

Portbury Parish Council

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 7th January 2014
Village Hall, High Street, Portbury

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Chilcott, Cllr Hale, Cllr Weekes

Chairman: Cllr Cooke

Clerk: Cllr Meek (Minutes taken by Sara Thompson)

Others: Mandy Bishop – NSC
 Les Summerfield (arrived at 7.43pm)
 PCSO Roberts plus colleague (left at 7.45pm)
 Two members of the public

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

No	Item	Action																
PC/01/01	Apologies – Cllr Marshall, Mr Phipps and PC Clark																	
PC/01/02	Minutes of December’s meeting held 3 rd December 2013 signed as a true record of proceedings. Proposed: Cllr Meek Seconded: Cllr Chilcott All in favour																	
PC/01/03	<p>Finance</p> <p>(a) <u>Payments for Authorisation</u></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 January 2014 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>SSE Contracting – maintenance 3rd quarter</td> <td style="text-align: right;">43.88</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8.78</td> <td style="text-align: right;">52.66</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proposed: Cllr Cooke Seconded: Cllr Meek All in favour</p> <p><u>Prejudicial/Personal Interest Payments</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Brian Weekes – Maintenance December 13</td> <td style="text-align: right; width: 10%;">305.00</td> <td style="text-align: right; width: 10%;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right; width: 10%;">305.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Cllr Weekes declared an Interest and abstained from voting.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Cooke Seconded: Cllr Meek All in favour</p>		<u>Nett</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>	PBS – Administration/Coordinator January 2014 S/O	795.00	0.00	795.00	SSE Contracting – maintenance 3 rd quarter	43.88	8.78	52.66	Brian Weekes – Maintenance December 13	305.00	0.00	305.00	
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<p>PC/01/04</p>	<p>Crime and Disorder</p> <p>(a) PCSO Roberts reported that the Christmas/new year period had been quite; with little crime to report. The Council had been made aware of the theft of a large number of Christmas trees from the Sheepway towards the end of December.</p> <p>(b) A Ford car, involved in a collision at the end of the High Street had been left in the lay-by for recovery. Unfortunately further damage had occurred due to vandalism and it was requested that the vehicle be removed at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>(c) A further request was made for the police speed van to undertake a monitoring exercise within the village. PCSO Roberts confirmed that due to limited locations, traffic police were still reluctant to do so. Cllr Cooke would draft a letter to Avon and Somerset Traffic Police Unit suggesting various sites where the van could be located, he would also stress residents' concerns with regard to speeding traffic and that any deterrent would be welcomed.</p> <p>(d) Permanent traffic calming measures – Due to NSC's limited financial resources, Cllr Meek suggested that perhaps the parish council could fund the necessary work. Mandy Bishop would liaise with Frank Cox NSC with regard to costings.</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>MB</p>
<p>PC/01/05</p>	<p>Parish Plan and Website</p> <p>(a) Website – nothing new to report.</p> <p>(b) Parish Plan – PBS to follow-up completion of draft questionnaire.</p>	<p>PBS</p>
<p>PC/01/06</p>	<p>Planning Applications received;</p> <p>(a) Applications Received 13/P/2335/ADV – Welcome Break. Proposal to install a Day's Inn Totem Style Sign. Prior to the meeting, Mr Phipps had circulated the following draft response to this application;</p> <p><i>.... "Portbury Parish Council concludes that the proposed illuminated "totem" sign for Days In should not receive planning permission for the following reasons.</i></p> <p><i>a) The sign is unnecessary and superfluous either for the purpose of directing people towards the business in question or for advertising the company. There are a large number of other signs that fulfil these purposes which are appropriately placed within the service area, some facing the motorway directly.</i></p> <p><i>b) The use of illuminated signs within forecourts of business premises is specifically excluded from Class 6 type adverts in the relevant Local Government Guidance and also in policies published by neighbouring local Councils. Gordano Services seems to fit within the definition of a business</i></p>	

