

**MINUTES OF THE 162ND ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2006**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Mason – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Gething, Howells,
Johnston, Mrs Lord, J McMurray, Pasley, Rigby*, Terry, Walters

*Left the meeting at 8.45pm

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors J H Clark, Miss Griffiths, A McMurray, Miers
Sgt Terry Scoble – Portishead Police

Before commencing the formal business of the meeting Councillor Mrs Mason informed the meeting that Councillor Miers was currently recuperating from an accident at home. The Council asked that their best wishes for a speedy recovery be forwarded.

1384 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr Gordon Randall, Chairman of the Portishead in Bloom Committee, informed the meeting that, whilst the Committee were disappointed that they had only been awarded Silver in the 2006 Britain in Bloom Competition, they were delighted that two community projects, the Pembroke Road Flats and the Millennium Garden, had been awarded special Neighbourhood Awards. Mr Randall thanked the Town Council for their support and encouragement and also paid tribute to the many local groups, organisations and residents who helped make the Town so beautiful throughout the year.

Mr Randall then presented the Silver Award Certificate and the Neighbourhood Awards for the Pembroke Road Flats and the Millennium Garden to the Vice-Chairman of the Council who confirmed that they would be put on display in the Folk Hall. On behalf of the whole Town, the Vice-Chairman congratulated the Portishead in Bloom Committee on their achievement and wished them every success for the future.

Mrs Vivien Rees, a resident of 7 Raleigh Rise, expressed her concern about the lack of facilities for the youths of the Town. She confirmed that she had spoken to Sergeant Scoble of Portishead Police and she had also recently become involved with the Local Action Team who she understood were going to consider the matter. In referring to recent press reports about groups of youngsters causing problems in areas in the town she reminded the meeting that not all young people caused trouble, it was only a very small minority who gave all the others a bad name. She pledged her full support for

the Town Council's proposal to provide additional Skateboard facilities in the central area of the Town.

Mr Bill Shier, Chairman of Portishead Tourism Group, brought to members' attention a recent press article highlighting Portishead as an area worth visiting. Whilst the Group had welcomed the article they were concerned that too much emphasis had been put on the Marina. They considered that areas such as the High Street and the Lake Grounds should be promoted more and the Group had started a campaign to revitalise interest by drawing attention to the Town's unique Victorian character. In addition, the Tourism Group were looking into the possibility of reinstating a band stand at the Lake Grounds and were discussing possible locations with North Somerset Council. Discussions were also taking place with the owners of the precinct who were being urged to clean up the area behind Iceland as it was very unsightly on the main approach to the Town.

Mr Ron Hazelton, a resident of 28 Roath Road, expressed his concern about a number of issues - the poor condition of the drainage in the High Street, the problems with car parking and lack of enforcement in the High Street and the poor condition of the public conveniences at the Lake Grounds. The Vice-Chairman confirmed that the Town Council were well aware of Mr Hazelton's concerns and had taken up the issue of the drainage and public conveniences with North Somerset Council. Mr Hazelton's complaint about car parking would be forwarded to the police.

Mr Adrian Bailey, a resident of 7 Woodside Gardens and speaking on behalf of affected neighbours, reiterated the comments made to the Planning Committee at their meeting on 27th September 2006 in respect of planning application no. 06/P/2124/F – Two storey dwelling and attached garage with access from Hillside Road at 1 Beechwood Road, Portishead. He urged the Council to support the recommendation of the Planning Committee and object to the application.

Mr Robin Muir, a resident of 5 Homestead and speaking on behalf of other residents of Homestead, raised objections to planning application no. 06/P/2035/F – Erection of double carport to side of property at 284 Down Road, Portishead. Mr Muir pointed out that the proposed development would have a detrimental affect on the amenity of residents living in Homestead, citing in particular increased traffic and noise. He also expressed the opinion that the proposed development would be out of character as other drives in Homestead were open-plan. He urged the Council to revise the recommendation of the Planning Committee and object to the application.

Mr Bob Parsons, Chairman of Portishead Football Club, addressed the Council in support of the Club's application for a new 25 year lease of Bristol Road Playing Field. Mr Parsons acknowledged that the Club were at fault for allowing the negotiations for the new lease to go on for far too long. He thanked the Council for their patience and gave his personal assurance that the Club were serious about finalising the lease as soon as possible. In referring to the report of the Recreation and Works Committee meeting held on 20th September 2006 (RW698 refers) Mr Parsons circulated members with a comprehensive document detailing the activities undertaken by the club, highlighting in particular the support given to the 20 Junior Teams playing under the umbrella organisation of the Club. Mr Parsons acknowledged the criticism that had been levied at the Club because of the lack of

business and financial management and confirmed that steps were being taken to put this in order; draft accounts and business plan had been produced. He also confirmed that the club currently ran at “break-even” but there was scope to improve the business potential of the club once the ground and playing conditions had been improved.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1385 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J S Clark

