



The Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR

Meeting: Full Council – Extraordinary Meeting
Date & Time: Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 19.30
Place: The Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR

This was a hybrid meeting to enable community participation

Members present:

Councillor Patricia Sterndale (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Gardner (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Ben Aldridge
Councillor Bob Cartwright
Councillor Nicola Holland (online – Not voting)
Councillor Paul Churchill
Councillor Sue Mason
Councillor Tanya Slatter
Councillor Tim Snaden
Councillor Tina Mason

Others present:

Residents 8 (including 3 in the room)

TC21.479: Apologies for absence (Town Clerk)

Councillor Bob Bull
Councillor Janet Davey

TC21.480: Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations (Chairman)

- Councillors Slatter and Aldridge: TC21.482

TC21.481: Public participation

- Mrs M Koops:
 - Believe that the Council is waiting for a ruling on the three Councillors that have not attended for a 6-month period
 - The statement from AALC/ NALC is very clear – Consideration of an extended absence past 6 months must be considered by the Council and agreed before the 6 months has elapsed. Once the 6 months has lapsed the 6 months disqualification is automatic. And unfortunately for the Councillors concerned they should not take part in any meeting, call themselves a Councillor and they can attend as a resident but cannot attend or take part in any Council business
 - Have been to the Monitoring Officer as well who said very much the same thing
 - As a member of ALCA the Council knew its standing orders.
 - Government regulations under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 – failure to attend a Council meeting in person for longer than 6 months without an approved dispensation before the expiry of the 6 months leads to automatic disqualification, they will have been deemed to have vacated their office as Councillor resulting in a casual vacancy. There is no ability to apply for dispensation retrospectively. Covid 19 is no excuse, the Government made flexible changes during the pandemic which expired on the 7th May 2021 from which date all Local

Authorities were required to hold any form of formal decision making in a physical location. Virtual meetings were no longer legal for this purpose.

- The three Portishead Town Councillors who have lost their seats due to failure to obtain dispensations cannot represent the public as Councillors, they cannot use vote on any Town Council issues
- Mrs Koops further added that whilst the Chairman states that the Council is seeking legal advice, the North Somerset Council Monitoring Officer has advised that the legislation is clear and its now illegal for these Councillors to attend Council meetings unless as a resident and to constantly defer the issue as Town Council Chairman is despicable.

The Chairman advised that the Council is seeking legal advice, as stated at the previous meeting, and nothing further to add.

- Mr Maltby:
 - Wish to reiterate what has been said tonight – you know my feeling
 - We need to know if Councillors will be allowed to vote and participate
 - If you proceed tonight, you put at risk the decision

TC21.482: Decision item: Recommendation to discuss the Lake Grounds Skate Park full planning application and approve its submission to North Somerset Council, and delegate to Maverick Skateparks Limited to submit the application on behalf of the Council:

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Paul Gardner introduced the item:

- Fund raising for the park is going well - £14,000 to date. The Council and WASP have formed a partnership and the Council will be taking on a lease for the area
- As the leaseholder the Council is making the planning application
- Council is required to approve the submission of the planning application
- Cllr Gardner took the Council through the core elements of the design, planning and access statement forming part of the planning application, emphasising:
 - The extensive collaboration with skaters – working with the Neighbourhood Police team
 - Concrete design being robust and reducing maintenance
 - Positive social impacts, economic benefits fitting with Council Strategy
 - Flood risk needs to be mitigated and managed
 - Accessible with pedestrian and road access – near to Bus stops
 - The skate park will create an exciting contemporary facility which is recommended to Council for acceptance
- Discussion:
 - Councillor Bob Cartwright – Has a ground survey been done? Councillor Gardner responded yes with nothing untoward found
 - Councillor Sue Mason - Number of various queries:
 - Thought that the Skatepark was for local people not skate tourists
 - Page 6 paragraph 3 – refers to ages of demographic will often be unable to drive, therefore common practice for families to arrive in a location, having dropped off the skatepark user and spend significant time sightseeing, shopping or dining. I cannot see them doing this all day , every day
 - Section 6 refers to Bus Stops but not used in quite a while. People have complained of no signposts from the high street. Parking and dropping off – During the summer the Lake Grounds are heaving at weekends. May attract too many people and impact on persons visiting the Lake grounds. Rail access – cannot see person arriving by train and getting the bus – 5 miles – no public transport – long way.
 - Chairman thanked Councillor Mason for comments asking clarification if it's too popular should we not have it? Councillor Mason did not realise it was so big and

then for Maverick to say that it will bring others from the rest of the country because it will be so good. Thinking on how do we manage that when that area gets so busy during the summer. It is needed and wanted by a lot of people. It's the only place. Council needs to work out parking – Kilkenny Fields all year round. Just raising points.

- Councillor Paul Gardner – Approx. 625 spaces
- Mrs Koops – On Saturday 0900 the Lake Road and Esplanade Road was so jammed with parking no one could move.
- Councillor Tanya Slatter – Lake Grounds on Saturday was busy. It was a beautiful day but got a parking space.
- Councillor Bob Cartwright – Maverick are here to promote, maybe a good thing. Take away 200 spaces from cricket ground from the 620 that are available which does not include Lake Road, this is a massive amount. Let's be aware of this issue about parking charges from North Somerset.
- Councillor Nicola Holland – It can only boost our economy which is a good thing
- Councillor Paul Gardner stated that these points would be taken into account as part of the planning application considerations

Councillor Tina Mason did not participate or vote on this item.

Resolved:

Members voted by a majority in favour to agree the recommendation with two abstentions from Councillors Slatter and Aldridge.

TC21.483: Date of the next meeting: 20.00 11th May 2022

Chairman: Thanked Councillors and members of the public for attending.

Patricia Stenlake