

**MINUTES OF THE 94TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2001**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Bickley – in the Chair

Councillors Brine, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse,
Daws, Gamlin, Mrs Haysom, M Johnston, Palmer, Pasley,
Pickering, Terry, Walters, Whitfield

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillor J Johnston

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Council.

781 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 93rd Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 10th January 2001 be confirmed as correct.

782 SLADE ROAD PLAY AREA – POSSIBLE DISPOSAL TO NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL TO ASSIST WITH RELOCATION OF ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

The Chairman informed members that North Somerset Council had asked if the Town Council would consider disposing of the Slade Road Play Area to them to assist with the possible relocation of St Joseph's School to the current Portishead Primary School site. It was confirmed that the play area would be used to enable the school recreation space and playground to be extended. The Chairman also reported on a meeting held with Mr Graham Turner (NSC acting Chief Executive) and Mr Andrew Stirling (NSC Valuation Manager) when it had been further confirmed that NSC would pay the Town Council's legal costs and would be prepared to consider a "land-swap".

Members expressed their general agreement to the proposal and, after clarification on a few minor points –

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council agree, in principle, to dispose of the Slade Road Play Area to North Somerset Council only to assist with the relocation of St Joseph's School to this site.
2. Councillor Mrs Bickley, Councillor Mrs Cruse, the Clerk, and Chairman to be appointed in May 2001, be authorised to
 - (i) negotiate on behalf of the Town Council; and
 - (ii) to appoint a land agent and solicitor if and when appropriate.

3. The Town Council would prefer to exchange the Slade Road Play Area for an alternative piece of land, appropriate for recreational use and of equal or greater value, rather than outright sale.

783 AVON LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION – REPORT OF SEMINAR 10TH JANUARY 2001

Members received a report of the ALCA Seminar held on 10th January 2001 from Councillor Mrs Bickley.

The Seminar had dealt with four particular areas of importance to local councils –

- The Law and Local Councils – which focussed in particular on the legislation affecting the way Councils work. The importance of members and the Clerk having access to up-to-date legal information was stressed.
- Procedures – covering standing orders, agendas, and council meetings.
- Human Rights Act – unlawful to act in contravention of the Act
- Ethics and Danger Zones – this included the Code of Conduct, setting up of Monitoring and Standards Committees, and Declarations of Interest.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council pay for the Clerk's annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks.
2. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk carry out a review of the Town Council's adopted standing orders.

784 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

The schedule of payments and bank reconciliation/cash statement for the month of January 2001 was APPROVED.

It was further AGREED to discontinue the practice of identifying individual staff wage and salary payments.

785 PLANNING COMMITTEE

In the absence of Councillor J Johnston, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Mrs Bickley presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 3rd February 2001.

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

01/P/0047/F ASSOCIATION OF PORTISHEAD BOWLING CLUBS, RODMOOR ROAD, PORTISHEAD

Removal of condition 3 of Planning Application 00/P/0605/F restricting use to non-drinks licensed club.

Add to recommendation for APPROVAL –

The Town Council considered that greater use of the clubhouse could lead to an increase in car parking and asked that conditions protecting the existing Oak Tree be included in any planning approval.

(Clerk's note – subsequent to the meeting it has been confirmed that the Approval Certificate for the original planning application no. 00/P/0605/F includes a condition stating “No development shall commence on site until detailed plans have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority that provide for the future protection of the existing Oak Tree and the measures necessary to prevent vehicles parking beneath the canopy of the existing Oak Tree. Such details shall include details of all fencing, siting and means of erection and the works necessary to upgrade and provide additional parking within the available area of land that comprises the extent of the application site. The reason for this condition is to ensure the future health and protection of the existing Oak Tree in the interests of preserving the unique landscape qualities and public amenity benefit that exists within the area comprising the Lake Grounds”.

FORMER ST PETER'S SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD

Amend response to North Somerset Council to read –

1. Is there a demand for this school site for 'Community Use' (in accordance with the approved plan) bearing in mind the size of the site and the poor condition of the existing building?

The Council considered that there is a demand for 'Community Use' for the site and draw North Somerset Council's attention to their previous response to planning application no. 00/P/1183/RG3 – Recommend approval, subject to the railings and stone being retained on site and community facilities being provided for the elderly.

The Council considered that suitable Community Uses for the site were sheltered housing accommodation and a day care centre for the elderly.

2. Is the building by virtue of its condition and history worth keeping?

The Council considered that the building was not worth retaining but would wish to see the railings and stone re-used on site and some of the architectural features replicated in any new building.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 3rd February 2001 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

786 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Haysom, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 24th January 2001.

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

RW413(d) APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS - PORTISHEAD TWINNING ASSOCIATION – HOSTING TWINING VISITS

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Mrs Cruse and Mrs Haysom declared pecuniary interests in this application, took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon. Councillor Brown took the Chair for this item only.

RESOLVED to award Portishead Twinning Association a grant of £400.

RW417 LITTER BINS – PORTISHEAD HIGH STREET

The Clerk reported that the Environmental Contracts Manager had confirmed that North Somerset Council would be matching the Town Council's contribution of £1,500. This total budget of £3,000 would provide 17 bins, 10 of which would be installed in the High Street. Details of the bin were circulated and it was confirmed that the bins would be "Portishead Blue" and carry the Town logo in gold.

The report of the Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2001 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

787 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Rotary Club Swimathon 2001 – 28th April Parish Wharf Leisure Centre. Councillor M Johnston to organise a team.

Chairman's Social Event – 7th April 2001

Highways – Town Centre Improvements – Improvements to Combe Road/High Street junction, High street parking restrictions and provision of pedestrian crossing at Folk Hall to be investigated.

Local Government Act 2000 – Response submitted to Establishment of Standards Committees Consultation Document.

Trees – Survey of large trees being carried out by Mr J Shaw

The following item was circulated for information –

NSC – Highways Information Sheet – December 2000

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

.....Chairman

7th March 2001