

**MINUTES OF THE 148TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST 2005**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Lord

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Fowles, Miss Griffiths, Johnston*, Mrs Mason, Miers, A McMurray, J McMurray, Pasley, Rigby, Walters

*Arrived at 8.40pm during consideration of Minute No. 1265

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES

Councillors Gething, Terry

Before commencing the formal business of the meeting the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillor James McMurray on his recent engagement to Miss Emma Cruse, daughter of Councillor Mrs Ros Cruse and Mr Martyn Cruse.

1259 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the public to address the Council.

Mrs Williams of 214 Down Road, Mr Powell of 15 Seaview Road and Mr Laker of 19 Seaview Road, reiterated the comments they made to the Planning Committee on 6th August 2005 in respect of planning application no. 06/P/1594/F – Loft conversion and raising of roof at 17 Seaview Road, Portishead. They pointed out in particular the overbearing effect the development would have on their properties and the loss of privacy and sunlight. Mr Powell also expressed the opinion that the plans were misleading because his property, which was next door to the development site, was not shown. Mr Laker urged the Council to recommend that the application be refused.

Mr Hazelton, a resident of Roath Road and President of Portishead Chamber of Trade, expressed his deep concerns about the new road layout at the Cabstand. He pointed out that there had been a number of accidents since the new traffic light system had been installed and expressed the opinion that the road was now too narrow. He suggested that the pavement outside the Italian restaurant should be narrowed to allow the road to be widened so that an additional filter lane could be provided at the High Street/Wyndham Way junction and that an additional exit be provided from the garage directly onto Wyndham Way. Mr Hazelton also pointed out that the new pedestrian crossings did not have audible signals and questioned whether this was appropriate. He urged the Council to take these issues up with North Somerset Council.

In reply Councillor Clark reported that he understood that further adjustments would be made to the traffic light system shortly. He also expressed concern about the increased traffic on surrounding roads which were being used for “rat-runs” and the problems this was causing for residents.

The Clerk was asked to refer this matter to the next meeting of the Recreation and Works Committee.

Mr Hazelton also pointed out that the children's play area at the Lake Grounds was a disgrace and desperately needed upgrading with new equipment. He asked the Council to raise this matter with North Somerset Council.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1260 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Bickley

- Personal interest in RW626 Flower Show Field
Reason – Committee Member of Portishead Horticultural Society

Councillor Johnston

- Personal interest in RW625 Application for a Grant from the Gordano Society
Reason – Secretary of Gordano Society

Declaration by members who serve on both the Town and District Council

Councillors Brown, J H Clark, Johnston and Walters stated that any views they expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

1261 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 147th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 6th July 2005 be confirmed as correct.

1262 HEALTH FACILITIES IN PORTISHEAD

The Chairman introduced Ms Katie Norton, Chief Executive of North Somerset Primary Care Trust, and invited her to update members on the proposals for enhanced health facilities in Portishead.

Ms Norton stated that she was acutely aware of the urgency of dealing with health provision issues in Portishead and acknowledged the frustration felt by the local community at the lack of any positive action from the Primary Care Trust to address these. Whilst work had commenced on the long-term health service strategy for North Somerset, she considered that the provision of an additional, permanent, high quality health centre to replace the temporary facilities at Harbourside was more pressing and confirmed that this would be progressed ahead of the wider consultation on enhanced services. Ms Norton also confirmed that the Primary Care Trust were currently looking at providing the new medical centre on the same site as the existing health centre and developing a Health Campus where other specialist services could also be provided. Discussions were currently taking place with the District Valuer and North

Somerset Council about developing this site and she hoped to be in a position to provide further information about this proposal shortly. Ms Norton also stated that formal consultation on the long-term health service strategy would be taking place in October and she wished to engage the local community in discussions about which additional services they would wish to see provided, over and above the core GP services.

In answering questions from Councillors Ms Norton confirmed that –

- The new ‘Health Campus’ would have sufficient capacity to enable it to cater for the expanding population.
- The new health centre would be linked to the existing health centre. They would share specialist services.
- Funding had been identified in the Primary Care Trust’s financial plan to provide the core GP service.
- Discussions would be held with the planning and highway authority to ensure that access and car parking were appropriate.
- The Council would be provided with details of the registration figures for the Portishead, Harbourside and Pill practices for the last two years.
- Full public consultation on the long-term health service strategy would be taking place during October.

The Chairman thanked Ms Norton for attending the meeting and stated that the Council looked forward to engaging in further discussions with the Primary Care Trust.

1263 MOTION TO COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 9

Councillor Mrs Mason proposed, Councillor Mrs Lord seconded, the following motion –

Motion

“Portishead and North Weston Town Council ask the Town Clerk to write to Postwatch, with a copy to the Post Office, expressing the Council’s concern about the new Post Office in Portishead. There are fewer counter positions and shorter working hours than the Town Council and the residents of Portishead expected there to be”.

Debate

Members fully supported the motion and also expressed concern about the lack of a post-box at the new facility.

Upon being put to the vote the following amendment was carried –

Amendment

We are also extremely concerned, and surprised, that a post-box was not provided at the same time the new post office opened.

Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion, recorded above as motion and amendment, was carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council ask the Town Clerk to write to Postwatch, with a copy to the Post Office, expressing the Council's concern about the new Post Office in Portishead. There are fewer counter positions and shorter working hours than the Town Council and the residents of Portishead expected there to be.

We are also extremely concerned, and surprised, that a post-box was not provided at the same time the new post office opened.

1264 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2005

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of July 2005 be APPROVED.

1265 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 6th August 2005.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED, subject to the following –

05/P/1583/F LAND TO THE REAR OF THE RANCH, RANCHWAYS, PORTISHEAD

New build dwelling house

Add to recommendation for APPROVAL – We note that access to the site is restricted.

05/P/1656/F 34 CHARLCOMBE RISE, PORTISHEAD

Conversion of double garage into living room

Recommend REFUSAL.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 6th August 2005 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1266 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation & Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 20th July 2005.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED, subject to the following –

RW624 NORTH WESTON VILLAGE HALL

(c) Arrangements for Official Opening

Councillor Brown suggested that representatives from all the local Clergy should be invited to attend the opening ceremony, not just the Rector. Councillor Miers also suggested that relatives of those remembered on the war memorial should also be invited.

Members also noted that staff from Weston cemetery, Councillor Alan McMurray and a number of residents had recently spent a morning carrying out grounds maintenance work at North Weston Cemetery. The grounds were now much improved and the Clerk was asked to write to the Cemetery staff to express the Council's thanks.

RW626 FLOWER SHOW FIELD

RESOLVED that a maximum of £2,500 be set aside to replace the stock fence bordering the industrial site and agricultural field. The Clerk, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee and/or Chairman of the Council be authorised to negotiate regarding this matter.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 20th July 2005 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1267 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Bristol International Airport Masterplan – Exhibitions to be held in Autumn.
Lake Grounds Play Area – New equipment to be provided shortly.
Avon & Somerset Police Authority and Constabulary – Confirmation of new opening times and availability of Annual Report. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable to express the Council's thanks for acknowledging the requirement for extended opening times.

The following items were circulated for information –

- NSC ~~de~~matters – July 2005
- North Weston Village Hall – Proposal for car parking
- Communications Committee – 4.6.2005
- Portishead Community Safety LAT – 20.5.2005

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

..... Chairman

7th September 2005