

**MINUTES OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Oyns - in the Chair

Councillors: - Cameron, Clark, Cottrell, Huffadine-Cooper, Koops, Mason, Mitchell

Staff: - Jo Duffy – Clerk to the Council

Public: - There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

**RW1632      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)**

There were apologies from Councillors Burden, M. Cruse, R. Cruse, Lord & Terry.

**RW1633      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda item .3)**

There were 2 members of the public in attendance who wished to address the meeting:-

- Mrs. J. Davey spoke about Portishead Golf Course. She said that the leasee is putting together video evidence of wrong doing. She thinks that there is a hidden agenda and questioned why the business can afford to haemorrhage a significant amount of money. Mrs. Davey said that if we are prevented from going on this land after one year, we will lose all established rights, and went on to explain why. “We will be walking along on of the permitted paths at 10am on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. How many of our Councillors will be joining them?”
- Mrs. Ann Townsend ran through the address she gave at the October Town Council meeting about a recent Local Access Forum meeting. She asked if a District Councillor would follow up

on the points that she raised. She asked Cllr. Oyns, as the only District Councillor at the Committee meeting, if he was willing to address her queries? She mentioned that a NSC officer seemed to think that a working party is going to be set up with everyone having a stake in the decision.

*Cllr. Oyns offered to have a chat with her after the meeting.*

She went on to say that she hopes that the Council will get good value for money when awarding a plaque to Ben Smith, whom she said has done “a lot for the anti-bullying message.”

These minutes summarise what was said during public participation and were views expressed by the speaker named, not the Town Council.

**RW1634 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE  
(Agenda item .4)**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the website is being populated by the office staff over the next week. Tracey Fowler is writing copy and will submit it to the Council on the 1st November, this will allow time for any rewrites to be completed before adding to the website. Terms and Conditions and a Cookie policy have been created and added to the site. These are not generic and have been written for the Town Council. Photographs are required for various sections of the site including updated Councillor pictures.

**RW1635 TO DISCUSS THE SLIPWAY AT THE MARINA  
(Agenda item .5)**

Cllr. Oyns explained that Cllr. R. Cruse has been involved with the slipway discussions to date. Cllr. Oyns said that he has had a meeting with a North Somerset Council officer and looked at some of the suggestions that have been made. He is encouraged by the possible developments.

Cllr. Clark said that clearly the slipway would be a sensible addition.

Cllr. Koops said anything to encourage young sailors in safe waters is to be supported.

**RW1636 TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF ELONEX  
TOTEMS TO PORTISHEAD (Agenda item .6)**

The meeting briefly discussed the item and agreed that it should be deferred until information was available from Elonex.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

The item was deferred until the November meeting.

**RW1637 TO RECEIVE VERBAL UPDATES ON PORTISHEAD GOLF COURSE (Agenda item .7)**

Cllr. Clark commented that there have been remarks about building on this land and he has been told that when the land was transferred from Bristol City Council to Woodspring District Council a covenant was placed, so that if the land was ever developed all profit would go to Bristol City. He couldn't imagine anyone thinking that putting housing on this site and annoying the local residents, only for the funds to go to Bristol City would be a vote winner.

The meeting briefly discussed the distribution of a leaflet produced by Portishead Golf for All.

Cllr. Cameron said Bristol City Council always seem to put covenants on their land, but typically they only last for 25 years. This needs to be looked into.

*Clerks Note: The original conveyance document make no mention of sale profits going back to Bristol City Council within the covenants section. The latest copy of the Land Registry Title Deed makes no mentions of covenants to that effect either.*

Cllr. Koops questioned whether dog walkers have a right to walk across the land. She stated that since at least 1969 there have been signs on the gates saying no dogs allowed. She has walked her dogs on the coastal path, but never on the course.

Cllr. Cottrell concurred with Cllr. Koops that there is a Woodspring District Council sign on the five bar gate stating no dogs.

The meeting agreed to defer the item until the November meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

The item was deferred until the November meeting.

**RW1638 TO DISCUSS THE DUCK HOUSE – CLLR. OYNS (Agenda item .8)**

Cllr. Oyns spoke about the proposed new duck house on the lake in the Lake Grounds. Mr. Johnston of Careys has offered to provide the materials free of charge and the students at Gordano School will be involved in the design. The designs for this community led project will be checked by North Somerset Council officers.

Cllr. Koops asked whether this was part of the management plan for the lake grounds. It was confirmed that the project is part of the management plan.

**RW1639 To DISCUSS HALL HIRE TERMS & CONDITIONS TO INCLUDE POLICY ON THE USE OF EQUIPMENT AND RENT REVIEW (Agenda item .9)**

The Clerk briefed the meeting on the agenda item. She explained that the Council was invited to consider the imposed conditions of hire on the three halls, particularly in relation to letting the hall to certain age groups for parties. The use of the Town Councils I.T. equipment e.g. overhead projector, screen and microphones. Lastly the hire rates for all three halls.

Cllr. Cameron commented that most venues that have IT facilities allow their hires to use it as part of the hire. He suggested that a deposit is charged against damage for parties.

