



PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 320TH ORDINARY MEETING OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL 15th JANUARY 2020 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Aldridge, Bull, Cartwright, Charles, Davey, Gardner (Chairman), Goddard, Holland, Mason, Shepperdson, Slatter, Snaden and Sterndale and Temple.

IN ATTENDANCE: J Swift (Locum Clerk). 25 members of the public were present.

For full details the meeting can be viewed on the video which is available on the Town Councils website and Facebook page.

PTC20.172 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none, all Councillors present.

PTC20.173 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

PTC20.174 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Patrick Heaton-Armstrong spoke regarding the potential impact to the Portishead Valley road recycling centre caused by the NSC proposal (currently undergoing consultation) for an annual charge for the Green Wheelie bin green waste service. Mr Heaton-Armstrong felt that whilst he was happy to pay the proposed £50 others may not and may opt out of the service and might prefer to take their green bag to the Valley Road Recycling Centre. If this is the case it is likely it will create more individual vehicle journeys to the site which raises safety concerns as the entrance to the site is on a dangerous bend which often has traffic queuing outside the Centre. Mr Heaton-Armstrong spoke about his concerns and suggested the following measures:

1. Improved signs on the approach to the Centre - currently there is only one small sign showing a road junction and that's only as vehicles come down the hill there is nothing as vehicles go up the hill. But there are two signs warning of deer crossing.
2. Provide a pull off lane for traffic coming down the hill, to get standing vehicles out of the flow of traffic.
3. Reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 30mph, extend the speed limit to cover all of Valley Road.

Also, to be considered is the traffic entering/leaving the Police Black Rock training area opposite the Recycling Centre, there are no signs warning of vehicles coming and going to the facility. Significant improvements must be made to the T junction of Valley Road with the B3124 Clevedon Road, pulling out of this junction is becoming hazardous. Mr Heaton-Armstrong asked if the Council would be prepared to instigate an investigation into these matters with the hope there will be a report reviewing the issues and the potential solutions. It was commented that the Recycling Centre is outside the Portishead Settlement Boundary as it is within Gordano Valley Parish.

Councillor B Cartwright offered to monitor the area around the Recycling Centre.

PTC will raise these concerns with NSC as part of the consultation

Dave Townsend – spoke about ‘Rewilding in North Somerset’. On the website there is information regarding the areas that will be affected by rewilding, however the website does not refer to any national rewilding guidelines or any other hierarchical documentation. Is the information on the website therefore a unilateral interpretation by NSC? The areas that will be most dramatically affected are the Golf course and Kilkenny fields. It is with regard to these where the NSC proposal is unclear.

- 1)The map clearly shows tree planting across adopted public footpaths, is this the NSC intention?
- 2)Why has NSC decided to exceed their own stated target of planting woodland from 10% to 40% on the golf course?
- 3)Do the illustrated areas of woodland show the extent of the planting or the extent of the woodland when mature? There is a huge difference.
- 4)He referred to the NSC document, ‘Development of a natural, native woodland’. Since the area of woodland will be impenetrable when mature (to all but the keenest of wildlife); is it the NSC intention not to provide any breaks in the vast and densely wooded areas?
- 5)Is it the intention of NSC to deprive the public of access to land which has already been set aside for them and to flout an extant legal covenant?
- 6)Since Oak trees in the UK can grow between 20 and 40m (between 65 and 130 feet) tall and even wider, is it the intention of NSC to deprive people of the views with such a proposed woodland planting scheme?
- 7)Has NSC undertaken an impact assessment of the woodland on local businesses and residents?
- 8)Since NSC have already undertaken some rewilding without consultation and demonstrated specialist machinery on the golf course, is the rewilding document an already adopted plan as opposed to a proposal?

Mr Townsend requested that a District Councillor is appointed to liaise with the local community to ensure that the rewilding policy is implemented in a way which meets environmental, biodiversity objectives and allays public concerns.

Richard Earl – also spoke about rewilding program, all the information mentioned is available on the NSC rewilding website:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/leisure/parks-countryside/rewilding/rewilding-in-north-somerset/>

Concerns were expressed, about the proposed tree planting at the southerly edge of the far westerly area of Blackdown Road Park. - the proposed tree planting would stop light, block residents views over the Bristol channel, obstruct an established walkway used by dog owners and children returning home, create a litter trap, be a security risk and may even lead to the reduction of house prices. There is an opportunity to make this area of Blackdown Road Park attractive, with wild areas of educational value. It must be so much better.

Will the council appoint a councillor to liaise with the Blackdown road park residents? and approve a motion to consider an alternative suggestion, which covers the rewilding needs, enhances the area, placates the residents, eases the mowing access and very importantly maximises the effectiveness of carbon sequestration?

Councillor N Holland agreed to take up the points made by Mr Townsend and Mr Earle with the relevant NSC Officer

Geoff Lucas – spoke about the S106 money that is earmarked for public realm and landscaping to keep Portishead an attractive and pleasant place. Wynham Way is mostly attractive until you get to Aldi, that area is not pleasant, and it was suggested that the car park is screened by trees. It was also suggested that Somerset House is freshened up and the bins behind Iceland

to be screened. In respect of the Aldi signs, there are too many and the question was asked, do they comply with planning permission? They are unnecessary and Aldi should be asked to reduce the number.

