC Office to check), other suggestions included Rodmoor Gardens
  - iii. Councillors and Officers will liaise with organisers
  - iv. The Chair proposed increasing the grant to £445 to include a memorial plaque

- v. Voted to approve £445 grant: Councillor Sue Mason proposed, Councillor Sterndale 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved. Councillor Bull abstained.
- d. Wheels and Skate Park group to draw down up to £10,000 of the previously agreed funding (Councillor Gardner):
- i. Next steps: public consultation to gather neighbouring residents' and business's views; engage with the user group to draft a design; and submit a pre-planning application.
  - ii. Geoff Hardman summarised:
    - a. The group intends to build a new skate park at the Lake Grounds
    - b. The group obtained Landlord Consent (North Somerset Council) in 2020
    - c. The group has met Maverick (its preferred bidder) to discuss working arrangements
    - d. During the bidding process, the group sent requests to bid to 10 companies and the group scored bids, selecting Maverick
    - e. Phase 2 next:
      - i. Local community & users' consultation
      - ii. Design and planning process (the design will appeal to all levels of users)
      - iii. Councillors will be asked to meet the group
      - iv. Fundraising campaign
    - f. Phase 3:
      - i. Build the park
  - iii. Councillor Gardner:
    - 1. The group may need to do surveys and other feasibility work
    - 2. The Council previously approved £10,000
  - iv. Geoff Hardman:
    - 1. No fees are due to Maverick until construction starts, they have agreed not to charge for pre-build work
    - 2. The £10,000 is for consultation, surveys, etc.
  - v. Councillor Gardner:
    - 1. Repeated the next stages of the process
    - 2. Activities with cost such as surveys will be outside Maverick scope
  - vi. Comments from Councillors:
    - 1. Councillor Sterndale: asked for the potential finish date
  - vii. Geoff Hardman responded:
    - 1. Sep-Oct 22 if all goes to plan
    - 2. Construction likely to be 14-weeks
    - 3. The group would like to spend £500 of the grant on publicity posters
  - viii. Voted to approve £10,000 grant: Councillor Sterndale proposed, all approved. Councillor Aldridge abstained.

## **9. Weston Big Wood update (Councillor Gardner):**

- a. Community groups and Councillors organised two on-site meetings on 1st August
- b. There was a good turnout
- c. Further publicity is planned
- d. The next event was planned for 20th September at Somerset Hall (please note this has now been postponed due to the Town Council seat election)
  - i. This event will be led by the community groups (Friends of North Western and Portishead Down Group)
  - ii. This event will determine next steps
- e. Comments from residents:
  - i. Mr Kenneth Smith: will North Somerset Council be present? They should be onboard (he made comments about no Portishead Councillors holding seats on the North Somerset Council Executive))

- ii. Geoff Hardman: did not see any North Somerset Councillors at the August event. Councillor Gardner responded that Councillor Holland and Councillor Goddard were present.
- f. Comments from Councillors:
  - i. Councillor Cartwright: Somerset Hall will probably have limited capacity due to COVID-19, will there be additional facilities to view online? Councillor Gardner responded: we will look into it.
  - ii. Councillor Bull: the Neighbourhood Plan survey of the Commonplace map has finished. Two overriding comments so far: to protect green spaces and not to develop on the Big Wood site.

**10. Decision:** The Committee all voted to approve the last meeting minutes from 8th July 2021

**11. Date of the next meeting:** 9th September 2021

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Julia Stuckey, Town Clerk, published 5th September 2021