

**MINUTES OF THE 123RD ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 2003**

PRESENT Councillor Johnston – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, Mrs Cruse, Daws, Gething, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, A McMurray, J McMurray, Miers, Pasley, Rigby, Terry, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillor J S Clark

1021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr Steven Sprange, a resident of 3a Woodhill Road and speaking on behalf of a number of neighbours, expressed his concern about planning application no. 03/P/1622/F – New two storey house on a garden plot at 3 Beach Road West. Mr Sprange considered that the proposed development was not in keeping with the surrounding properties and an inappropriate development in the conservation area. He urged councillors to recommend that the application be refused. In reply, the Chairman confirmed that the planning application would be considered later in the meeting.

Councillor Pasley, speaking as a member of the public on behalf of his father, Mr Raymond Pasley of Beach Hill, Portishead, brought to members attention the difficulties faced by pedestrians trying to negotiate the footway along Beach Road West due to the obstruction caused by branches sprouting from the base of the avenue of trees. Councillor Pasley stated that the problem was even more acute for wheelchair users and parents pushing prams and pushchairs who were forced to walk in the road. The Clerk was asked to bring this matter to the urgent attention of North Somerset Council.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Johnston

- Personal Interest in Planning Application 03/P/1654/O
Byeways, Heavens Field, Redcliffe Bay – Erection of a new dwelling
Reason – Acquaintance of applicant
- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1024 – Future Development of Portishead Youth Centre
Reason – Member of Youth Centre Management Committee

Councillor Mrs Bickley

- Personal Interest in Planning Application 03/P/1654/O
Byeways, Heavens Field, Redcliffe Bay – Erection of a new dwelling
Reason – Acquaintance of applicant

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1024 – Future Development of Portishead Youth Centre
Reason – Member of Youth Centre Management Committee

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal Interest in Minute No.1029 (RW509) – Lake Grounds
Reason – Owner of neighbouring property

Councillor Terry

- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1029 (RW513) – Community Safety Local Action Team – Speedwatch Initiative
Reason – Member of Avon and Somerset Police Authority

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

Councillors Daws, Brown, J H Clark, Gething, Terry 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.

1023 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 122nd Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 12th June 2003 be confirmed as correct.

1024 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE

Members received a letter from the Chairman of the Youth Centre Management Committee detailing options for the future development of Portishead Youth Centre, the site of which was owned by the Town Council. Members also received a briefing note from North Somerset Council's Youth Officer giving further background information and detailing the funding available to develop youth facilities in the town which had been secured under the Section 106 Agreement in respect of the Ashlands development. This was confirmed as “ £250,000 towards the substantial refurbishment of the existing youth centre or the construction of a replacement youth centre ”.

The following additional information was noted –

- Option to redevelop current site – Initial outline estimate costs and drawings had been undertaken by NSC which indicated a minimum cost of £500,000.
- Option to construct a new centre – Could be built on land owned by NSC on the waterfront between the new Portishead Primary School and the Leisure Centre.

Rebuild cost expected to be in excess of £1.5M, fit-out costs extra. It was suggested by the Youth Centre Management Committee that this could be part-funded by the sale of the existing site.

Whilst members generally acknowledged and supported the need to enhance the youth facilities in the town they considered that the options needed serious and more detailed consideration before an informed decision could be made, particularly with regard to the disposal of the Town Council owned land. It was stressed that this was a very complex issue which would take time to investigate and would require professional advice. Questions were also raised about the facilities that could be provided on the existing and new sites, the funding available and outcome of the consultation with user groups.

RESOLVED that a small working party be established to look at the implications of this matter in more detail. The working party to work with the Clerk and to consist of Councillors Miss Griffiths, Mrs Lord and Miers.

The working party were asked to report back to the Town Council as soon as possible.

1025 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2003 – ANNUAL RETURN

Further to Minute No. 1015 the Clerk reported that the Internal Audit of the Council's Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2003 had been successfully completed. A copy of the Internal Audit report was circulated, along with draft copies of the Annual Return and supporting documents, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

RESOLVED that

(i) Annual Return – Statement of Assurance

Each of the eight sections be agreed YES

(ii) Statement of Risk Assessment

The Statement of Risk Assessment was APPROVED

(iii) Report of Internal Auditor

Members welcomed the Internal Auditors Report and

RESOLVED that

- A further professional valuation of property assets be carried out after completion of the imminent alterations to the Folk Hall.
- Consideration be given to including provision for a fire-proof cabinet in the 2004/05 budget.

Two additional recommendations, which were considered to be of a minor administrative nature, were noted.

The Clerk was congratulated on maintaining the Council's accounts to a high standard.

The completed Annual Return and supporting documents are attached to and form part of these Minutes.

1026 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE – TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Further to Minute No. 1014 members were informed that North Somerset Council had received ten nominations for the position of Town and Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee. It was therefore necessary to hold a ballot, forms for which were circulated.

RESOLVED that Councillor David Pasley be proposed as Town and Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee.

1027 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of June 2003 be APPROVED.

1028 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on the 5th July 2003.

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

**03/P/1563/RM ASHLANDS, PORTISHEAD QUAYS, PORTISHEAD
(PERSIMMON)**

Development of 44 residential dwellings with associated parking. (Phase 1: Area 1: Persimmon 3)

Amend recommendation to REFUSAL

**03/P/1622/F GARDEN PLOT AT 3 BEACH ROAD WEST,
PORTISHEAD**

New two storey house

Delete recommendation for approval. Amend as follows –

It was noted that this application is within the Woodhill Conservation Area. The Town Council consider that the proposed development is contrary to the provisions of Policy CON/13 of the Local Plan which states that “Development or development involving demolition within a Conservation Area, or development elsewhere likely to affect the setting of, or the views into and out of a Conservation Area, will be permitted only where it preserves or enhances”.

The Town Council also consider that it is inappropriate to build up to the boundary in this area and that this application represents an over-development of the site.

Recommend REFUSAL

**03/P/1654/0 BYEWAYS, HEAVENS FIELD, REDCLIFFE BAY,
PORTISHEAD**

Erection of new dwelling, 2 storey accommodation (split level) with rooms within roof space.

The Town Council consider that this application represents an over-development of the site.

Recommend REFUSAL

The report of the Committee meeting held on 5th July 2003 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1029 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 25th June 2003.

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

**RW513 COMMUNITY SAFETY LOCAL ACTION TEAM –
SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE**

A lengthy discussion ensued on this matter with many members expressing the view that speeding should be enforced by the police, not by amateurs. Other members considered that the Speedwatch Initiative had been very successful in other areas and should be tried in Portishead.

On being put to the vote it was RESOLVED

1. Not to support the setting up of a Speedwatch Scheme in Portishead.
2. The application for a grant towards the setting up costs be refused.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 25th June 2003 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1030 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Portishead Highlights – Letter of thanks for grant awarded.

Ethical Framework Regulations – Further details and video received from Standards Board.

Skateboard Facilities – Consortium have agreed in principle to grant a short-term licence for a temporary skateboard park on railway station site.

Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme – Further details received.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – Access audit of play areas required.

The following items were circulated for information –

Portishead Quays Public Art Steering Group – 20.5.03 and 17.6.03

Portishead Partnership – 23.6.03

Portishead Tourism Group – 28.5.03 and 24.6.03

NSC Highways Services – May 2003

North Weston Village Hall Working Party – 2.7.03

Standards Board – Guidance for “Dual-Hatted” Members

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

..... Chairman

6th August 2003