Cllr. Clark felt that the age range for parties is a little excessive. Cllr. Clark asked how much capacity is available in the halls. Is the Council running the halls at capacity, in which case can it take the risk of increasing the charges? There is a case for saying that the Council should increase its charges significantly now, but commit itself not to have an increase for the remainder of the cycle of this Council.

Cllr. Cameron said there is something to be said for increasing the rent every two years because if you leave it for 5 years then you have got to make a big increase which may seem drastic to users. This should be kept in line with inflation.

Cllr. Mason thinks that the Council should consider not putting up the rates, or at a minimum, consider a 1% increase. There are a lot of people who would find these prices too high and would struggle to pay them if they had a function or party. The Council should think about the residents and if it wants the buildings to be well used.

Cllr. Cottrell agreed with Cllr. Cameron regarding the Council restricting parties. She fully accepts the point that there are trouble makers and that a deposit could be a good idea. She also felt that the Council shouldn't restrict the use of equipment, it should be included in the hire.

Cllr. Koops thinks the age restrictions are nonsense, particularly those in their twenties and thirties. Deposits should be applied and if damage is done, deposits will be lost. To put up the fees in the current financial climate would be wrong.

Cllr. Cameron asked what the current level of subsidy for the halls is.

The Clerk explained that the ban on teenage parties is in line with the majority of the halls for hire in Portishead. There would need to be a significant cash deposit held to cover any damage. Thought needs to be given on how the council allows access to the IT equipment.

The members discussed the value of deposits, with suggestions ranging from £100 - £500.

Cllr. Cottrell asked the Clerk whether the Council breaks even on the halls.

The Clerk confirmed that broadly speaking the halls do break even, although staffing costs are not factored in. On the whole, the Council's Halls are booked most week day evenings. There is capacity available during the day especially in some of the smaller rooms.

Cllr. Cottrell proposed that there is no increase in hire fees. Cllr. Mason seconded the proposal, a vote was taken with the majority in favour.

Cllr. Cottrell proposed that there are no letting restrictions other than being over 21 years of age to hire the rooms/equipment and Terms and Conditions must be abided by. The Clerk is to use her discretion when setting the value of a cash deposit up to a figure of £500 payable in advance for use of the halls or equipment. Cllr. Koops seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all in favour.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

There is no increase in hire fees.

There are no restrictions other than hirers must be over 21 years of age to hire the rooms/equipment and Terms and Conditions must be abided by. The Clerk is to use her discretion when setting the value of a cash deposit up to a figure of £500 payable in advance for use of the halls or equipment.

**RW1640 HEAVEN'S FIELD – UPDATE (Agenda item .10)**

The Clerk had nothing to report

**RW1641 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Agenda .13)**

1. To review quotes for tree works
2. Slipway
3. Elonex
4. Portishead Golf course
5. Cllr. Clark produced a copy of the Development Framework for Portishead Quay at East Portishead circa 1997 and stated that it would be nice to mark the anniversary and show how much has been achieved in the Town.

Prior to consideration of the following agenda items, members were invited to pass the following resolution –

“Pursuant to the provisions of 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 item of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1.”

**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. The proposal was seconded and duly voted on.

**RW1642 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS (Agenda item .11)**

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to representatives from the Football Club reminding them that they need to sort out formulising/legalising the Trustees on their lease.

The meeting briefly discussed the situation and agreed that the Council should write to the Football Club asking them what progress they have made with the lease and when do they anticipate they will be able to supply the Town Council with the new legal documentation?

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council writes to the Football Club asking them what progress they have made with the lease and when do they anticipate they will be able to supply the Town Council with the new legal documentation.

**RW1643 TO DISCUSS THE AWARING OF A TOWN PLAQUE TO BEN SMITH – CLLR. CLARK (Agenda item .12)**

Cllr. Clark said that Ben Smiths achievement is remarkable. Mr. Smith has run the 401 marathons for entirely selfless reasons. He has run around the country and has given talks on facing up to bullying. The country has recognized Mr. Smith feat, has already visited 10 Downing Street and has had to turn down giving a talk to the House of Lords. A Town Council shield could be given as a local memento.

Cllr. Cottrell said having listened to the public and visited Clevedon Pier there are a lot of plaques. There are several world champions in the Town that the Council has not recognised. "Is there any location where we can put up plaques to show the achievements of people from the Town?"

Cllr. Mitchell suggested a central point in the Town and liked the idea of creating a wall.

Cllr. Cameron suggested that going forward, names are not included on the agenda so that names are not in the public domain until a decision has been made. He agreed that a plaque should be given.

Cllr. Koops said the Council will need to ensure that no one is forgotten or missed out. It would be nice to invite them to the Chairman's evening and hand the plaques out in an official capacity.

Cllr. Huffadine-Cooper felt that this could inspire other young people to achieve.

Cllr. Cottrell suggested there should be an opportunity for people to nominate those who quietly achieve behind the scenes. The Council could build a wall with small brass plaques.

Cllr. Oyns asked the members to consider who nominates these people.

Cllr. Cameron suggested that the Town Council should try to be consistent and set a procedure for deciding the equivalent of a civic award. Anyone could nominate, the nominations would need to be kept secret and discussed by a working party in a closed session.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council awards Ben Smith a Town Plaque to mark his great achievement and invite him to the December Town Council meeting to collect the plaque.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm.