

**MINUTES OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017 7.30PM**

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

Councillors: - Cameron, Clark, R. Cruse, Cottrell, Huffadine-Cooper, Mason, Mitchell, Terry

Staff: - Jo Duffy – Clerk of the Council

Public: - There were 12 members of the public in attendance.

**RW1656      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item .1)**

There was one declaration of interest recorded in the Declarations of Interest Register.

Cllr. Oyns declared an interest in agenda item .9 as he lives in the Lake Grounds.

**APOLOGIES (Agenda item .2)**

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

Cllr. Cottrell as Chairman of the Council welcomed Cllr. Terry back and said it was good to see him up and about and able to attend.

**RW1657      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Agenda item .3)**

There were 6 members of the public in attendance who wished to address the meeting:-

- Mr. Charles Murphy thanked the Council for their work. He hoped that the meeting would be constructive, without too many unsolicited, unsubstantiated, negative remarks. He said he will be presumptuous and apologise on behalf of the majority that are not here, for the noises that are sometimes made.
- Mr. Geoff Hardman spoke about litter bins. There is still a lack of bins on the High Street, even though he has been told that they have now been installed. Yet from Venga to The Poachers there are still only 4 bins. He has noticed 14 articulated lorries parked up on Old Mill Road and does not think the lorries should be there.

His opinion on the slipway is that it would be a wonderful thing. Finally he spoke about the Skate Park and the scout hut, and suggested they could be sited on Kilkenny Fields. He thinks the money that “the Council is spending unnecessarily this and next financial year” should be put aside.

- Mr. Graham Flower spoke about the skate park and the Town Council exploring the lease of the land next to the tennis courts on the Lake Grounds. He was surprised by this suggestion due to the proximity of the land to residential houses. There are at least three or four properties which were well within 100m of the proposed site, and therefore consider it to be quite unsuitable.
- Mr. Armitage backed Mr. Flower’s comments and added that it was his understanding that this particular site was looked at some years ago, and not deemed suitable then.
- Mr. Ben Fitzgerald agreed with the other speakers regarding the skate parks proximity to residential homes and noise. He felt the Council should focus on an all-weather skate park and suggested a covered venue, potentially a commercial building on Old Mill Road.
- Mr. Paul Maltby reminded people that there was a suitable place found for a skate park (Lake Grounds), it was given planning permission.

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

Cllr. Oyns changed the order of the meeting and brought forward agenda item .11.

**RW1658 TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS WITH REGARD TO A SKATE/WHEELS PARK (Agenda item .11)**

Cllr. Terry acknowledged that the suggestion of a wheels park on the Pitch and Putt concession was his. It has not been considered previously contrary to what has been said, simply because it was under concession, and still is. The Town Council should be asking North Somerset Council (NSC) if it will discuss the future of the Lake Grounds Pitch and Putt land with the Council and the concessionaire. The Clerk has advised that the concession expires at the end of December 2019. The land is an encumbrance on the concession, so they may be willing to surrender that part of it during the interim period.

The meeting discussed the appropriateness of the Pitch and Putt site for a wheels park.

Cllr. Mason confirmed that planning permission was given for a wheels park at the Lake Grounds many years ago. NSC did not grant landlords consent for the wheels park and the project failed. Kilkenny Field was also suggested as a possible site. It was felt that this was a good spot, but again it was NSC who did not want the skate park located there.

The meeting discussed the suitability of Kilkenny Field with it being far enough away from any residential property, downhill facing the water, which would dissipate noise, well used by the public, making the young people easily observed. It was noted that a lack of toilets could prove a problem.

Cllr. Cottrell will support any proposal to ask NSC for the wheels park to go on Kilkenny Field.

Cllr. Clark reminded the meeting that the Planning Inspector acknowledged that the original Lake Ground site was far enough away from residents not to disturb anybody and the original planning permission included the requirement for CCTV coverage. Nothing that he has heard tonight apart from a commercial facility in Old Mill Road is feasible.

Cllr. Cottrell proposed that the Town Council sends a letter to North Somerset Council asking if they would consider the viability of the Pitch & Putt course and Kilkenny Fields for a possible skate park. The meeting discussed which sites should be mentioned within the letter.

Cllr. Cameron asked that the proposal be amended to just refer to Kilkenny Fields in the letter. Cllr. Mitchell seconded the amendment. A vote was taken with four in favour, three against and Cllr. Oyns abstained.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council sends a letter to North Somerset Council asking if they would consider the viability of Kilkenny Fields for a possible skate/wheels park.

**RW1659 TO DISCUSS THE SLIPWAY AT THE MARINA (Agenda item .4)**

Cllr. R. Cruse thanked Mr. Charles Murphy for providing updates and trying to push the project forward. The Council are aware of the good work that he has been doing.

The meeting discussed the possible reasons why the project is taking so long to come to fruition.

Cllr. Terry moved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow representatives from the Portishead Yacht and Sailing Club (PYSC) to

address the meeting on the slipway project. Cllr. Mason seconded the proposal and a vote was taken with all in favour.

Mr. Murphy (PYSC) explained that the summary is very brief and it does indeed mention that the facility would remain locked. PYSC is a RYA affiliated club and part of their cadet section provides training to children as young as 8 years old. They start training at the Lake Grounds, move on to Pill Park, and then Sugar Loaf Beach. Pill Park is limited due to a lack of proper access from the road to the water. Currently they use a muddy irregular and sometimes steep slope. Although their instructors and parents work hard to get over this issue, it discourages the parents. If they had a decent launch facility, e.g. a slip, it would aid them getting involved and encouraging them to learn and enjoy the sport. They have promoted this launch facility for several years with NSC and with the marina operator Quays Marina with no success so far. They would welcome support from the Town Council on this campaign. They envisage that if the slip is build it will be maintained and controlled with gates, barriers and locks. It is far too dangerous to have public access to the slips but any reputable organisation will be allowed access and they will of course need to apply for the legal rights to the water, just as the PYSC did. Mr. Murphy confirmed that the PYSC has a safety policy.

Steve Gill (PYSC) spoke of the exclusive licence issued by Quays Marina to the PYSC. There are stringent requirements with the licence including a risk assessment and acknowledgement of the days which they will plan to use Pill Park. Any new user would have to negotiate with Quays Marina.

Cllr. Terry advised that the original project was for a boathouse and slipway and this arose from s.106 money from the site. NSC suggested that some Olympic legacy funding could be put into the project. For whatever reason the boat house never materialised and there seems to be an impasse with moving the project forward.

Mr. Murphy confirmed that he is supplied with a list of dates from Quays Marina when the water is sufficiently high enough to launch easily and most years they use their full utilisation.

Cllr. R. Cruse suggested that PYSC are seen to be using all available dates and that they evidence this. Cllr. R. Cruse advised that PYSC negotiations should remain with NSC. The Town Council can write a letter of support, but the Town Council should not be party to the negotiations.

Mr. Murphy said that it would be valuable for the Town Council to give their input on behalf of the more general community.

Cllr. R. Cruse proposed that the Town Council writes to Karlie Philips with a copy to Russ Currie (NSC officers in charge of the project) saying that the Town Council is concerned that the negotiations between the

PYSC, NSC and Quays Marina with regard to the Pill Park launch facility is taking too long. Cllr. Mason seconded the proposal.

Cllr. Clark asked that the Council ensures that any letter clearly states that this is a safety issue. "It is vitally important that the young people of Portishead have an understanding of boats, because they are likely to end up in them or on them."

Cllr. R. Cruse requested that a copy of the letter goes to Simon Haigh at Quays Marina. Cllr. Terry suggested that the letter should be sent to either the Chief Executive (Mike Jackson) or the relevant Director (Cllr. Peter Bryant). Cllr. Cruse was happy to amend the proposal to take account of the comments made by Cllrs. Clark and Terry.

The meeting agreed to return to standing orders.

A vote was taken with all in favour of the proposal

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council writes to North Somerset Council's Chief Executive Mike Jackson, Cllr. Peter Bryant Executive Member for Parks and Open Spaces and Marine Environment, saying that the Town Council is concerned that the negotiations between the PYSC, NSC and Quays Marina with regard the Pill Park launch facility is taking too long.

The letter is to refer to the officers managing the project, Russ Currie and Karlie Philips, the main agreement document and the safety concerns regarding the lack of a slip/launch.

**RW1660 TO DISCUSS THE ON-GOING UPKEEP OF PORTISHEAD PUBLIC ART WEBSITE (Agenda item .5)**

The Clerk briefed the meeting on the current situation with the Portishead Public Art Website.

Cllr. Clark suggested that the current website is scrapped and replaced with a new one. He suggested setting a project for local colleges to build a new arts website as a subsidiary of the Town Council site.

Cllr. R. Cruse proposed that the Council goes with proposal .1 and continues paying the annual hosting fee of £288 for the current year, and to review the matter later in the year with the view to making a decision before the end of November 2017, so that there is time to serve Iconography with notice, without penalty.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council must ensure that any website clearly states that the art work is neither owned nor maintained by Portishead Town Council.

Cllr. Cottrell supported Cllr. R. Cruse's proposal and suggested that a small working party is formed to consider a way forward so that there is a plan in place for November.

The meeting agreed that the Town Council should initially speak to Gordano School. A vote was taken with all in favour of the recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council initially speaks to Gordano School with regard to setting a project to develop a new Arts website.

Portishead Town Council continues paying the annual hosting fee of £288 for the current year, and reviews the matter later in the year, with the view to making a decision before the end of November 2017, so that there is time to serve Iconography with notice, without penalty.

**RW1661 TO DISCUSS CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN NORTH SOMERSET (Agenda item .6)**

The Clerk directed the meeting to the questions raised within the body of the letter from Mr. Hunter. Cllr. Cottrell spoke about the meeting attended by the Clerk, Cllrs. Oyns, Mitchell, Lord and herself. The meeting was held with senior managers within NSC's Highways department. The meeting was positive and informative and all questions raised by Mr. Hunter were answered. North Somerset Council will be enforcing all parking restrictions e.g. single and double yellow lines, car parks and bays. The officers will not deal with illegal parking which is a police matter. The scheme will be introduced in March 2017.

The meeting discussed the various aspects of the scheme including its promotion in the local press.

Cllr. Mitchell recounted a recent incident in the Marina area where emergency vehicles struggled to gain access to patients and buildings. He will ask the emergency services for a report.

Cllr. R. Cruse suggested that the Clerk writes a piece for the next Gordano Living/Resident Magazine/North Somerset Times about the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement in Portishead. The Clerk is also to go back to Mr. Hunter and respond to his comments. Cllr. Cottrell seconded Cllr. R. Cruses proposal. A vote was taken with all in favour.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Clerk writes a piece for the next Gordano Living/Resident Magazine/North Somerset Times about the introduction of Civil Parking

Enforcement in Portishead. The Clerk is also to go back to Mr. Hunter and respond to his comments.

**RW1662 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM CLLR. OYNS ON THE LAKE GROUNDS DUCK HOUSE (Agenda item .7)**

Cllr. Oyns spoke about a replacement duck house for the lake at the Lake Grounds. There are plans to add a wildlife camera to the duck house.

**RW1663 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM CLLR. OYNS ON THE NEED FOR A 3RD PORTISHEAD SCOUT GROUP (Agenda item .8)**

Cllr. Oyns confirmed that there are 60 young people waiting to join the scouts. There are two issues; a lack of premises and finding enough volunteers to run a third group.

**RW1664 TO DISCUSS THE CONDITION OF THE VERGES ALONG LAKE ROAD – CLLR. OYNS (Agenda item .9)**

Item .9 was removed from the agenda and not discussed.

