

Portbury Parish Council

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 12th January 2016
Village Hall, High Street, Portbury

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Weekes Cllr Langdon
Cllr Randall Cllr Longstaff

Chairman: Cllr Phipps

Clerk: Cllr Hale (Minutes taken by Sara Thompson)

Representatives: Mandy Bishop – NSC
Les Summerfield (footpaths)

Others: None

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

No	Item	Action
PC/01/01	Apologies – Cllr Romanski	
PC/01/02	Minutes of PPC meeting held 1 st December 2015 – approval RESOLVED that: The Minutes were a true record of proceedings and duly signed.	
PC/01/03	Chairman’s Report A petition requesting NSC address traffic congestion on the Sheepway had been organised by a resident. High traffic volume, speeding and illegal manoeuvring had been drawn to the attention of NSC; unfortunately their response to these concerns was not particularly positive. National Grid Pylons – Cllr Phipps had advised the Secretary of State (DECC) that PPC had formally begun the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan,	

	and that an application for area designation was now under way. He requested that this development be recognized during the pylon routing decision process.	
PC/01/04	<p>Finance</p> <p>(a) Payments for Authorisation - As per the attached schedule. Cllr Weekes declared an interest and abstained from voting.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The payments as scheduled were approved.</p>	
PC/01/05	<p>Crime and Disorder</p> <p>(a) Several crimes had been reported during December; the theft of power tools and also the theft of bikes.</p> <p>(b) Playground – zip wire seat. Due to canine damage, the seat had recently been replaced. The replacement had also been damaged in the same manner and so the suspected dog owner had been approached by a PCSO who advised them that this behaviour was unacceptable. Councillors agreed that a follow-up letter should be sent to the resident confirming that this type of canine behaviour would not be tolerated and that should more damage occur, an invoice for replacing the damaged items would be presented to them.</p> <p>(c) There had been an unconfirmed report of laser pens being used in a distracting manner within the village.</p> <p>(d) Dog fouling on pavements/private property – A further request to ‘bag it and bin it’ would be placed on the Council website.</p> <p>(e) Horse manure – M5 footbridge. A request would be made to the local horse riding community asking riders to move any manure left on the footbridge to the side of the path, if unable to remove altogether.</p>	MP
PC/01/06	<p>Parish Plan and Website</p> <p>(a) Website – Cllr Phipps reiterated his request to Councillors to review the website and offer any suggestions that could make it more user friendly.</p> <p>(b) Parish Plan – The first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan circulated to Councillors by Cllr Phipps had been well received.</p>	ALL

<p>PC/01/07</p>	<p>Planning (a) Applications Received 12/P/2812/F – The Old Dairy. Change of use from agricultural to single dwelling. This application is an amendment and includes for the development of a substantially sized outbuilding. The applicant states that the outbuilding is positioned on the footprint of a similar sized building which once stood there; the Council would question this claim and would be interested to review the supporting evidence. Due to the Council considering that the size of the outbuilding is disproportionate in size to the main dwelling, and also its location within the development, an objection was submitted to NSC. PPC do support development of the Old Dairy but not as proposed in this application.</p>	
<p>PC/01/08</p>	<p>Maintenance (a) NSC Green Waste Proposals - Potential contractors have been invited to express an interest in bidding for North Somerset Council's recycling, waste collection and household waste recycling centres contract which will begin on March 1 2017. During this process it has become apparent that the contactors' preference is for the green recycling bag to be replaced by a green wheelie bin; this would comply with future regulations should the HSE determine that the existing bags breach Health and Safety. The use of green wheelie bins would also allow the contractor to plan better for collection routes and the resources required, resulting in a more cost effective service as the number of bins to be emptied would be a known quantity. Cllr Phipps will suggest to NSC that similar can be achieved if the number of green bags allowed per household was fixed.</p> <p>(b) Village Green Planting Proposals – A representative from Portishead in Bloom had met with Cllr Phipps to discuss the development of the Village Green. Using their expertise in garden design, they had kindly prepared a drawing suggesting ideas that Portbury residents might find of interest and wish to see incorporated; such as seating areas, flower beds and a dedicated toddlers' play area. Residents may also consider that the war memorial needs to be refurbished and, due to its importance, highlighted within the scheme.</p> <p>The opinion of residents living adjacent to the Green would be sought immediately, with the wider village being invited to comment at a later stage, an article would also be submitted to the local press. Volunteers would be sought to assist with the project, meantime the Council would investigate grant/funding opportunities.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: Consultation letters to be sent to residents living in the immediate vicinity to the Village Green, and an article to be submitted to the local press.</p>	<p>MP</p>

<p>PC/01/09</p>	<p>Council Administration/Correspondence</p> <p>(a) Task Monitor – Two ongoing items are considered to be priorities; the M5 footbridge and M5 acoustic fence.</p> <p>M5 Footbridge – The removal of the barriers by Skanska has proven to be contentious, some residents feel that this has encouraged the illegal use of the footbridge by motorcyclists, whilst others applaud the open access given to cyclists etc. PPC’s opinion is that there needs to be some form of barrier in place to check the speed of cyclists and to deter illegal use, and so have contacted NSC requesting assistance. Their Development and Environment team is currently preparing a plan for review but are awaiting clarification on land/structure ownership. MB kindly offered to expedite matters.</p> <p>M5 Fence – PPC drew Skanska’s attention to the dilapidated state of the fence in late November 15. A route engineer went to site and deemed that the fence did not pose an immediate risk but that a crew would be scheduled to strengthen the posts. During the stormy weather over the New Year, the fence suffered further damage; panels became loose which could have resulted in debris being blown on to the M5. Skanska was contacted and a team dispatched to make temporary repairs. PPC to contact Skanska again requesting that the fence be repaired to a safe and secure standard.</p> <p>(b) Discretionary Business Rates Relief – NSC are currently consulting on changing discretionary rates relief. Locally this could impact on the village hall; the 100% rates relief currently received could be reduced to 75% and so all residents are encouraged to reply to the consultation which is available to view on NSC’s website.</p> <p>(c) Annual Residents’ Meeting – Councillors were requested to put forward agenda items for this meeting.</p>	<p>PBS</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>PC/01/10</p>	<p>Transport and Traffic</p> <p>(a) Portbury Lane - During discussions with NSC re. the ‘accident black spot’ on Portbury Lane, it was discovered that one of the VAS signs was not working; this has since been rectified. Current trigger speeds are set at 44mph southbound and 48mph northbound, NSC have been requested to review these triggers with the view to having them reduced, whilst maintaining road safety and to prevent panic braking.</p>	
<p>PC/01/11</p>	<p>Community Reports</p> <p>(a) St Mary’s School – Nothing new to report</p> <p>(b) St Mary’s Church – Nothing new to report</p> <p>(c) Village Hall – Nothing new to report</p> <p>(d) Allotments – One allotment is vacant and available for lease. Allotment holders will be invited to another meeting to be held in the Spring, as the turnout to the recently held meeting was poor</p>	

PC/01/12	Date and time of next meeting – 2 nd February 2016 at 7.30 pm	
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Meeting finished at 9.00 pm

Portbury Parish Council

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Signed as a true record of proceedings;

Name:

Position:

Date: