

Portbury Parish Council

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 3rd October 2017
Village Hall, High Street, Portbury

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Romanski Cllr Randall Cllr Longstaff (arrived 8.30p.m.)

Chairman: Cllr Phipps

Clerk: Minutes taken by Dawn Drower

Representatives: Mr Lanham - Sheepway

Others: Seven members of the general public

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

No	Item	Action
PC/10/01	Apologies received – Mr Weekes, Mrs Bishop, Mr Summerfield	
PC/10/02	Minutes of PPC's monthly meeting held 5th September 2017 Resolved that: Minutes were agreed and signed off by Chair of the meeting.	ALL
PC/10/03	Chairman's report Prior to the meeting Cllr Phipps had circulated a report for review to councillors. Cllr Phipps commented on Councillor resignation, crime and disorder, planning, the Village Green, Freedom of Information enquiry, changes to lengthsman appointment and Caswell Lane parking. All are covered in the relevant sections.	MP
PC/10/04	Finance (a)Payments for authorisation – As per attached schedule RESOLVED that: The payments as scheduled were approved.	

	Mrs Drower reported that all finances were in order, budget spend was as agreed and reserves were healthy.	
PC/10/05	<p>Crime and Disorder</p> <p>(a) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr Phipps reported that there has been no reported crime in Portbury during the last month, but Avon and Somerset Police continue to advise residents about door to door, and telephone scams.</p> <p>(b) Update from PC Jenny Clark – advised that there had been a theft from the services but did not specify what type of theft.</p>	
PC/10/06	Parish Plan – Cllr Phipps reported that there was no update to the Parish Plan this month.	MP
PC/10/07	<p>Planning</p> <p>(a) Applications received:</p> <p>17/P/0429/F – Days Inn, granted</p> <p>17/P/0808/F – The Old Dairy – no update, PBS to contact North Somerset to enquire what is happening about the enforcement.</p> <p>17/P/1531/F – Newlyn – no update.</p> <p>17/P/1650/F – Racecourse Farm – no update</p> <p>17/P/1891/F – 47 Caswell Lane – no update</p> <p>17/P/2035/F – 22 Caswell Lane – Cllr Phipps will look at this report and comment in due course</p>	<p>PBS</p> <p>MP</p>
PC/010/08	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>(a) Village Green – Cllr Phipps regrets the divide that the proposed improvement to the Village Green has caused. Postings on Facebook have been upsetting and allegations had been made against councillors, which have been refuted. Cllr Phipps commented that residents had been consulted about the works to the Village Green and that minutes support this. Cllr Phipps reported that the pre-contract meeting arranged with Cllr Phipps, Cllr Longstaff and chosen contractor did not go ahead, as the contractor declined to attend the meeting, and has withdrawn from the project. Cllr Phipps believes that this is as a result of the uncertainty around the centre depression that PPC were trying to clarify, in order to secure a firm price within budget. Under the circumstances Cllr Phipps recommends suspending the project as it appears that there are insufficient funds available to carry out the project. Cllr Phipps will enquire whether or not the Tesco Bags for Life grant needs to be returned.</p> <p>(b) Wessex Water update – Cllr Longstaff was not in attendance at this point, but Cllr Randall reported that Wessex Water had been in the village last week inspecting the drains with cameras, and had reported that everything was clear.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>DL</p> <p>MP</p> <p>DL</p>

	<p>(c) Rubbish and recycling collection update – Mrs Drower reported that there are still ongoing problems.</p> <p>(d) Tidiness of green areas – Cllr Phipps commented that due to Cllr and resident’s holidays any suggestions are still to be received.</p> <p>(e) Brittan Place – tree stump – this has been reported to NSDC, but no action yet.</p>	<p>MP</p>
<p>PC/10/09</p>	<p>Council Administration/Correspondence</p> <p>(a) Task monitor – Tree stump in Brittan Place has been reported. Mr Lanham reported that there were overhanging trees which need attending to at the junction of Sheepway and Portbury Hundred. Mr Lanham agreed to send photographic evidence to the office to assist reporting to NSDC.</p> <p>(b) Defibrillator update – Mrs Drower reported that defibrillator is now at the Priory Inn and awaiting installation by the pub’s electrician. Cllr Longstaff has been coordinating with Mr Hill of the Portishead Lions and reported that once commissioned, the defibrillator needs a representative in the village who can reset it if it’s used, and monitor the equipment regularly. Cllr Longstaff commented that the defib probably needs two representatives to cover holidays and absences of the other. A nurse in the village was suggested by a member of the general public. PBS will contact. Cllr Longstaff commented that he could take on the support role.</p> <p>(c) Sports field/play equipment – Cllr Randall suggested arranging a meeting in the village to discuss the playing field and running track and associated fundraising. Cllr Randall will organise and advertise on Facebook if appropriate.</p> <p>(d) Disabled facilities in Portbury – no update. A member of the general public asked councillors to not only look at issues facing the physically disabled , but also the needs of and safety of children and adults with non physical disabilities. Cllr Phipps and all councillors thought this was a good suggestion and would welcome any help and assistance residents can give on this matter.</p> <p>(e) Docks update – Unfortunately Cllr Longstaff was absent at this point and will update at the next meeting. A resident commented that the area at Court Farm had been flattened and the very old newt pond had disappeared.</p> <p>(f) Fracking – Resident Mr Weekes gave a briefing to raise awareness to local parishes of possible Fracking activity in the area. There is a potential site just south of Clevedon which could impact on Portbury, albeit we are some distance from it. Mr Weekes commented of potential environmental and local issues with the process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The process uses a lot of mains water 2. The water used in the process becomes toxic waste, and there is no clear proposal as to how this toxic waste will be disposed of. 3. The process can have an impact on seismic activity in the area 	<p>KL PBS</p> <p>MP</p> <p>SR</p> <p>MP TR</p> <p>DL</p> <p>TR PBS</p>

