

This was a hybrid meeting

Members present:

Councillor Patricia Sterndale (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Gardner (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Ben Aldridge (online)
Councillor Bob Bull
Councillor Bob Cartwright (online)
Councillor Caroline Goddard (online)

Councillor Janet Davey
Councillor Paul Churchill
Councillor Polly Shepperdson (online)
Councillor Sue Mason
Councillor Tanya Slatter (online)
Councillor Tim Snaden (online)

Others present:

5 Residents (2 online)

TC21.432: Apologies for absence (Town Clerk)

- Councillor Nicola Holland
- Councillor Tina Mason

TC21.433: Tribute to former Councillor Martyn Cruse who has sadly passed away (Councillor Sue Mason)

- Martyn was well-known in the town
- He was a Town Councillor for the South & North Weston Wards
- Martyn and Roz (his wife) were both longstanding Town Councillors who gave a lot of time to the community
- He was very polite and a lovely man
- He will be missed by many people across North Somerset
- Resident Mr Ken Smith added: He was a gentleman, was very polite, and spoke to everyone. He was very sorry to hear of his passing.

TC21.434: Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations (Chairman)

- Councillor Slatter is a Youth Centre trustee so declared an interest in item TC21.438.

TC21.435: Chair's verbal report:

- Avon & Somerset Police Council Tax cost:
 - Police & Crime Commissioners decide whether to increase their element of Council Tax.
 - The Home Office grant is increasing, but this does not cover inflation.
 - Commissioners have been told they can raise precept by up to £10
 - A survey is available online asking, would you be prepared to pay increase and the Chairman recommended that all present complete it.
- **Platinum Jubilee celebrations:**
 - An informal Working Group has been set up with Councillor Sterndale, Councillor Aldridge and Councillor Goddard to make recommendations to a Council meetings or Committee for decisions.
 - Several organisations have contacted the Council as they are planning to mark the celebrations e.g., Gordano Scouts plans to light the beacon, Portishead in Bloom is planning some activity, plus its is the Portishead Lido's 60th anniversary.
- **Neighbourhood Plan update:**
 - The draft plan is currently with North Somerset Council for strategic environment screening to understand the environmental impacts.
 - It will then be sent to other agencies for approval before final public consultation.

TC21.436: North Somerset Councillors' reports

- None provided

TC21.437: Public participation (Chairman):

- Mrs Morrissey:
 - Which buses are not now coming along Bristol Road, and is it a short-term change? Will the changes be published online?
 - Councillor Bull: the map of changes is on the First Bus website. The Council has taken a strong line in response and will facilitate a public meeting in February to discuss the changes. Councillor Bull suggested the resident should contact him direct.
 - Asked about the Bristol Rd crossing decision on the agenda:
 - Councillor Bull: North Somerset Council has agreed to carry out a feasibility study. Before any decision is made on location, a new traffic survey is required. The Council will share the results and consult on the location.
- Mr Cook:
 - Echoed Councillor Mason's comments about Martyn Cruse.
 - Re. the Portishead Youth Centre agenda item: this is a registered charity, with a volunteer Board, the team provides an excellent service and is dependent on grants. The Council grant is vital due to its lack of spending restrictions.
- Mr Maltby:
 - Urged the Council not to renew the Behaviour Policy. Suggested that anyone previously written to under the Policy should receive an apology.
 - Unhappy about the Council staff salaries and the number of staff compared to previous years.
 - Unhappy about the Council's Precept increase, agreed at the December meeting.
 - Councillor Sterndale: the number of staff correlates with the amount of work to do.
 - Councillor Bull: all except the Clerk are part time.
- Mr Smith:
 - As national COVID-19 restrictions are lifting, requested Councillors to return to face-to-face meetings.
 - Unhappy about the amount of traffic in town. Suggested a need to stop building until infrastructure improved, or at least slow it down.
 - Issues with Aberdeen Investments (Wyndham Way site owners).
 - Vice Chairman: Aberdeen Investments has recently let some 10-year leases, so it looks like further development will be delayed.
 - Unhappy that no Portishead Councillors are Members of North Somerset Council Executive, so do not get to vote.
 - Unhappy with the bus service changes.
- Kim Jones, Portishead Youth Centre:
 - Involved in the Youth Centre for 15 years. From using the Centre as a young person to she was inspired to make a difference.
 - The Centre makes a huge difference to young people and the wider community, including parents, children, senior citizens, and others.
 - The Centre is operated by a committed group of individuals including community support from residents, funders, and hirers.
 - The Council's funding can be used for operational costs, and long-term support is essential.
 - Mr Smith: asked for the average number of residents who regularly use the Centre.
 - Kim responded: 400-600 young people per week, plus many others. Numbers are starting to grow as COVID-19 restrictions ease.
 - Mr Smith: asked what facilities are available for senior citizens.
 - Kim responded: 2 sessions a week offer activities, support and advise. Plus they often use the café which is open Mon-Fri.
- Councillors' responses to points raised:
 - Councillor Goddard:
 - Agreed that the Council needs an Executive Member on North Somerset Council. Previously North Somerset Council discussed the Executive being disbanded and believed it should.