**RW1665 TO DISCUSS THE UPDATING OF NOTICEBOARDS (Agenda item .10)**

The Clerk tabled the report on new noticeboards and drew the meetings attention to the cost of the replacements.

The meeting acknowledged the high cost of replacements.

Cllr. Cottrell proposed that the Council has two noticeboards; one outside the Folk Hall and one outside Waitrose, Cllr. Cameron seconded the proposal.

Cllr. Clark made an amendment to the proposal that the number of noticeboards is increased to three, with one of the noticeboards in better condition being relocated to the Redcliffe Bay Methodist Church site.

Cllr. R. Cruse made another amendment to the proposal, suggesting that one of the Council's contractors surveys all the noticeboards with the view to selecting the best "fit for purpose" for the three locations (Folk Hall, Waitrose and Redcliffe Bay Methodist Church). The report is to be bought back to Committee for a decision. A vote was taken with all in favour of the amended proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

A Council contractor surveys all the noticeboards with the view to selecting the best “fit for purpose” for the three locations (Folk Hall, Waitrose and Redcliffe Bay Methodist Church). The report is to be bought back to Committee for a decision.

**RW1666 TO DISCUSS THE EMAIL RECEIVED FROM NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL REGARDING THE NAMING OF LIGHTHOUSE PATH (Agenda item .12)**

Cllr. Cottrell proposed the Clerk’s recommendation that “Portishead Town Council agrees to pay for the installation of a street name sign for Lighthouse Path following a site visit with the necessary parties to ensure the location is acceptable. The cost of the sign and installation to cost no more than £165 + VAT.” Cllr. R. Cruse seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all in favour.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council agrees to pay for the installation of a street name sign for Lighthouse Path following a site visit with the necessary parties to ensure the location is acceptable. The cost of the sign and installation to cost no more than £165 + VAT.

**RW1667 TO DISCUSS THE REPLACEMENT OF LIGHTS IN THE MAIN HALL OF THE FOLK HALL (Agenda .13)**

Cllr. Cottrell proposed the Clerk’s recommendation that “Portishead Town Council approves quote A to replace 28 tubes in the main hall and repair/replace the two faulty light fittings at a cost of £606.81”. Cllr. Clark seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all in favour.

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

Portishead Town Council approves quote A to replace 28 tubes in the main hall and repair/replace the two faulty light fittings at a cost of £606.81.

**RW1668 TO DISCUSS THE DONATION OF BENCHES FROM THE PORTISHEAD LIONS CLUB TO THE TOWN (Agenda .14)**

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has written to the Lions Club and advised them of the cost of Town benches. Subsequently she has received a letter from Mr. Chavasse who acknowledged that the cost of the benches came as a bit of a surprise. He will refer the matter back to

the Lions Club for further discussions and will write again once he has a response.

The matter is deferred until further notice.

**RW1669 TO DISCUSS A TOWN ORDERLY (Agenda .15)**

Cllr. R. Cruse suggested that the matter is deferred. Cllr. Mitchell seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all in favour. Cllr. Cottrell asked it to be noted that she took no part in the discussion and subsequent vote.

**RW1670 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Agenda .16)**

1. To discuss marking the anniversary of the Portishead development framework for Portishead Quays at East Portishead circa. 1997
2. To discuss the possible introduction of Elonex marketing signs to Portishead
3. To discuss the donation of benches from the Portishead Lions Club to the Town
4. To receive a condition update on all Council owned Noticeboards
5. To discuss a Town orderly

\*\*\*\*\* EXEMPT ITEM \*\*\*\*\*

Prior to consideration of the following agenda item, members will be 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.”

**RW1671** Cllr. Cottrell proposed that 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. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. R. Cruse; a vote was taken with all in favour.

**RESOLVED that:**

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.

**RW1672 HEAVEN'S FIELD – UPDATE (Agenda .17)**

The Clerk advised that there is no further news to report on Heavens Field.

*Clerks note: The following item contains confidential information.*

**RW1673 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELDS (Agenda .18)**

**RECOMMENDATION that:**

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.