



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th
JUNE 2023 AT THE FOLK HALL, 95 HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD, BS20 6PR**

This was a hybrid meeting to enable community participation

Members present:

Councillor Ben Aldridge (Chairman)	Councillor Paul Churchill (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Emma Blackmore	Councillor Bob Cartwright
Councillor Janet Davey	Councillor John Davey
Councillor Martin Dowling	Councillor Alan George
Councillor Mike Johnston	Councillor Carol Preston
Councillor Tim Snaden (Arrived at 7.40pm)	

North Somerset Councillors Present:

Councillor Sue Mason

Officers present:

Wendy Coulter - Town Clerk (Taking the minutes,)
Mike McDonald – Halls Manager (IT & Cameras)

Members of the public present:

Mr Paul Maltby
Mr Ken Smith
Mrs Janet Proberts
Mr D Thrush
Mrs L Morrissey
Plus 5 others – names unknown.

Others present online:

4 online – names unknown

TC022/06/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors David Gunnell, Frankie Stone and Roger Whitfield.

TC023/06/23 Declaration of Councillors' interests and requests for dispensations:

To declare any interests relating to the business of the meeting and receive any dispensation requests from the Clerk (Localism Act 2011 s29-34)

There were no declarations of interests made or requests for dispensations.

TC024/06/23 Chairman's update report

A verbal update report was received from Councillor P Sterndale on the following matters:

- Brackenwood Update – A plan has been produced for the site and ongoing discussions with interested parties will take place in September.
- Lake Grounds –
- Post Office -

TC025/06/23 Public Participation

The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.

Mr P Maltby – Portishead Resident

Recently chaired the Portishead Residents Meeting – disappointed that there were only 2 Town Council Councillors in attendance and 1 district Councillor.

Mrs J Probets

Representing the members of the Portishead Senior Forum

Had not received answers from her previous questions, handed out paper copies to Councillors B Aldridge, P Churchill and C Preston.

Asked the Council to remove the large map from the wall in the Folk Hall. The other users of hall do not like the memorabilia either.

The Chairman of the Town Council, Councillor B Aldridge responded that he would answer the questions separately. He was not aware of any other complaints regarding the memorabilia and suggested that evidence of complaints should be provided. As far as he was aware only the Senior Forum had complained.

Mr D Thrush

Portishead Senior Forum

Complaint about photos being taken by a Councillor at a recent meeting of the Portishead Senior Forum.

Councillor B Cartwright responded that the photos had been taken to provide evidence regarding the supposed glare from the lighting on the Perspex covering the map on the wall.

Mr Thrush explained that permission had not been sought to take the photos.

The Chairman responded that the Town Council would revisit its Media Policy in relation to photographs being taken.

Mr K Smith – Portishead Resident

Wished to pass his thanks to the Deputy Clerk for attending the funeral of Mr John Hilary Paul Clark who sadly passed away on 2nd June 2023. He thanked Mrs Sherborne for representing the Town. Referred to the recent article in the local paper about Councillors feeling unsafe at meetings and the increasing levels of aggression. He had attended the Council meetings over many years and had only witnessed one act of aggression about 15 years ago.

He asked why the Chairman no longer wore the Chain of Office at the Council meetings.

He asked about Marina Gardens and whether there were residents from Portishead living there.

The Chairman responded that the Care Home was run by Alliance Homes and was not part of the Council.

Mrs L Morrissey – Portishead Resident

Regarding Bristol Road – recently there have been a number of wing mirrors broken. Speed is the issue again. Drivers don't give way to people coming the opposite way. Children are at risk. There

were monies set aside for a crossing, is the money still available? Can we strive for a 20-mph speed limit from Gordano School all the way back.

Cllr A George responded that people are not allowed to park there. Discussions need to be had with North Somerset Council. If there are accidents and incidents they need to be reported to the Police. A request could be put into Community Speed watch to carry out a survey on Bristol Road.

Portishead Resident

Asked about the Penny Coronation Festival – none of the stalls had to pay for their pitch, what were the costs?

The Chairman responded that the event had been set up for the benefit of the residents and to promote the local businesses.

£1,200 was raised which went to local charitable organisations chosen by Residents at the recent Portishead Residents Meeting.

Mr R Bull – Portishead Resident

Wished the Town Council well in finding a new IT contractor.

Mr P Gardner – Portishead Resident

Explained that a Referendum was being held for the Portishead Neighbourhood Plan which covers everything to do with housing and local issues.

He explained that the Town Council was not allowed to promote it, only publish facts about the Neighbourhood Plan.

There were 3 events taking place at the library with further information about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Gardner also explained that Polling Cards would be delivered to all properties in Portishead.

TC026/06/23 North Somerset Councillors' Reports

A written report was received from Councillor R Whitfield and distributed.

Councillor T Snaden reported that he was now Chair of the Rights of Way committee and joining the ASH group as well. He assisted with enabling bin collections. The campervans at the Lakeside were being investigated and a solution was being sought.

Councillor Sue Mason thanked everyone who voted for her. She had attended online training sessions provided by North Somerset Council. Councillor surgeries would be taking place at the Library from 10.30am to 11.30am.

TC027/06/23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor B Cartwright and seconded by Councillor Janet Davey that the Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 12th April 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council meeting held on 12th April 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was proposed by Councillor P Churchill and seconded by Councillor B Cartwright that the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 11th May 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record. A vote was taken which was: 9 for, 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 11th May 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

TC028/06/23 Internal Audit Report 2022/2023

Members received a copy of the Internal Auditors report for the year ending 31st March 2023 and AGAR IA Cert 2022/2023.

It was noted that the Council's Internal Auditor has based the audit on an assessment of risk, carried out against a selective assessment of compliance and controls.

It was proposed by Councillor John Davey and seconded by Councillor M Dowling that Members note the recommendation of the Staffing and Finance Committee to consider the report and AGAR IA Cert 2022/2023 and approve the findings and outcomes.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That the findings and outcomes of the Internal Audit Report 2022/2023 be approved.

TC029/06/23 Accounts for Year Ended 31st March 2023

Members received the Accounts for Financial Year 2022/2023 and noted the recommendation of the Staffing and Finance Committee to approve the Accounts for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

It was proposed by Councillor John Davey and seconded by Councillor E Blackmore that the Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31st March 2023 be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31st March 2023 be approved.

TC030/06/23 Consolidated Bank Statement 31st March 2023

Members noted the recommendation of the Staffing and Finance Committee to approve the Town Council's Consolidated Bank Statement for 31st March 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor John Davey and seconded by Councillor Janet Davey that the Town Council's Consolidated Bank Statement for 31st March 2023, be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: That the Consolidated Bank Statement for 31st March 2023 be approved.

TC031/06/23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/2023

Members noted that Smaller Authorities are required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to prepare accounting statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2023 in the form required by proper practices.

Members considered the recommendation of the Staffing and Finance Committee that the following sections of the AGAR be approved:

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2022/2023.

Members also noted that the Period of Public Rights for 2022/2023 will commence on 3rd July 2023 and end on 11th August 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor John Davey and seconded by Councillor M Dowling that the following sections of the AGAR be approved:

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2022/2023.

A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour.

**RESOLVED: That Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR:
Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023
Accounting Statements for 2022/2023
Be approved.**