- The Chairman asked if Nailsea or Clevedon Councils are represented on the Executive.
 - Councillor Goddard: didn't think so.
- Councillor Slatter:
 - Also agreed the Council needs a seat on the Executive. It is made up of parties rather than towns.
 - Councillor Sue Mason:
 - Remembered hearing that the Executive would be disbanded some years ago. Requested an update.
 - Vice Chairman: believed the Executive structure is currently fixed, he thought it was flawed.
 - Councillor Aldridge:
 - Also, suggested the Council was previously promised the Executive would be disbanded.
 - Suggested that Portishead should be removed from North Somerset Council district.

TC21.438: Decision item: Recommendation to delegate authority to the Clerk and Councillor Bull to negotiate a 30-year lease with a 5-year funding agreement with Portishead Youth Centre, subject to a full building condition survey (Councillor Bull):

- A report is available on the Council website <https://www.portishead.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings?y=2022>
- Suggested the Council makes a long-term commitment, without the need for the Youth Centre team to apply each year, and to give them some funding security.
- Also, a longer lease may assist with other funding sources.
- Would require legal support.
- Councillor Aldridge: The Centre team provides a fantastic service and has managed to continue to operate over the last 2 years. Further Community Grants may be available for the Centre if it has a specific need.
- Councillor Sue Mason: fully supports the proposal. A 30-year lease will be good for the town and enables the team to achieve other grants.
- Vote on recommendation to delegate authority to the Clerk and Councillor Bull to negotiate a 30-year lease with a 5-year funding agreement with Portishead Youth Centre, subject to a full building condition survey:
 - Councillor Slatter abstained
 - All others agreed
 - Councillor Slatter then commented: thanked the Council, Kim and the Centre team.

TC21.439: Decision item: Recommendation to formally request that First Bus reconsiders the recently proposed changes to bus services in Portishead (Chairman):

- The proposed changes will leave a significant proportion of residents without a public transport service, a situation not compatible with sustainable public transport provision.
- Lots of anger and misinformation following the surprise announcement.
- Councillor Bull:
 - Last time changes were made, the Council was consulted, Councillors met First Bus with residents. There was a lack of consultation this time.
 - Some of the issue is the parking problem around the Marina, although some of this has improved. More yellow lines must be added.
 - Will invite North Somerset Council and First Bus to a discussion.
- Vote on recommendation to formally request that First Bus reconsiders the recently proposed changes to bus services in Portishead.
 - All agreed
- Councillor Goddard: asked for confirmation of who from North Somerset Council will be invited.
- Councillor Bull: plans to invite the Executive Member for Transport / the Council Leader.
- Councillor Aldridge: The Leader should attend.

TC21.440: Information item: Final report on Slade Road resident consultation responses (Vice Chairman)

- A report is available on the Council website <https://www.portishead.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings?y=2022>
- Thanked residents for completing the survey, which covers 2 areas:
 - The Council-owned woodland consultation:
 - 97.4% were against development
 - Most wanted the woodland environment kept, with the site used as an amenity (there is a Covenant on the site)
 - Ideas include restoring the woodland play area.
 - North Somerset Council-owned playing field consultation:
 - 93.2% didn't want development
 - Lots of reasons were given (see report)
 - Ideas for the site included natural amenities
 - This site is owned by North Somerset Council, on is on the potential development list.

TC21.441: Decision item: Recommendation to approve funds and delegate authority to the Clerk and a Councillor to proceed with feasibility, designs, and costings for a nature-based leisure use on the Portishead Town Council owned land at Slade Road (Vice Chairman):

- A feasibility report and designs to be presented to a future Full Council meeting for resolution to proceed.
- Recommended maximum budget for the site is £30,000 from the 2022/23 revenue budget
- Councillor Sue Mason: asked where the access will be.
- Vice Chairman: vehicles can access through Downside (narrow access).
- Councillor Sue Mason: There is a footpath near Adlington House or steps by Briary Bank. Access for maintenance would be difficult. The previous play equipment was no longer fit for purpose.
- Vote on recommendation to approve funds and delegate authority to the Clerk and a Councillor to proceed with feasibility, designs, and costings for a nature-based leisure use on the Portishead Town Council owned land at Slade Road
 - All agreed

TC21.442: Decision item: Recommendation to formally request that North Somerset Council removes the North Somerset Council owned land at Slade Road from the potential development list (Vice Chairman)

- Vote on recommendation to formally request that North Somerset Council removes the North Somerset Council owned land at Slade Road from the potential development list
 - Councillor Sue Mason abstained
 - All others agreed

TC21.443: Decision item: Recommendation to contribute up to £10,000 from the 2022/23 budget towards a viability, feasibility, and design study with North Somerset Council for a new building which could include a restaurant and boat storage on the Lake Grounds. This is dependent on NSC also makes a match funding contribution to the study (Vice Chairman):

- The Council is speaking to North Somerset Council Officers about improvements from the 2021 consultation, also talking about the Skate Park.
- Most common response in the consultation was the poor state of the café.
- The feasibility study would cover economic viability and to firm up design concepts.
- North Somerset Council cannot fund this from its Lake Grounds capital budget, so Council contribution is required.
- The contribution would enable some influence on the feasibility study.
- Councillor Cartwright: would the existing café, boathouse and toilets be removed.
- Vice Chairman: ideally yes.
- Councillor Aldridge: Unsure if the Council should contribute, this would require a condition that North Somerset Council also contributes.
- Councillor Goddard: met with Councillor Solomon (North Somerset Council Executive Member) who wrote a proposal, and conversations have been ongoing for 6 months. If the Council does not contribute, this project will not move forward. Also, need to consider return on investment.
- Councillor Slatter: asked if North Somerset will contribute.
- Vice Chairman: Yes, that would be a condition.
- Chairman: suggested adding a written condition that North Somerset contributes.
- Councillor Sue Mason: Weston has received grants for some activity. North Somerset provides a list of grants, she suggests applying for grants to contribute.

- Vice Chairman: grant funding could be part of the feasibility study.
 - Resident Mr Smith: asked what is happening with the £750k capital funding
 - Vice Chairman: pitch & putt, white lines, an orchard, and waiting to hear about the lake clean up.
- Councillor Cartwright: there is a stalemate re. litter in the Lake. The previous estimation for repairs was over £2 million, so funding could make it a possibility.
- Councillor Sue Mason: clarified resident's question re. £750k, what is happening with this fund.
- Vice Chairman: understands that Marine Lake, Clevedon has a number of smaller projects. The information is on the North Somerset website.
- Vote on recommendation to contribute up to £10,000 from the 2022/23 budget towards a viability, feasibility, and design study with North Somerset Council for a new building which could include a restaurant and boat storage on the Lake Grounds. This is dependent on the condition that North Somerset Council also makes a match funding contribution to the study.
 - All agreed

TC21.444: Decision item: Recommendation to delegate authority to the Clerk and Chairman to sign the Community Renewal Grant Fund Memorandum of Understanding with North Somerset Council and allocate resources to deliver the Portishead Community Hub pilot project (Councillor Churchill):

- A report is available on the Council website <https://www.portishead.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings?y=2022>
- Chairman: The Council is working to find the right location and decide on facilities.
- Councillor Churchill: having looked at options; the Council is planning a 6-month pilot.
- Initially looked at property in the High Street but is concern it may require costly repairs
- Also looked at the Folk Hall but the entrance has to be secure, but this is a good back up.
- The Beacon Hub (High Street Methodist café) has meeting rooms available, and it is in process of getting ready.
- Positive discussions are ongoing about working in collaboration.
- The ideal scenario is a group of Hubs including Portishead Youth Centre in the long term.
- To date, space has been agreed.
- Portishead Wellness Partnership is providing delivery partners e.g., CURO, Woodspring Integrated Partnership.
- Citizens Advice North Somerset is keen to locate people onsite to be signposted.
- Once this approval has been granted, the project team will bring in Facilitators with access to information to meet and greet resident.
- Community groups will be invited to run activities.
- If the pilot is successful, the Council could look at a broader range of options.
- Councillor Sue Mason: asked if she needs to abstain due to her involvement with the Methodist Church.
- Clerk: said no as the recommendation related to the CRF funding agreement not the Beacon Hub.
- Vote on recommendation to delegate authority to the Clerk and Chairman to sign the Community Renewal Grant Fund Memorandum of Understanding with North Somerset Council and allocate resources to deliver the Portishead Community Hub pilot project
 - All agreed

TC21.445: Decision item: Recommendation to delegate authority to the Clerk and Councillor Bull to contribute up to £25,000 from the 2022/2023 Portishead budget to create a crossing at Bristol Road, subject to further investigation with North Somerset Council (Councillor Bull):

- Chairman: Residents have been asking for a crossing further up Bristol Rd for some time.
- Councillor Bull: North Somerset Council will support the project if the Council contributes.
- North Somerset will do the investigation work to decide on the location, the Council should be asked to agree the location.
- Chairman: asked without these funds, would the project continue.
- Councillor Bull: responded it would not.
- Vice Chairman: North Somerset Council Highways funding is a national grant, so there is no double payment. The grant only funds high priority projects.
- Chairman: However, North Somerset decides where this is spent.
- Vice Chairman: there is a very long list of highways projects, many are worse situations than this.
- Councillor Davey: if someone was killed, the Councillors would regret not funding.

