



Local Government Act 1972

Notice of the Portishead Residents Annual Meeting

(Annual Town Meeting)

Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.30 pm

The Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR

AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chairman of Portishead Town Council
2. Annual summary update by the Chairman of the Council
3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the 18th May 2022 Portishead Residents Annual Meetings (Attached)
4. Appointment of Independent chair to facilitate public open forum
5. Open Forum to discuss matters raised by the general public at the Meeting
6. Discussion on which community groups the donations from the Portishead Penny Coronation Festival 27th May 2023 to be decided on.
Last year Jubilee events funds were split 50/50 to Portishead Christmas Lights Portishead Wheels and Skate Park Group
7. Closing remarks and thanks

Councillor Patricia Sterndale
Chairman of Portishead Town Council

Please note:

Due to the limited capacity available at Folk Hall access will on a first come first serve basis

To join the meeting online via zoom please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3Mjvsli>

Meeting ID: 831 0883 0840

Passcode: 589217

Dial in by phone: 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom (National call rate)

This meeting will be recorded and published with a link from the Council website

Portishead Residents Annual meeting minutes Wednesday 18 May 2022

This was a hybrid meeting

Meeting venue was online and in the Folk Hall, Portishead

The meeting was recorded

Council Chairman's welcome (Councillor Patricia Sterndale):

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Portishead Resident's annual meeting 2022.

As is now the norm, the residents' meeting will be chaired by a member of the public, and I will be asking for nominations in a minute.

I hope you will use the opportunity this evening to let the Council know your priorities for the coming year, that you will tell us of any particular concerns and raise any issues that need attention, as well as sharing any positive stories and details of ongoing projects that we or other residents may not be aware of.

Councillors may wish to answer some questions tonight, but if not we will listen to what you've said and report back at a later date.

Please keep your remarks polite and respectful. I am confident that no-one will waste valuable time this evening making pointless personal attacks on individuals. But it's your evening and it's up to you.

I will formally close the meeting at the end which must be before at 10:00.

Please note that anyone may speak, but if any vote is taken then only Portishead residents on the electoral register are eligible to vote.

Minutes of the previous meeting (8th May 2019) (May 26th 2021) (Council Chairman):

Firstly, we need to approve the minutes of the last two residents' meetings held on May 8th 2019 and May 26th 2021. Proposer Sue Mason and seconder Tina Mason.

I will present a very brief report on the highlights of the past year, but I don't want to take up much of the time as this is your opportunity to have your say.

- Finally, after years and years of waiting, the Wheels and Skate Park is finally becoming a reality. The plans have been drawn up, fundraising has begun in earnest and the planning application submitted.
- The main hall in the Folk Hall has been transformed from a dreary room into an impressive Heritage centre displaying the history of Portishead and many local artefacts.
- The draft Portishead Neighbourhood Plan was published at the end of March and we have just concluded our statutory six week public consultation period. We held four public events during that time, three in the Folk Hall and one in the library. The overall response is one of approval, that the document was well written and the objectives well thought out and valuable. Thank you to everyone who complete the surveys. I'd also like to thank the many volunteers who gathered the evidence needed to back up our policies. Our job now is to analyse the comments we've received both from the public and the statutory consultees and amend the document where required. It will then go to North Somerset Council for approval and then on to a government appointed Independent examiner before finally coming back to the public for a referendum.
- We have used the Commonplace toolkit to hold a number of online consultations as well as the Neighbourhood plan, on Slade Road playing fields, a proposed pump track at Merlin Park, the Lake Grounds, transport issues and so on.
- Portishead now has a traffic warden
- New CCTV cameras have been installed in the town replacing the old, obsolete and often non-functioning cameras. The pictures these send back to the control centre in Weston are very impressive and with direct links to the police are enabling much faster and more effective responses to criminal and anti-social activity.
- We have had a very successful year of grant awards. We have awarded over 108 thousand pounds to many different organisations who provide a service to the residents of Portishead. Applicants have

to submit a detailed request for funds which is subject to careful scrutiny by the grants committee before any proposal is made to award funds.

- The Wellness project has finally brought together all parties, local GPs, citizens advice, Church leaders, Youth centre, police, VANS etc.
- A trial community hub has been set up in the High Street temporarily located at the Methodist Church. This, as we've said before, is a trial paid for by government funding via North Somerset Council to assess the need and desire for a permanent community hub in Portishead. We welcome any residents who want to ask advice about something, or just to have a chat. Rooms are also available for hire by start-up community groups, and other organisations such as Citizens Advice will be there at specific times each week to offer advice to residents.
- We have reached agreement with NSC for a number of road improvements, such as road markings this summer, the build out on Avon Way to improve access and we've started the process to agree a new zebra crossing on Bristol Road
- Improvements to the Lake Grounds are underway
- New playground equipment has been purchased and is being installed
- As I hope you have seen, the Council is organising two events to celebrate the Queens' Platinum Jubilee. On June 2nd at about 9:15 in the evening, Gordano District Scouts will be lighting a beacon at Battery Point.
- On June 3rd we are hosting a free event at the Portishead Showfield from 1pm to 8pm, where there will be music, children's entertainments, numerous local craft stalls, plus local businesses selling food and drink.
- Ben Aldridge talked about the upcoming Jubilee events and asked for nominations for charities to raise funds for at the event.

