



Portishead Town Council

The Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6PR Tel: 01275 847078 www.portishead.gov.uk

Minutes of Community Matters Committee Meeting Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7.30 pm

This was a Hybrid meeting to enable community participation.

Committee Members Present:

Councillors Emma Blackmore (Vice Chairman), Benjamin Aldridge, Janet Davey, David Gunnell and Frankie Stone

Councillors in attendance:

Mike Johnston (in person)

Officers Present:

W Coulter-Woodman (Town Clerk, Cameras, IT and Minutes)

L Bowers (Wellbeing Co-ordinator)

Members of the Public Present:

2 (in person)

2 (online)

CM001/05/23 Chairmans Welcome:

Councillor E Blackmore Chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor P Churchill.

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

CM002/05/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Paul Churchill and Carol Preston.

CM003/05/23 Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations (Chairman)

Members must declare any disclosable pecuniary (financial) and other interests re. items on the agenda as required by the council's Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, and Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Aldridge declared a personal interest in item 4.1 skatepark update (no vote) as he is a Director of WASP.

Councillor Blackmore declared a pecuniary interest in item 7 Youth Centre COLF Application for Breakfast Club (no vote, withdrew from the meeting) as she is a Trustee of the Youth Centre.

CM004/05/23 The Chairman's verbal update report

Councillor Aldridge gave the following updates in the Chairman's absence:

Wheels & Skate Park update: The Skatepark opened on 15th May 2023 which was a momentous occasion for many reasons. We'd fought for this for so long. There were 100+ people at the opening. BBC Radio Bristol were there. Martin Evens was brilliant, and it can be heard on BBC Sounds. All the younger people and older people of the Town love the skatepark, we couldn't have delivered better. There are things we can learn from, we are dealing with a few things behind the scenes, nothing major, just little bits of landscaping. So far it is a rip-roaring success. I've been checking in on it every

single day before going to work and there are people on it before 7am in the morning! The feedback we've had is truly amazing.

Everyone who has contributed towards this deserves thanks and they should be proud of themselves for what they've delivered. Thank you to everyone in the community who have contributed, whether you are a resident, a business, National Lottery, National Grid, Veolia, Sport England, British Cycling, you name it, you made this thing happen. The Town Council, massive support from them, thanks to the Town Clerk and all the staff for the support and help and North Somerset Council. We wouldn't have achieved it without them. Thank you all.

9am Friday 26th May 2023, National Grid are coming down for a photo shoot for a cheque presentation. They have donated £70,000 towards the project, if you available, please come down.

Councillor M Johnston asked whether the Skatepark could be added to in the future. Was there a procedure for dealing with graffiti.

Councillor B Aldridge responded that the skatepark was not designed to be added to but it could be added to. The way it was designed would allow for it to be expanded. It caters for all categories of ability as well as those in wheelchairs. It was one of the key criteria from the start.

If graffiti is found, don't touch it, contact the Town Council or call me (Cllr Aldridge). There is a chemical that can be put on it immediately which will remove it and is not harmful to the environment. It would require the skatepark to be shut temporarily. You cannot use a jet wash on it and you cannot scrub it because it will damage the surface.

There is 24hr CCTV in the area so if anyone does graffiti it, they will be found out.

Lake Grounds Play Park: The play equipment has now been cleaned, installed and there is just some additional work to be completed such as new soil and grass to be added and more matting to be laid down. It has been signed off by the relevant inspectors. There was an incident, we are dealing with it, it was very unfortunate, but we are responding to it accordingly.

CM005/05/23 Public Participation

The following are a precis and not a verbatim record.

Member of Public 1: I'd just like to say how much enjoyment there is in watching everyone enjoying the skatepark. There are a lot of youngsters coming from Bristol, they say it's like being on holiday. They want to spend their money in the swimming pool, they want to spend their money in the cafes. I didn't know if there was anything that could be done about the toilets being left useable? The toilets are shut at a certain time of day, but people are down there until well after the closing time. Likewise the café could be open for longer as there is business there to be had.

Cllr Aldridge answered that the issue with it is the people who decide to ruin things and that's the issue. The minute that the toilets are left open later, then certain people seem to think its ok to vandalise things, which its not. We will have the conversation with North Somerset Council and see if they are prepared to open them.

One of the requirements that we have to carry out, as per the National Lottery Grant funding is to carry out a survey of the users and whether they are getting the experience they want and anything they'd like as extra and how we can enhance it.

Member of Public 2: There are a number of no parking bollards outside Coffee #1. They have been there since the coffee shop opened. No sure why they are trying to erase more car parking spaces. I am surprised that there has not been an accident outside the nursery on Combe Avenue because the parents are parking on the double yellow lines and when you come down Avon Way, the road narrows, the buses are coming up and the children are coming out. Concerned that a child is going to get knocked over, there seems to be no one taking responsibility for it.

Cllr Aldridge answered that the 2 bays were removed on Combe Road because they were causing an obstruction.

Member of Public 3 (Online): Microphone was not working and sent a message that they would send their enquiries in via email to the Council.