	<p>4. The process produces toxic fumes which are burnt off into the atmosphere.</p> <p>Mr Weekes commented that lots of councils are now wanting to become Fracking free.</p> <p>Cllr Phipps asked what North Somerset’s position on Fracking was, and will contact Nigel Ashton to discuss the issue. Cllr Phipps also agreed to put information in the next newsletter to residents about the subject. Cllr Phipps will also consider Fracking with relation to the Parish Plan. It was proposed that at the next meeting of the Council the public should be invited to attend for a discussion on this topic.</p> <p>(g) Freedom of Information – Cllr Phipps reported that PPC had received a letter from a resident under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the matter of the Village Green as reported above. Cllr Phipps had drafted a reply which had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs were asked if they were happy with the response. All Cllrs agreed.</p> <p>(h) Councillor vacancy – Sadly Cllr Langdon has resigned due to personal reasons. Cllr Phipps commented that the council with four councillors is still just viable– three Councillors being the minimum number for a meeting to be quorate. Cllr Phipps asked all present to actively recruit new councillors.</p> <p>(i) Proposed changes to Communication strategy – Cllr Phipps commented that after the experience of last month with Facebook, this has highlighted the way in which social media can be used negatively. Cllr Phipps asked councillors to consider removing Facebook as a method of communication for residents with PPC. All councillors agreed with the changes.</p> <p>Cllr Longstaff commented that he believes Facebook can be used as a method of communication, but without allowing comments to be made. Cllr Longstaff agreed to investigate and report back to PPC.</p> <p>(k) Changes to Lengthsman – Cllr Phipps reported that Mr Weekes had indicated after the September meeting that he would no longer be fulfilling his role as village lengthsman. Unfortunately although this was expected, has come a little earlier than expected. Discussions have begun with alternative suppliers, but in the meantime, Kevin Weekes of K and E Maintenance Services has agreed to carry out the duties for an initial period of three months. The rate for this work has been agreed and is higher than we had paid to Brian Weekes; this had been anticipated. Cllr Phipps indicated that the pricing for the contract was a commercial and confidential matter until settled and therefore he did not wish to give any of these details as yet. Cllr Phipps has ‘zoned’ the village to facilitate easy referencing for defining to a lengthsman where work needs doing. Cllr Phipps had already circulated to councillors the proposed temporary contract and zoned maps prior to the meeting. All councillors agreed. Alternative suppliers were also being contacted.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>PBS</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DL</p> <p>ALL</p>

PC/10/10	<p>Transport and Traffic</p> <p>(a) M5 Jct 19 update – Cllr Romanski commented that the yellow box at the end of the A369 was missing. Cllr Phipps agreed to raise the issue of the yellow box and the ongoing issues at Jct 19 at his next meeting with Nigel Ashton. Cllr Romanski also commented that the weight restriction sign is still obscured by overgrowth. Cllr Phipps has previously reported this.</p> <p>(b) Traffic calming – Cllr Phipps reported that the Traffic Calming scheme for Portbury had moved a step forwards, an Engineer has now been appointed and the legal preliminaries are now underway.</p> <p>(c) Sheepway issues – A resident reported that the fishing activity at the pond in Sheepway has now ceased and the land is being used for parking and storing a variety of vehicles. Cllr Phipps will draft a letter to NSC concerning the issue.</p> <p>Mr Lanham commented that despite his efforts with First Bus to see if they would attend a meeting reference the bus route, no response had been received. Mr Lanham will continue to contact First Bus.</p> <p>(d) Portbury 100 – crossing – The over growth has been reported but does not appear to have been cleared yet.</p> <p>(e) A369 – entry sign into village – No further update.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>AR</p> <p>MP</p> <p>KL</p>
PC/10/11	<p>Allotments – Mrs Drower and Cllr Randall asked councillors to consider the merits of erecting a disclaimer sign at the allotments. Cllrs agreed this was a good idea and asked Mrs Drower to further investigate.</p> <p>Cllr Randall reported that the trees in the corner of the allotments are overhanging plot 5. A member of the general public suggested that one of the allotment holders has access to a tree surgeon. Cllr Randall will contact the allotment holder.</p>	<p>PBS</p> <p>SR</p>
PC/10/12	<p>Date and time of next meeting – 7th November 2017 commencing at 7.30pm in the village hall.</p>	

Meeting finished at 9.10p.m.
Portbury Parish Council
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