

# Portbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

**Minutes of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012**  
**Village Hall, High Street, Portbury**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr Marshall Cllr Chilcott Cllr Hale

**Chairman:** Cllr Cooke

**Clerk:** Cllr Meek – (Minutes taken by Sara Thompson)

**Others:** Mandy Bishop – NSC  
 Brian Weekes  
 Haydn John  
 Three members of the public

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

No	Item	Action																												
PC/12/01	<b>Apologies</b> – PC Clark and Mr Ball																													
PC/12/02	<b>Minutes</b> of November's meeting held 13.11.12 signed as a true record of proceedings.  Proposed: Cllr Meek                      Seconded: Cllr Hale                      All in favour																													
PC/12/03	<p><b>a) Payments for Authorisation</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;"></th> <th style="text-align: right; width: 10%;"><u>Nett</u></th> <th style="text-align: right; width: 10%;"><u>VAT</u></th> <th style="text-align: right; width: 10%;"><u>Gross</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PBS – Administration/Coordinator Dec 2012 S/O</td> <td style="text-align: right;">795.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">795.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fountains – Dog Bins October 12</td> <td style="text-align: right;">48.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">57.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Weekes – Maintenance Nov 12</td> <td style="text-align: right;">119.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">119.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmer John -Christmas Trees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">91.66</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.34</td> <td style="text-align: right;">110.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Cooke – Reimbursement batteries for xmas lights</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15.78</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.15</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NSC – grass cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">174.86</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.97</td> <td style="text-align: right;">209.83</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>(b) Approval of expenditure</b>            NSC – Grit Bin (Station Rd end of footbridge)      £150 plus VAT</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Cooke                      Seconded: Cllr Chilcott                      All in favour</p>		<u>Nett</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>	PBS – Administration/Coordinator Dec 2012 S/O	795.00	0.00	795.00	Fountains – Dog Bins October 12	48.00	9.60	57.60	Brian Weekes – Maintenance Nov 12	119.00	0.00	119.00	Farmer John -Christmas Trees	91.66	18.34	110.00	Cllr Cooke – Reimbursement batteries for xmas lights	15.78	3.15	18.93	NSC – grass cutting	174.86	34.97	209.83	
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	<p>c) Natwest bank account signatory forms would be issued to all councillors at the PPC finance meeting being held in January 2013.</p>	
PC/12/04	<p><b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b></p> <p>a) Neither Mr Ball nor PC Clark were available to attend the meeting but had previously reported;</p> <p>17.11.12 - Containers in Caswell Lane were broken into. Nothing was stolen but locks were damaged.</p> <p>14.11.12 - An attempt was made to steal lead from a roof.. The offenders removed lead but the trailer they were using to transport it broke down, so it was left in situ.</p> <p>b) Neighbourhood Watch email circulation list – Haydn John advised that he would be pleased to assist in expanding the ‘alert/info’ data base.</p>	HJ/ RB
PC/12/05	<p><b>Parish Plan and Website</b></p> <p>Nothing new to report</p>	
PC/12/06	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>a. National Grid revised pylon route – Update</b></p> <p>Portbury councillors, and residents, had attended a meeting held in Nailsea on 24.11.12. The meeting, organised in light of NG’s announcement regarding their preferred routing option, was chaired by Dr L Fox MP and allowed constituents to voice their opinion and concerns. Cllr Cooke was allocated speaking time, whereupon he spoke of Portbury residents’ shock to the proposed routing which would dissect the village, undermine property values, blight the landscape and, more importantly, would be completely outside of the proposed corridor (Study Area F). Three years had been spent in consultation with NG trying to achieve the best scenario for residents; reducing visual impact etc and for this proposal to be suggested, without discussion, at the eleventh hour was totally unacceptable. Cllr Cooke’s comments were well received by other attendees and also reported favourable in the local press.</p> <p>On the Sunday, 25.11.12, councillors attended a private meeting with Dr L Fox MP. Dr Fox was sympathetic to Portbury’s concerns and would offer assistance where able.</p> <p>In view of the above, NG had agreed to attend a public meeting for the benefit of Portbury residents being held 06.12.12, they would also host an exhibition on the afternoon of that day. Although short notice, volunteers had leafleted all properties and drawn resident’s attention to the meeting.</p> <p>The contents of the forthcoming meeting was discussed and the following points/suggestions made;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr Cooke would chair the meeting and give a brief introduction; describing the consultation process with NG up until this point.</li> <li>2. Although the method of cabling, underground or over ground, was very important, the critical issue was for NG to agree to return the routing of the cable back to within the preferred corridor. This should not be open for debate as the reasons given by NG for</li> </ol>	

	<p>running the cables parallel to the M5, in the opinion of the Council, do not hold credence.</p> <p>3. A resident offered to take some photographs of the area from various vantage points to see if the image of pylons could be superimposed on to them so that residents could see the full impact that these structures would have.</p> <p>4. NG would be reminded that Portbury is home to several listed buildings; including a listed ancient monument.</p> <p>5. NG to be questioned as to why there is no mention of Portbury in any of the publicity material circulated. Reference is made to the visual impact on Portishead/Sheepway but NG appears to have overlooked the fact that the pylons would run through the heart of Portbury village.</p> <p>6. A Q &amp; A session would then follow.</p> <p>A resident took the opportunity of advising the Council that he had already been approached by several legal firms offering their assistance in seeking compensation from NG, should the proposed routing be allowed to proceed.</p> <p>Mandy Bishop advised that the NG proposal was to be discussed at meeting of NSC Members on 05.12.12.</p> <p><b>b. Planning Applications Received</b></p> <p><b>12/P/2093/F</b> Failand Hill Lodge, Horse Race Lane. Demolition of front porch and rear gables, lean-to and associated roofs.. Conversion of garage to living accommodation. Erection of single and two storey rear extensions and creation of a roof terrace at first floor level. Change of use of paddock/woodland pasture areas to extended domestic cartilage – The Council offers no objection to this application</p> <p><b>12/P/2114/F</b> - Old Warren Farm, Portbury Lane. Proposed Orangery - The Council offers no objection to this application</p> <p><b>12/P/2119/F</b> - 23 Caswell Lane. Two storey extension with basement and outbuilding conversion – The application to be reviewed by Councillors when available for view on NSC's planning portal.</p>	
<p><b>PC/12/07</b></p>	<p><b>Council Administration</b> Nothing new to report</p>	
<p><b>PC/12/08</b></p>	<p><b>Maintenance</b></p> <p><b>a)</b> Brian Weekes advised that after the recent flooding he, and residents, had manually removed 4 ½ tons of debris from the road.</p> <p><b>b)</b> There is ongoing concern regarding the flooding within the village and the lack of support from NSC, as perceived by residents, during these difficult times. Mandy Bishop reiterated details given by Darren Smith NSC at the PPC meeting held in October and that with regard to capital expenditure, the Asset Management Team were currently gathering information to select a possible 8/10 schemes, out of the eighty two identified, which</p>	

	<p>require priority improvements - the selection should be made known towards the end of the year.</p> <p>Mr John suggested that the decision process might benefit from local area knowledge as often it is only residents who are aware of the immediate dangers. MB will pass this suggestion on to Colin Medus NSC.</p> <p>Mandy also advised that during times of severe flooding, NSC's limited resources have to be directed to areas where there is the greatest risk to property and life.</p> <p>c) Cllr Cooke advised that a gully emptier had recently cleaned/jetted all visible drains from Oakham Farm down to Mill Lane</p>	
<p><b>PC/12/09</b></p>	<p><b>Transport and Traffic</b></p> <p>a) A maintenance report of outstanding issues had been sent to NSC for review and comment. MB will follow up on two of the items (kerb damage church Road and High Street railings) to see if they can be prioritised.</p>	<p><b>MB</b></p>
<p><b>PC/12/10</b></p>	<p><b>Community Reports</b></p> <p><b>a) St Mary's Church</b> Cllr Marshall advised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Repairs to the bell tower were now complete</li> <li>2. The church architect had discovered a crack in one wall which would require injected liquid filler. Scaffolding would be erected and therefore residents were requested to remain vigilant so as to ensure that the scaffolding was not used by people trying to access the church roof (and lead)</li> <li>3. The church clock was also in need of repair and, as it had been donated as a community clock during Queen Victoria's jubilee year, Cllr Marshall requested that the Council consider making a donation towards the £600 repair cost.</li> </ol> <p>It was proposed that a donation of £150 be made</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Meek                      Seconded: Cllr Cooke                      All in favour</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The band concert is being held 13.12.12</li> </ol> <p><b>b) St Mary's School</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The school fayre is being held 07.12.12</li> <li>2. 'No to NG Pylons' are being displayed on notice boards</li> </ol> <p><b>c) Village Hall</b> Cllrs Meek and Chilcott advised;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. December's Community café was well attended.</li> <li>2. Emergency flood prevention measures had been taken; anti-flood door board to the main entrance and the provision of additional sandbags.</li> <li>3. The drain in the cellar may benefit from a sealed collar to contain any water that rises up during periods of flooding.</li> </ol>	

<b>PC/12/11</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>a) Brian Weekes will kindly erect the village Christmas trees on either 10/11<sup>th</sup> December 2012.</p> <p>b) NG Pylons - An email had been received from the Clerk of Failand and Wraxall PC requesting that the Council consider making a contribution towards the cost of consultancy to assess the feasibility of gas insulated transmission lines (GIL). Nailsea TC has agreed to donate £2000 – PBS will calculate a pro-rata figure based on the numbers of properties in Nailsea against those in Portbury.</p> <p>c) Mr Longstaff advised that he had painted the allotment fence with preservative and had purchased a weed control membrane.</p>	<p><b>BW</b></p> <p><b>PBS</b></p>
<b>PC/12/12</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013</b>	

**Meeting finished at 9.20 pm**  
**Portbury Parish Council**  
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