

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Portbury Residents
held in the Village Hall, High Street, Portbury
on Tuesday 24th March 2015 at 8.00pm**

Present: Cllr Weekes Cllr Hale Cllr Marshall

Chairman: Cllr Cooke

Clerk: Cllr Meek (arrived at 8.11pm) - Minutes taken by Sara Thompson

Others: Forty two members of the public
Mr Summerfield – ROW Representative
Mr Phipps – Planning Representative

1. **Introduction** – Councillor Peter Cooke welcomed residents and explained the purpose of the meeting.
2. **Convening of Meeting** – Cllr Cooke read the Notice to convene the meeting and was accepted as Chairman for the proceedings.
3. **Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting held 21st May 2014** – The Minutes were signed as a correct record of the proceedings.
4. **Portbury Parish Council Chairman's Report**
It was decided to combine the ARM meeting with a full pylon update as we are rapidly approaching the climax of our 6 year interaction with National Grid over the pylon route, Mike Phipps will give a full report and answer pylon questions under item 6 on the agenda.

It has been another very busy year for the parish council with a number of projects successfully concluded.

North Somerset Council carried out a much needed resurfacing program in the village, it has improved things considerably and I thank all of the residents for their patience whilst the work was carried out.

At long last our constant pressure on NSC has seen the yellow box reinstated at the junction of The High Street and the A369, it was removed when the J19 works were carried out. I am however concerned about the number of vehicles exiting The High Street and turning right.

The war memorial has had a number of enhancements in the last 12 months; the crack across the slate panel has been refilled and is now a better colour match, the spelling mistake, dating back to the initial creation, has been corrected, Mr Eord has now correctly been changed to Mr Lord and the names of the 3 service personnel who lost their lives in WW2 have now been added to the memorial.

Working with the Portishead Lions club and with funding from them, Portbury Parish Council and a generous donation from the Bristol Port Company, we now have the money to install a defibrillator in the village and I am trying to arrange a meeting with the landlord of the Priory in the hope that it can be mounted on an external wall of the building.

A start has been made to improve the village green, the hole in the centre of the green has now been filled by a number of residents working with Cllr Weeks, the surface has been reinstated and the path refreshed. The WI are celebrating their 100th anniversary and our local branch are part of a national project to create bee friendly areas. They are planning to use a small area of the green to plant wild flowers to encourage and assist honeybees in collecting pollen. Plans are also being put together to clear the weeds from the green and encourage grass growth to improve the overall look and surface of the green.

With District Council funding under increasing pressure, many of the tasks that were carried out are no longer done, but are labour only tasks, that if carried out would enhance the overall look and feel of our parish. To that end, the parish council is proposing to start a "Pride in Portbury" scheme as a joint venture between residents and the parish council to make Portbury a much better looking parish to live in. One very simple task that could start immediately would be for each resident to remove the weed and grass growth from the gutter outside of his or her own property. The parish council plans to launch the full scheme in the very near future, and would welcome offers of assistance and projects proposals from residents.

In closing I would thank my fellow cllrs for their support and hard work throughout the last year, to Mike Phipps and his "Pylon Team plus Les Summerfield for their work on planning, Pylons and footpaths, To Brian and Phil Weeks who work extremely hard as our village lengths man and his wife! To Portishead Business Services, in particular Sara, for her organisation skills and words of wisdom when required and finally to Mandy Bishop from NSC for her hard work of our behalf in acting as an interface with NSC and arranging for assistance in resolving a large number of issues within the parish.

5. Statement of Parish Accounts 2014/15

Cllr Hale gave a brief presentation regarding income and expenditure during the year. Funds available - £20906.55 in Reserve Account (£8006 ring fenced) and £4254.10 in Current Account as of 24.03.15.

Major expenditure during the year had included repairs to the war memorial (£1000), replacing the notice board on the village green (£477) and village green maintenance (£1240).

A full set of financial statements would be available to view on the parish website.

6. National Grid Hinkley C – Proposed Routing Corridor

Mr Phipps, Portbury Against Pylons co-ordinator, gave an overview of the work undertaken to date and of future plans which included accompanying the Planning Inspectorate on a visit to Elm Tree Park, and attending the Issue Specific Hearing being held on the 22nd May 2015. Portbury representatives attending this meeting had been registered to speak and it was hoped that other residents would also attend to show their support.

It was also noted that Dr Fox MP had posted a ‘One Minute’ video on his Facebook page in support of the Option B corridor which residents were requested to ‘like’ and favourably comment upon.

7. Elections

District and Parish Elections were being held on the 7th May 2015. Portbury Parish Council would have eight vacancies and residents were encouraged to stand for election so that a cross section of the parish could be represented.

Cllrs Cooke and Meek advised the meeting that they would not be standing for re-election.

8. Open Forum

Cllr Cook opened a question and answer session discussing topics such as highway maintenance, Jct 19 traffic light sequencing and the Portishead Railway.

Meeting Closed at 9.05pm

Signed as a true record of proceedings;

Name:

Position:

Date: