



PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 325th ORDINARY MEETING OF PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL held on 15th July 2020 at 7.30pm

The meeting was held remotely via Microsoft Teams with all councillors and public being invited to attend. An audio and video recording published with these minutes and is available on the Town Councils website.

[Vimeo Meeting Video Link](#)

PRESENT: Chairman: Gardner **Councillors:** Aldridge, Bull, Cartwright (joined at 19.37), Davey, Goddard, Holland, Mason, Shepperdson, Sterndale, and Temple. 11 in total.

IN ATTENDANCE: M Salisbury (Town Clerk). 10 members of the public and one member of the press were also present.

PTC20.272 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (*Agenda Item 1*)

Apologies for absence due to illness were received and accepted from Cllr Charles and Cllr Snaden. An apology was also received from Cllr Slatter.

Cllr Gardner stated that due to the illness of Cllr Charles it was not proposed to make any statement as to his position as an independent councillor without him being present.

PTC20.273 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS (*Item 2*)

There were none.

PTC20.274 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*Item 4*)

Patrick Heaton Armstrong – enquired about the possibility of a wildlife survey on the Nore Road golf course, as he was not aware of any survey having been undertaken. He considered that more was needed to be known about the area to encourage wildlife development in the years ahead. He also questioned where the consultation on Town Village Green status had got to.

Cllr Holland said she was talking to NSC executive tomorrow to understand the status of the land. The NSC rewilding consultation having finished and the 5-year plan for the golf course is based on the results of that consultation process. She agreed to being up the suggestion of a wildlife survey when meeting with NSC.

Paul Maltby – asked that his written statement be read out, “I wish, once again, to highlight my disappointment that Portishead Town Council have reduced the Town Council Meetings to bi-monthly. I feel that this is a backwards step. The residents who placed their trust into the Councillors at the last election could have expected more from them, than a reduction in Town Council meetings by some 50%. (I accept that this does not apply to the Community Matters or Planning meetings at this time). I fail to see how this can be a progressive move

and I am frustrated that this was slipped in, without proper, open and full discussion. I would urge all Councillors in attendance tonight to give careful consideration in placing a motion before the Town Council at the very next opportunity to reverse this decision immediately”.

Annette Hennessy – had the following questions:

- Can a member of the public video the remote meetings? It was confirmed that there is no restriction on the ability of the public to record council meetings, whether held physically or remotely.
- Is Councillor Charles a member of Portishead Town Council as a Portishead Independent or an Independent member as the website now lists him as an Independent member and what does the Register of Interests say. Cllr Gardner said he did not wish to discuss a member of the council who is currently ill.

Paul Maltby also questioned which party Cllr Charles was currently a member? Cllr Gardner referred him to the website that states that Cllr Charles is an Independent member.

- Why has a change in political party membership not been updated on the declared Register of Interest? It was confirmed that the Register of Interests would be reviewed and updated as required.

PTC20.275 THE CHAIRMANS REPORT *(Item 3)*

A verbal report was received from the Chairman as follows:

- **Coronavirus response** – continues as residents still require assistance, the council continues to manage around 20 volunteers who are buddies for various people. Despite the easing of restrictions that is still an ongoing situation for which he would like to thank staff and volunteers.
- **PTC grant applications** – are now open, with information on the website and other publicity including a NS Times article. The objective is to make it as inclusive as possible to help as many community groups as possible over the next 12 months.
- **Opening of Halls & Play Parks** – halls will now be opened, including for physical exercise from Monday 27 July. The ground floor of the Folk Hall, Redcliffe Bay (RBH) and North Western (NWH) halls will open, although a slow start is expected as the maximum capacities are reduced to 25 at the Folk Hall and 15 at RBH and NWH. Furthermore, several groups may not wish to return to activity whilst Covid-Secure measures remain in place.
- **CCTV investment and Service Level Agreement** – we have been working with North Somerset and a provider has now been chosen and detailed implementation is processing in coordination with the other Town Councils. It is proposed to install a 360 degree camera around the Wyndham Way area, at an additional cost, but a final specification is expected soon and work on a joint service level agreement including NSC, Town Councils and the police is being undertaken.

Cllr Cartwright left the meeting.

- **Town Orderly** – Gareth is now back to work, undertaking various tasks around the town.

- **Marina Rubbish Bins** – PTC after discussion with NSC and Persimmon has agreed to install 6 new bins at the Northern end of the marina, to provide some provision for litter in that area.
- **Esplanade Road closure** – has been the subject of many correspondence and enquiries. Initial feedback was mixed with roughly a 50:50 between those in favour and against the closure. However, more recently the views expressed are overwhelming negative and vociferous against the continued closure of the road to traffic and parking. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Town Council will write to North Somerset Council to ask them to undertake an urgent review of the measures and to advise on what their plans are for future actions and accessibility. It was agreed a letter would be finalised and sent to NSC.

