

PORTBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Portbury Parish Council Meeting 3rd December 2019

Chairman's Report

Finance – for item 5(b).

We can see that a small surplus of about £500 may still remain in the accounts if projections of expenditure come to pass. However, we do need to consider items that NSC are still not able to fund due to other priorities that might require us to intervene, e.g. the fencing at the A369 and drain clearing. Councillors are asked to consider which of our backlog of maintenance items should be brought into our budget for next year and then we can discuss the budget in more detail in January.

Crime and Disorder -for item 6

Nothing of note to report in Portbury but telephone scams are still prevalent, I had a call recently threatening to cut off my broadband, nothing happened of course.

Planning – for item 7

- (a) Barn at Honor Farm – 19/P/2069/CQA
This appears to have been withdrawn.

- (b) 2(c) Priory Road – [19/P/2207/FUL](#) - replacement building/annexe to form new accommodation.
Our comment letter has been registered and the applicant wrote to us to address our concerns. We responded as per the suggested text in my e-mail to Councillors. A decision is likely to be made on this by the end of the month. There are only 2 public comments on the application at the present time.

- (c) 27 Caswell Lane – [19/P/2442/FUH](#) – There has been one public objection to this application.

- (d) Shipway Farm – Land owned by Royal Portbury Dock – [19/P/2536/EA1](#)
This application has been decided and an EIA has been deemed not to be required. The full report of this conclusion can be read [here](#). This means that a planning application will almost certainly follow, and we will need to consider and prepare our response.

- (e) Paddock Lakes – Sheepway, demolition of a shed and construction of a permanent barn. [19/P/1030/FUL](#).
This application is been refused. The full report can be found [here](#).

Council Administration/Correspondence – for item 9

9(b) – VE day celebrations. I have been in dialogue with the new manager at the Priory Inn about a possible link up on VE day celebrations. Unfortunately, the Priory will be closed for refurbishment from the 27th of April until mid-May.

9(d) – Planning Applications.

Recent exchanges between Councillors and discussions at Council meetings prompts me to bring forward the general position of the Council on Planning matters.

In the past, prior to many of the current Councillors joining the Council, we have adopted a default position of trying to help residents make improvements to their properties. We take this position unless the application being considered is clearly against policies or standards that should apply. Where we make comments about design we try to be as objective as possible, but of course this is very much a subjective judgement. We should not be influenced by neighbours who might wish to object to a scheme, even if there are significant numbers who do this. We should always consider any scheme objectively and on its own merits. The recent experience of 2c Priory Road shows that when it comes to subjective assessment there will be a range of views and it is important therefore that, within reason, Councillors should look at all planning applications to make sure that they understand any issues that there may be and study the recommendation in the monthly Chair report.

Councillors are asked to confirm the general position we take, ie that we try to help residents who wish to improve their properties but would expect any application to follow established policies and standards.

9(e) Christmas Tree for the Green.

Councillors are invited to approve the purchase of a Christmas Tree for the Green. We need also to set a date for its decoration.

9(f) – There are continued issues with drains on Mill Lane and despite a visit by an NSC contractor during November we have failed to get the blocked drain cleared. The drains adjacent to Newlyn remain a threat and a further drain to the South of this is now clearly blocked. We will continue to push for action, but Councillors are asked to consider approving expenditure by PPC to resolve this issue before any significantly long period of rain occurs.

9(g) – Circulation of documents to residents and Councillors

The present “routine” for circulation of documents following a Council meeting is as follows.

Minutes

Meeting 1st Tuesday of the month

Draft minutes produced by the Clerk within 1 week of the meeting – Chair to comment/edit

Councillors receive draft minutes for further comment/edit

Unconfirmed minutes loaded to website

Next meeting signs off or amends the minutes

Minutes moved from unconfirmed to final on the website

Agenda

Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk document items for agenda

Councillors asked for any items 2 weeks before meeting

Vice Chair confirms agenda

Agenda Published on the website 5 working days before the next meeting – ie Wednesday before the meeting.

Newsletter

Vice Chair and Chair initiate the next newsletter – 4 per year. Contributions requested from Village Hall, Church, Heritage Group and others eg WI.

Vice Chair and Clerk edit, Chair completes final check.

Newsletter published on website plus distribution list receives an e-mail giving the link.

The link is also posted on the Facebook noticeboard.

Other circulars – from time to time we circulate other documents to residents. These may be circulars from NSC or central government. These are posted on the Facebook page and an e-mail also sent to the mailing list.

Councillors are asked to review this routine and confirm or to suggest any adjustments.

MAP 30th November 2019