So I would now like to ask if anyone would like to propose a resident to run the meeting. If more than one resident is proposed, then a vote will be taken.

The Council Chairman requested a resident volunteer to facilitate the public discussion.

- Nomination for chairing the meeting, Annette Hennessey nominated Paul Maltby.
- Paul stated this is a public meeting Councillors can speak as residents there is no time limit on speaking and a Councillor can be nominated to respond if needed.
- Liese Stanley from Portishead community fridge talked online giving an update on progress with the project.
- Lyn Morrissey online thanked all Portishead town council for their hard work and for all that was achieved during lockdown.
- Ray Shields questioned why numbers attending meetings are so low.
- Lisa Screen responded to this stating most people in Portishead are happy with what's going on, they see what the council is doing and it is all okay.
- She stated that she had to make a phone call to Gordano school about an issue which she would like to discuss with Councillors.
- Laura Porter online responded to the subject of poor attendance and said she felt disaffected. She has decided to take a step back and referred to casual unlawfulness.
- Lesley Cottrell responded to Ray Shields comments that attending meetings for her has not been positive and referred to a slogan on the T-shirt of the vice-chairman at a meeting last week.
- Jenny Parry online stated that she was having problems hearing people in the hall and requested that the static mic is used.
- Ken Smith stood up and talked about the plaque in the building with the list of chairmen on it and stated that the chain of office is no longer worn.
- Annette Hennessey spoke saying she is a-political and that she disagreed with previous comments about attendance at meetings from Lisa Screen, she referred to bullying both online and in council meetings. She talked about the bullying online in particular targeting one lady who does not make political posts on social media but is targeted by bullies.

- A member of the public who is here tonight was viciously attacked verbally in a meeting last year by several Councillors and no other Councillors said anything.
 - She also referred to a similar incident last week with a Councillor shouting at a resident at a meeting.
 - People are not coming to meetings because they are fearful.
 - There is a gang-like approach which needs to stop.
 - The statement in NST regarding Cllr Mason, Cllr Shepperdson and Cllr Goddard. There are rules which should be adhered to.
 - She asked that Paul Gardner resign after what he said to Ken Smith at a Council meeting.
 - She spoke with Paul Jones the Editor of NST. He has just printed what has been sent to him.
 - She went through the process which should have taken place about Cllrs attending meetings and talk about the issues surrounding the Cllrs non attendance.
- Tina Mason stood up to speak as a resident of Portishead. Explained who she was. Sad that we are talking about matters that don't really matter and that when she stood for Council she did it to deliver stuff.
She talked about social media and how daunting it is dealing with the public in Portishead and their comments. The comments need to end. We need to focus on working together to deliver more.
 - Bob Cartwright stood up to speak. Explained who he was. This needs to stop. Wasted time demoralising the Council.
 - Annette Hennessy stood up to discuss how people should be able to challenge the bullying.
 - Message online from Anthony Sayer referring to personal attacks on people instead of just getting on with supporting Cllrs and making things better. He mentions the empty apartments apposite Waitrose and what is going to happen with them?
 - Reyna Knight stood up to talk about communication within the town. States that PTC only communicates with The Times and we should be dealing with all press.
 - Marilyn Koops stood up to talk about how appalled she was at how a resident was accused of lying in a Town Council meeting by Cllr Davey. Nobody stood up for the resident and he just had to take it. Discussed all she achieved when she was on the Council.
 - Online Anthony Sayer sent message saying think we should move on to something else.
 - Lesley Cottrell asked to move on to other matters. Lots of questions which will be put in writing to the Town Clerk.
Discussed how hard it is to be a Cllr. Everyone has right to their opinion. When she was a Cllr she tried to be fair and worked extremely hard. She has no desire to be a Town Cllr ever again. She receives personal abuse (and her family) and you need a thick skin to be a Cllr.
Back to May 2019. Promises made have they been kept? Abuse in 2018 over a decision. We still have 30 mins public participation in meetings. Cllr Davey promised

£2million in S106 money. Where is it? How has this been spent?

PTC has raised approx. £2million over 3 years and precept raised again. Where has all that money gone? How much money did PTC get in Grants. £65K? What is all this money been spent on? Why aren't PTC paying for the skatepark? Cllr Davey said £500k of money to pay for it. Why are you only matching £50k?

Last thing to mention. Since May 2019, PTC has had 6 Clerks, including Locum and Bob Bull as a stand in. Doesn't include Sharon Sherborne. Amazing person. I want it to go on record how much work she does.

How much has been spent on recruitment. Lots of new staff. Where is all our precept money going?

- Patricia Sterndale responded to Lesley by stating we can provide all the details she has mentioned. It will all be in the records.
- Lesley Cottrell responded – Previous administration always give Community Grants which is brilliant. Should be worked out on a pro rata basis based on what income the Town Council has had and what has been paid out in Grants. Community Grants doesn't state who and would like more detail.
- Ken Smith – Look at NST last week which shows what money has been spent on. Talked about the hedges which have been ripped out by North Somerset, this is where the problem is. We have no rep on the executive. Everything I don't like in Portishead usually comes from North Somerset. This is my house of commons and I speak freely in here.
- Ray Shields – A few years ago I came to this meeting and the room was full and main issues around motoring, parking, speeding. This meeting should be about these issues.
- Online Chris Holman – Referred to a meeting which took place in May 2018 and the new committee are trying hard to make things better. Weston are spending our money. Residents should be doing more. How, don't know. Let's try and keep Cllrs away from politics and putting our town back in the right place. Cleaning up the lake, forget about the railway. Junction 19, shambles. Thank you to everyone but no thank you to the previous Councillors. They did nothing for Portishead.
- Annette Hennessy – NSC there is a Committee. Whether there is a Mayor or committee system the decisions all the same. Don Davies left NSC. We have 6 NS Cllrs. Surprised no District Cllrs here tonight. We are paying through precept far more than before to NSC. Doesn't agree with lease on the playground which means we are now taking another facility from NSC and this will be another financial burden. Don't think we will ever see the railway. Concerns the mass development around that area in Wyndham way. Cllrs put online videos promoting development in that area. We have a resolution in this town no more development without infrastructure. Concerned how the town will manage when this development happens.
- Comments online were read through.
- Message from Guest how many more personal attacks is chair going to allow. Completely agree Kathie that's exactly what this meeting should be about.
- Message from Nicola Holland saying she is online as a District Councillor
- Message from Laura Porter stated only first name for Nicola on profile and not sure who Guest is
- Message from Anthony Sayer, good to hear facts didn't know before.
- Message from Kathie commented was useful to hear thanks Annette.
- David Cook – In answer to Lesley Cotterill about how money spent. Accounts are published and online. This council raising and spending more than any previous. Not saying that is wrong. What we need to see is what the benefits are to Portishead of all the additional spending.

- Ray Shields – Audience is existing and past Cllrs. Will what has been said tonight will it get back to the other people of Portishead. Not into social media. There doesn't seem to be anything in NST. Editors said nobody is submitting anything. He doesn't think this meeting was in paper. Bus service meeting doesn't think was mentioned widely. Report was in NST from first bus meeting but the follow up meeting wasn't mentioned in NST. Everything now online.
- Paul Maltby - Less than 1/3 are current or ex Cllrs.
- Patricia Sterndale – Staff work hard to communicate. If you can think of other ways, please let us know.
- Read through more online messages.
- Message from Laura Porter, I've managed to participate at home whilst getting children to bed so glad to have the facility.
- Message from Kathie – I didn't attend in person as facebook advert said limited.
- Sue Mason – Respond to Ray. At recent meeting discussion about buses. She has asked for a notice to be put in bus stops where they do not stop. Asked if bus timetables could be displayed lower. NST, she hasn't seen anything in there particularly signpost section. They do include items as she sent something recently. Hoping this will change. Why do NST not attend meetings? They are asked but not sure they have time to attend these meetings.
- Online comments read out.
- Message from Anthony Sayer - concerns about flats opposite Waitrose.
- Message from Carolyn Watkins – It's supposed to be affordable housing but don't know when available.
- Patricia Sterndale believes these will be available from June.
- Bob Cartwright – Believes NST can no longer afford reporters. It's a shame and everyone needs to be involved.
- Tina Mason – So much of this evening has been spent on the art of politics. Next year could a list be put together to create an agenda prior to this meeting?
- Annette Hennessy responded saying this has happened previously but didn't work. It became more politically led. There are gaps with noticeboards. East Portishead?
- Ben Aldridge – One at Trinity but not Council. Nothing on Marina.
- Annette Hennessy gave out Paul Jones editor of NST email address out. Top part of Portishead is missed out at times.
- More comments online read out.
- Message from Anthony Sayer – excellent idea Sue
- Message from Carolyn Watkins – well said Tina perhaps notices put up in Doctors and cafes would help.
- Sue Mason – Used to be 10 noticeboards, now only 6.

Discussion

- Paul Maltby ended the discussion
- Council Chairman, Councillor Patricia Sterndale:
 - The Council will consider and respond to issues raised.
 - Final decision made on nominated charity for the Jubilee event and Skate Park and Christmas Lights were chosen, so this will be split between these 2 charities.
- A lady stood up to speak but unable to hear well as no use of microphone.