- Personal interest in RW701 – Redcliffe Bay Hall, Review of Hiring Charges
Reason – Member of Management Committee

Councillor Johnston

- Personal interest in RW698 – Portishead Football Club Proposed Lease of Land
Reason – Sons members of Portishead Juniors Football Club and he was acquainted with the Chairman of Portishead Football Club

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal interest in RW701 – Redcliffe Bay Hall – Review of Hiring Charges
Reason – Member of Management Committee

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

Councillors Gething, Johnston, 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 known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

1386 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 161st Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 6th September 2006 be confirmed as correct.

1387 REPORT OF STAFFING COMMITTEE 19TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Further to Minute No. 1377, Councillor Mrs Lord now presented the report of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 19th September 2006.

Arising from the report it was noted that –

- There was no requirement for the Committee to be given delegated powers.
- There may be a requirement for a training budget to be included in the budget for the next financial year.
- The appointment of a Deputy Clerk would be considered after the office accommodation issue had been resolved.
- The next meeting of the Committee would consider a timetable for the completion of the Council’s employment policies.

In addition, members were circulated with a copy of a Draft Staff Appraisal Scheme (version 3) which had been compiled following guidance supplied by North Somerset Council and others.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council accept the Draft Staff Appraisal Scheme (version 3), a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.
2. An appraisal of the Clerk shall be conducted by the Chairman in the period February/March 2007, as a pilot.
3. The Council states its intention to extend the appraisal scheme to all staff, commencing in the year April 2007 – March 2008.
4. The Committee review the scheme and the documents after the pilot appraisal and consultations with staff.

Councillor Terry reminded members that appraisers and appraisees must have taken part in training for their respective roles prior to the commencement of the appraisal process. He also suggested that rather than “appraisal” the process should be called “personal development review”. Councillor Mrs Lord confirmed that this would be taken into account during the review of the scheme.

1388 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2006

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of September 2006 be APPROVED.

1389 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Lord presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27th September 2006.

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

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION – PROPOSED RELOCATION OF TOWER AND COMPOUND BY ARQIVA FOR THEIR REDCLIFFE BAY TRANSMITTING STATION, CHARLCOMBE PARK, DOWN ROAD, PORTISHEAD

Amend second paragraph to read –

The Committee understood that discussions were underway between landowners and the Severn Siren Trust for the siting of an additional Siren on land at the disused gun emplacements further up the hillside. It was suggested that it would be sensible for both aerials to be sited together, perhaps within the same compound or at least adjacent. Native planting should be used to

disguise both the fencing and entrance regardless of where the compound is built.

PORTISHEAD TO BRISTOL CYCLE ROUTE/AVON CYCLEWAY

Amend final paragraph to read –

It was also recommended that a member of the Portishead Railway Group and a non-Portishead representative of Gordano Councils Transport Group be invited to attend the meeting.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 27th September 2006 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1390 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Recreation & Works Committee meeting held on 20th September 2006.

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

RW698 PORTISHEAD FOOTBALL CLUB – PROPOSED LEASE OF LAND AT BRISTOL ROAD

A number of councillors applauded the support given to the Junior teams by the Football Club but heavily criticised the Club for their lack of business and financial management. In answering questions from Councillors, Mr Parsons confirmed that

- The Club were not a registered charity.
- The Club would like to finalise the lease as soon as possible to enable them to progress with their business plan.
- Players were not paid a match fee.

RESOLVED that

The Town Council continues to agree a 25 years lease for the Town sports field on the original terms proposed and a substantial rebate up to 90% will be offered provided agreed levels of youth involvement in sport are met, subject to –

1. The Council being provided with 2 years audited accounts; and
2. A satisfactory service level agreement being negotiated.

Councillor Rigby left the meeting and verbally announced his resignation from the Council.

RW700 BUS SHELTERS

The Clerk was asked to clarify with North Somerset Council which shelters would be forming the proposed Portishead to Bristol showcase route and how the stated

passenger information measures would be provided as reported in the August/September edition of **dematters**.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 20th September 2006 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1391 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

NSC Temporary Prohibition of Use by Vehicles Order 2006 – Nore Road from Battery Road to West Hill being resurfaced week commencing 23.10.06
Audit of 2005/2006 Accounts – Completed and External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion issued.
Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Chief Superintendent Hayler's visit postponed until New Year.

The following items were circulated for information –

Public Art Steering Group – 18.7.2006
dematters – August/September 2006
CCTV Log – June 2006
Portishead Children's Centre Partnership Group – 5.7.2006
NSC Destination Management Newsletter – September 2006

There being no further business the Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

..... Chairman

8th November 2006