Cllr James said he will also get the social distancing group to focus on leisure facilities and open spaces as additional funds for these measures, including the use of planters instead of road barriers was now available.

In respect of follow-up items:

- **Shop Local** – PTC has been engaged in further discussion with Portishead Chamber of Commerce with a further meeting planned. Cllr Mason having been approached by a provider of local High Street websites and this was being considered.
- **Waitrose Recycling Centre** – This was raised with NSC and they have been working on problems at the facility with increased collections and signage and the situation appears to have improved.
- **Jubilee Park Cycling Problem** – action has been taken in install a barrier at the top of the steps to stop cycling down them.
- **Action on Equality** – Cllr Gardner and Goddard have spoken to Louise Roberts the NSC equality officer and it is proposed to conduct a workshop for councillors, officers and residents to consider what actions can be taken. It was agreed to reach out the Chloe Howard who organised the Black Lives Matter event to see if she would wish to attend.
- **Change of Council Meeting Schedule** – in response to the comment from Paul Maltby the objective is to ensure we have an efficient council process avoiding duplication and getting the timing right with appropriate delegated authorities to consider matters and act. The objective is to move more routine business to other committees to make more efficient use of the time of all 14 councillors and make Town Council meetings as engaging as possible. The emphasis being on the Community Matters forum to get more engagement with community groups and matters that affect the Portishead community. The Town Council meeting more strategic and with a longer-term focus. The number of meetings has been benchmarked against other councils and in comparison, to other councils the proposed 36 different meetings are in line with towns or a similar size to that of Portishead.

Cllr Mason suggested that all councillors should be advised and agree what other committees are doing. Accordingly, minutes of committee meetings will be

presented to full Town Council meetings for approval and comment as part of future agendas.

PTC20.276 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES (item 5)

Resolved – the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 17th June 2020 are confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. All councillors present in favour.

PTC20.277 REPORTS FROM NORTH SOMERSET COUNCILLORS (item7)

Cllr Holland – has posted on Facebook to get discussion going about community orchards as there is funding available and it was a point arising from the rewilding consultation that there should be a strategy for additional trees and well as grass land. It is hoped to commence some planting in the dormant season after October.

Cllr James – a response from the NSC executive in connection with the flooding in Portishead South had been received. The answer may not be what residents what to hear but the reality is that it is not currently a top priority given levels of funding and greater priorities in the district. Unfortunately, priority is given to where property damage has arisen or is most likely. However, he plans to write to the MP to request that additional funding is made available for flood relief in the central government budget. He also encouraged residents to use the links to report flood damage.

PTC20.278 REPORTS FROM PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCILLORS (item 8)

Cllr Davey – thanked volunteers for their efforts with the Folk Hall refurbishment and the creation of the heritage area.

Cllr Aldridge – updated that the Merlin Park lease was now signed, and he would be progressing the resurfacing and improvement works with NSC.

PTC20.279 FINANCES (Month 3 2020-21) June 2020 (item 9)

Resolved – the schedule of payments and the bank reconciliation for June 2020 is approved. All councillors present in favour.

PTC20.280 AGAR Public Inspection Period (item 10)

Resolved – To approve the Responsible Financial Officer to publish the Notice of Public Rights, in the form of the draft provided, providing for an inspection period from Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August 2020. All councillors present in favour.

PTC20.281 NHS BLOOD & TRANSPLANT REQUEST FOR HALL USE (item 11)

Resolved – to in principle to offer the use of the Folk Hall to the NHS for blood donation use, as a potential alternative to Somerset Hall. All councillors present in favour.

PTC20.282 PLAY AREA REOPENING RISK ASSESSMENT (item 12)

Resolved – to approve the risk assessment for the re-opening of PTC play areas.
All councillors present in favour.

Resolved – to approve the purchase of:

- i. 15 A3 temporary Play Area Signs at an estimated cost of £90**
- ii. 3 x 50 litre railing mounted litter bins at a cost not to exceed £400**
- iii. 4 new A4 PTC aluminium operator signs at an estimated cost of £250**

All councillors present in favour.

Cllr Aldridge noted that risk assessments are important but also common sense and respect for other people by all users is also required. He urged people to abide by guidance and signage, act responsibly and clean equipment before and after use.

PTC20.283 PTC REPRESENTATIVES WITH PORTISHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (item 13)

Resolved – To approve Cllr Gardner and Cllr Goddard to represent PTC with the Portishead Chamber of Commerce. *All councillors present in favour.*

Tracey Fowler of the Chamber said she would invite them to PCC committee meetings.

PTC20.284 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING (item 14)

The next Ordinary Town Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting Closed: 8.36pm

Signed:.....

Chairman. Portishead Town Council

Date:.....