- Vote on recommendation to delegate authority to the Clerk and Councillor Bull to contribute up to £25,000 from the 2022/2023 Portishead budget to create a crossing at Bristol Road, subject to further investigation with North Somerset Council:
 - Councillor moved back into discussion:
 - Chairman: discussion making a good argument for declaring independence from North Somerset Council.
 - Councillor Bull: agrees but would take considerable budget and 15 years.
 - Councillor Goddard: asked a question about any feedback about Highdown School, which may be a priority for safety works.
 - Councillor Bull: responded that police were present were moving on bad parkers today. Police doing campaign with school to educate children to police their parents.
 - Councillor Sue Mason: there was a police presence pre. COVID-19, also the school has been telling parents about road safety.
 - Councillor Bull: parking enforcement has also been active in the area.
 - Councillor Slatter: The PCSO has been working in the area and others, telling people they are causing an obstruction and will book people who do not heed. Also parking buddies (cardboard cut outs).
- Councillor Cartwright: abstaining as does not agree the consultation is required. Also unhappy about paying tax for police force which is too light.
- Re-read the recommendation: Vote on recommendation to delegate authority to the Clerk and Councillor Bull to contribute up to £25,000 from the 2022/2023 Portishead budget to create a crossing at Bristol Road, subject to further investigation with North Somerset Council
 - Councillor Cartwright abstained
 - All others agreed
- Councillor Snaden: these are historical issues.

TC21.446: Decision item: Recommendation to review and adopt the updated Standing Orders (Chairman)

- A report is available on the Council website <https://www.portishead.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings?y=2022>
- Current version contains duplication and much of the content was not relevant.
- In the new version, the bold text is mandatory.
- The Clerk compared the new version against that of the National Association of Local Councils.
- Councillor Slatter: thanked the Chairman, Clerk, and others. This is now much easier to read.
- Councillor Sue Mason: Standing Orders have always been very long. This update is very useful as there was duplication. It is very clear now.
- Vote on recommendation to review and adopt the updated Standing Orders
 - All agreed

TC21.447: Decision item: Recommendation to review and adopt the Council's updated Behaviour Policy with additional points of clarification (Chairman)

- A report is available on the Council website <https://www.portishead.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings?y=2022>
- Only minor changes have been made following feedback from a resident and equality expert.
- Councillor Sue Mason: track changes make it easier to see amends.
- Vote on recommendation to review and adopt the Council's updated Behaviour Policy with additional points of clarification
 - Vote: all agreed

TC21.448: Decision item: Recommendation to review and approve the following financial reports (Councillor Bull):

- The Internal Control Review
- The Corporate Risk Assessment
- The reports are available on the Council website <https://www.portishead.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings?y=2022>
- Vote on recommendation to review and approve the following financial reports
 - All agreed

TC21.449: Decision item: To receive and approve the following budget and finance papers (Councillor Bull):

- The list of payments for November and December 2021
- The bank reconciliation to 31st December 2021
- The summary and detailed income & expenditure reports to 31st December 2021
- The reports are available on the Council website <https://www.portishead.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings?y=2022>
- Vote on recommendation
 - All agreed

- Councillor Shepperdson thanked Councillor Bull and the Chairman for the work
- Councillor Sue Mason: previously finances were outsourced alongside work carried out by the internal team. Now very grateful to have a knowledgeable experienced Bookkeeper and rest of team. Thanked the Deputy Clerk, Bookkeeper and others.

TC21.450: Decision item: Recommendation to amend membership of the Community Grants Working Group with the Council Chairman replacing Councillor Shepperdson (Chairman)

- Councillor Shepperdson is focussed on the wellbeing group
- Vote on recommendation to amend membership of the Community Grants Working Group with the Council Chairman replacing Councillor Shepperdson
 - Vote: all agreed

TC21.451: Decision item: Recommendation to review and approve the minutes of the last Full Council meeting 17th November 2021 and the Extraordinary Full Council meeting 15th December 2021 (Chairman)

- Vote on recommendation to review and approve the minutes of the last Full Council meeting 17th November 2021 and the Extraordinary Full Council meeting 15th December 2021
 - All agreed

TC21.452: Date of the next meeting: 16th March 2022