Sculpture trail - can a report be provided detailing which works are missing or damaged and what is to be done about it. Mr Lucas also requested benches at the Marina.

Ken Smith – spoke about problems and issues around parking at a car park he had recently visited, and the charges of over staying being put out to contract. Mr Smith was informed that there is presently a consultation in respect of car parking. Mr Smith also spoke about the charges being proposed by NSC in regard to garden waste. Mr Smith asked Councillors for their individual views on charging for the green wheelie bins.

David Cook – spoke about the precept options and requested that Councillors, when considering the options, bear in mind the impact a substantial increase would have on Portishead residents especially for those on a tight budget.

Geoff Hardman – was pleased to inform everyone that NSC has granted landlords consent on the wheels and skatepark at the Lake Grounds. There is now a need to have working parties to look at public consultations, designs, financing. Anyone interested was invited to join the working parties. Geoff expressed concerns about a camera that had recently been placed outside of his house. Councillor Slater responded and said that the camera was there to look at, traffic control in respect of the way parents are parking during school times and was to assess the situation to see what can be done about it. The issues in that area were spoken about and it was felt that parents should walk their children to school more.

Finances – in his view the toilet costs are excessive and why does the amount differ each month. The Wellbeing grants made were also questioned. Corporate governance – it has been noticed that some meetings held outside of the Parish have not been made available. Mr Hardman requested copies of the minutes of these meetings.

Alan Petch – congratulations were given in the way in which Portishead Town engaged in respect of the precept consultation. It was suggested that other methods are used in the future to encourage more participation e.g. platforms such as Survey Monkey and the Council website and not just on Facebook.

Car parking – appreciate that NSC are short of money and it would appear that some of the proposals could be revenue money raising schemes, this is not necessarily a problem however depends how implemented and it was requested that the Council considers how much effort is being put into the enforcement of the existing on street parking restrictions. A resident parking scheme could be a way of easing the problems however concerns are that they are used as a revenue raising scheme therefore consideration needs to be given to the impact of such a scheme and that is not used just to raise revenue.

PTC20.175 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Amend the spelling of the website link to read - www.portisheadplan.uk.

Resolved – that with the correction made above the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

PTC20.176 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

Lake Gounds Green Flag status update – as part of the ongoing green flag status an independent “mystery shopper” review was carried out recently. The mystery shop gave the Lake Grounds a “red status” in answer to the question “Is the site of Green Flag Award standard. This verdict was given primarily due to the poor and deteriorating state of the café and

boathouse buildings. In light of this NSC has decided to pause its Green Flag application for next year. Instead they will focus our efforts on putting an investment plan in place to replace the old buildings and hope to work in collaboration with Portishead Town Council, The Lake Grounds Management Committee and the Portishead community.

CCTV – there is a tender process in place, run by NSC, which will provide a more modern and cost-effective solution. Updates will continue to be given.

PTC 20.177 TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION/REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

There were none.

PTC20.178 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM NORTH SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

There were none.

PTC20.179 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCILLORS

Neighbourhood Steering Group – formal approval of the Area Designation has been approved by NSC. In December the group delivered an initial Neighbourhood Plan survey to every household in Portishead, the survey is available online. To date 383 responses have been received and analysis of the survey will start next week. The website will be used to provide information on the plan, including the scope and progress of the work. The 5 Neighbourhood Plan working groups have started work. Work has commenced on a budget proposal for a grant to be applied for in April.

PTC20.180 CANS (CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU) – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Fiona Cope spoke about the service that is given and provided information on a case and what the organisation was able to do for that family. Many similar cases are dealt with at the Folk Hall. The footfall is on the increase with a 42% raise. It would be preferable to have a more prominent location in Portishead. The library was given as a suggestion for a location.

The Service Level Agreement will be considered at the February Town Council meeting.

PTC20.181 BUDGET 2020/2021

A detailed presentation of the precept consultation responses was provided by a Town Council officer. *The presentation will be available on request and will be put on the Town Councils website.*

Resolved – that the budget was approved, and the level of precept was agreed and set at £787,860.

PTC20.182 NORTH SOMERSETS CONSULTATION ON CAR PARKING CHARGES

Everyone was encouraged to respond to the consultation individually. The car parking working group will provide a draft response for the Council to consider as their formal response.

Councillor R Bull will set up a public meeting to give a further opportunity for residents to express their views. Residents are encouraged to attend.

PTC20.183 FINANCES (MONTH 9 DECEMBER 2019)

Resolved – that the finances for December 2019 were approved.

Councillor T Slatter left the meeting at 9.50pm

PTC20.184 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Resolved – that the Internal Audit report and the recommendations and comments were noted.

PTC20.185 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Town Council meeting is to be held on Wednesday 12th February 2020

Meeting Closed: 10.00 pm

Signed:.....Chairman. Portishead Town Council

Date:.....