	<p><i>park, and the area around it should be considered as a forecourt.</i></p> <p><i>c) The presence of illuminated advertising signs at the entrance to Gordano Services detracts from the landscape in that area, despite the fact that it cannot be said that this area presents any great amenity value. Nevertheless Welcome Break could do more to provide a distinctive welcoming feature on the approaches to Gordano Services rather than this being defined by “advertisers”.</i></p> <p><i>d) In this age of mobile technology, phone apps, GPS software and the like it is surely unnecessary to continually increase the level of advertising and directional signage within our built environment, especially where this is illuminated.”</i></p> <p>Councillors agreed with the proposal to object.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Hale Seconded: Cllr Chilcott All in favour</p> <p>(b) National Grid Hinkley C Connection Project – The Council are aware of a meeting being held between representatives from National Grid and Cllr Ashton NSC. Knowing that NSC’s resolution is to support the option B routing corridor, in the event of no undergrounding, the Council will wait with interest as to details of the outcome.</p>	
<p>PC/01/07</p>	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>(a) A resident wished to thank Cllr Weekes for all his efforts in maintaining the free flow of the drains within the village during this period of torrential rain.</p> <p>(b) Cllr Weekes advised that he is now a fully certified waste carrier. He has also recently returned to Black Rock recycling centre where, due to the issuing of an official permit by Adam Wood NSC, his reception by operatives was professional and courteous. The Council have emailed their thanks to Adam for his assistance in this matter.</p> <p>The Council would also like to take this opportunity of thanking all NSC recycling employees/contractors for their efforts over the festive period; collections had been timely even in adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>(c) A369/High Street bund – Wooden stakes to prevent parking on the verges had now been purchased and painted. They would be installed in drier weather conditions.</p> <p>(d) Further to the car accident referred to under PC/01/04 (b), enquiries would be made as to who is responsible for clearing the debris from the highway after an incident has occurred. Although the vehicle is removed, often the road remains littered with broken plastic etc</p>	<p>PBS</p>

	<p>(e) Drains – The Council would request confirmation of dates regarding the jetting of the drains as discussed between Shelley Lee NSC and Cllr Chilcott at their meeting held in October 2013.</p>	PBS
PC/01/08	<p>Council Administration</p> <p>(a) Precept meeting 2014/15 – It was agreed that the meeting would be held on 14.01.14 at PBS’s office commencing at 8.00pm.</p>	
PC/01/09	<p>Transport and Traffic</p> <p>(a) M5 Footbridge – removal of speed prevention barriers. NSC had been approached by a cyclist requesting the removal of the barriers, as their presence was considered to be a hindrance to the user’s thoroughfare. Whilst the Council will investigate the possibility of extending the gap between the chicanes, it would be reluctant to sanction the removal of the barriers as they also hinder the illegal use of the bridge by motorcyclists and cyclists speeding down the off ramp on to a main road etc. Cllr Chilcott agreed to visit site and report back to the Council with recommendations.</p>	SC
PC/01/10	<p>Community Reports</p> <p>(a) St Mary’s School – Comment was made regarding the latest OFSTED report issued, which had graded the school at level 3 – requires improvement. Cllr Chilcott felt that this was more of a reflection on the legacy from the previous administration and that the new headmistress was making improvements all round.</p> <p>(b) St Mary’s Church – Both the carol service and concert had been well attended</p> <p>(c) Village Hall – Christmas events had been well supported with a strong community spirit being evident.</p> <p>(d) Christmas Tree Lights – Unfortunately the heavy downpours had had a detrimental effect on the lights and power supply. An alternative arrangement would be considered for next Christmas – Cllr Cooke to investigate.</p>	PC
PC/01/11	<p>AOB</p> <p>(a) A resident voiced concern with regard to the parking of a vehicle on the Britton Place/Mill Lane junction. The van is often parked in such a way that obstructs other road users’ line of vision and access. PBS to report to PC Clark for further investigation.</p>	PBS

PC/01/12	Date and time of next meeting – 4 th February 2014	
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Meeting finished at 8.45 pm

Portbury Parish Council

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