CM006/05/23 Minutes of the previous meeting (Chairman):

Members considered the Minutes of the committee meeting held on 27th April 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Aldridge and seconded by Councillor Janet Davey that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023 be agreed by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

CM007/05/23 Cost of Living Fund Applications (COLF)

Wellspring Counselling Ltd for £7,370

Members considered a COLF application from Wellspring Counselling Ltd for £7,370 for adults to access low-cost counselling in Portishead.

It was noted that the COLF Working Party had considered the Wellspring Application and recommended that the funding be awarded in 2 parts. Part 1 award £3,685. Part 2 award £3,685 after 6 months following submission of report demonstrating benefit to residents of Portishead and direct relation to Cost of Living support.

It was also noted that an amended application had been received. However, in the interests of transparency, the Committee considered the application as presented and agreed that the amended application would be considered at the next committee meeting in June.

It was proposed by Cllr B Aldridge and seconded by Cllr D Gunnell that the Wellspring Application funding be awarded in 2 parts. Part 1 award £3,685. Part 2 award £3,685 after 6 months following submission of report demonstrating benefit to residents of Portishead and direct relation to Cost of Living support.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Wellspring Application funding be awarded in 2 parts. Part 1 award £3,685. Part 2 award £3,685 after 6 months following submission of report demonstrating benefit to residents of Portishead and direct relation to Cost of Living support.

Councillor E Blackmore withdrew from the meeting.

Youth Centre (Continuation of the Breakfast Club) - £5,940

Members consider a COLF application from the Youth Centre for families to access the Breakfast Club which supports parents who are at risk of loneliness and isolation.

It was noted that the COLF Working Party have considered the Breakfast Club Application and recommend that the fund be awarded in 2 parts. Part 1 award £2,970. Part 2 award £2,970 after 6 months following submission of report demonstrating benefit to residents of Portishead and direct relation to Cost of Living support.

It was further noted that clarification had been sought from the Youth Centre regarding the allocation of funding towards staffing costs.

Members expressed concern that clarification regarding the allocation of funding towards the staffing costs had not been received prior to the meeting.

Therefore Councillor Janet Davey proposed that, in order for the Breakfast Club to continue and to prevent a halt in service, Part 1 of the award £2,970 be released and the remainder of the application be reviewed in 3 months to determine the need for the breakfast club and clarification regarding the allocation of funding towards staffing costs. This was seconded by Councillor F Stone. A vote was taken: 3 for and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: that, in order for the Breakfast Club to continue and to prevent a halt in service, Part 1 of the award £2,970 be released and the remainder of the application be reviewed in 3 months to

determine the need for the breakfast club and clarification regarding the allocation of funding towards staffing costs.

Councillor E Blackmore returned to the meeting.

CM008/05/23 Carbon Reduction Plan – Repair Café

The Chairman informed Members that this item regarding the Repair Café would be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee as further information had been received since going to print and a more detailed report was required.

However, also contained within the report were recommendation for 2 additional options to investigate: An event to be held in the Folk Hall to provide information to local people about small steps that they can do to reduce their own carbon footprint. A nil cost project but requiring officer time. Investigate using some of the empty space on the High Street that could home a Sustainable Shopping Experience, with space for Clothes Swaps.

It was proposed by Cllr B Aldridge and seconded by Cllr D Gunnell that Options 1 and 2: An event to be held in the Folk Hall to provide information to local people about small steps that they can do to reduce their own carbon footprint. A nil cost project but requiring officer time.

Using some of the empty space on the High Street that could home a Sustainable Shopping Experience, with space for Clothes Swaps be investigated.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That Options 1 and 2:

An event to be held in the Folk Hall to provide information to local people about small steps that they can do to reduce their own carbon footprint. A nil cost project but requiring officer time. Using some of the empty space on the High Street that could home a Sustainable Shopping Experience, with space for Clothes Swaps be investigated.

CM009/05/23 Wellbeing Coordinator Report from North Somerset Council

Members received an update report from the Wellbeing Coordinator Project – North Somerset Council.

CM010/0523 Wellbeing Update Report

The Wellbeing Co-ordinator gave an update report on her activities and meeting during April.

CM011/05/23 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Matters meeting would be held on Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 7.30pm.

CM012/05/23 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Members of the public and press are required to leave the meeting at items 12 and 13 due to the items being confidential matters – which come under the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR (UK) 2018 and confidential contractual staffing matters.

It was proposed by Cllr B Aldridge and seconded by Cllr J Davey that the public and press leave the meeting due item 13 being confidential matters – which come under the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR (UK) 2018 and confidential contractual staffing matters.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

Resolved: that the public and press leave the meeting due items 12 and 13 being confidential matters – which come under the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR (UK) 2018 and confidential contractual staffing matters.

CM013/05/23 Community Sign-poster Update Report

The Members received and noted an update report from the Community Sign-Poster. Members commented that it was a very good report full of useful information.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Signed: **P Churchill**

Chairman of the Community Matters Committee

Date: *22nd June 2023*