

**199th ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2009**

PRESENT Councillor Pasley – in the Chair

Councillors Cruse, Mrs Cruse, Hazelton, Howells,
Mrs Knight (Vice Chairman), Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers,
Parker, Walker, Walters, Mrs Way

Mr M Dolton – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors Cameron, McMurray, Terry, Wright,

There were 16 members of the public and press present at the meeting.

(Clerk's Note : Item 5 on the published agenda 'North Somerset Council – Waste Management Services – Changes 2010', was not presented to members due to non availability of North Somerset Council staff)

1733 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Knight and Councillor Pasley 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.

Councillor Mrs Cruse and Hazelton :-

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW890(Youth Centre).
Reason – Town Council representatives on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Howells :-

- Personal and Prejudicial interest in Minute No.1740 (Planning report) – Planning application 09/P/01747/F and 09/P/1748/F – 20a and 20b Seaview Road, Portishead
Reason – Close proximity and effect upon the member's own residence.

Councillor Mrs Mason :-

- Personal and Prejudicial Interest In Minute No. 1739 (Recreation and Works Committee Report) - RW894 – Trinity Community Hall Management – Reason – Membership of Church Council of Methodist Church at which this matter has been discussed.
- Personal Interest in Minute No.1740 (Planning report) – Planning application 09/P/01747/F and 09/P/1748/F – 20a and 20b Seaview Road, Portishead
Reason –acquainted with a neighbour of the applicant.

Councillors Mrs Cruse, Cruse, Mrs Lord :-

- Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Minute No.1739 (Recreation and Works Committee Report) - RW896 – Twinning Association – Reason – active paid up membership of the organisation, Councillor Mrs Lord also being a committee member and officer of the committee

(Clerk's Note : The Clerk then advised those members that had declared a prejudicial interest in various agenda items, that the Code of Conduct requirement for them to leave the meeting only applied if this meeting considered or discussed that specific matter)

1734 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 6 members of the public wishing to address the meeting.

- (i) Mr Eugene Cooke, a resident of 36 Fennel Road, Portishead, addressed the meeting. Mr Cooke stated that he wished to make members aware of some issues that were causing concern to local residents in the Port Marine area.
He commented on the recent closures of the M5 motorway, whereby residents felt they had in effect been held to ransom by the police decision to close the complete stretch of the road. Mr Clarke wanted to know what action the Council had taken or intended to take.
Mr Cooke then turned to the issue of the potential erection of new pylon power lines in the area, stressing that residents had major concerns over this, and wished to know what public consultation arrangements were in place.
The news that the library project had been postponed had also caused concern and dismay to Mr Cooke and other local residents.

On invitation of the Chairman, the Clerk informed Mr Cooke that he had recently had an informal meeting with a senior police officer, and would be meeting with other officers in the near future to ensure that the police were fully aware of the concerns and issues of Portishead residents.

On invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lord informed Mr Cooke of the public consultation arrangements made by National Grid in relation to the potential power lines.

- (ii) Mrs Sandy Tebbutt, a resident of Nore Road, Portishead, and Chair of the Portishead In Bloom committee addressed those present.

Mrs Tebbutt wished to update members on the activities of the committee and helpers in the past month. She outlined the efforts of the group which included various planting projects, clear up sessions, and re filling the tubs located around the town area.

A number of forthcoming projects to be implemented during the coming year will include a potential 'Lions Bed' at the open air swimming pool, a new heather and conifer bed at the West Hill shops, and the planting of Edwardian shrubs at the Lake Grounds.

Mrs Tebbutt expressed the disappointment experienced by the committee and volunteers at the mindless vandalism that had recently taken place of the planting containers in Wyndham Way. The results of this had now been cleared up, but it was obviously disheartening to all involved that it had occurred.

The voluntary time contributed by the Portishead In Bloom committee members and volunteers in the past month amounted to 180 hours.

Mrs Tebbutt finally asked that members of the Town Council again consider the need for the appointment of a Town Orderly.

The Chairman, Councillor Pasley, thanked Mrs Tebbutt for her report of information, and asked that the thanks of the members of the Town Council were passed to all concerned.

- (iii) Mrs Stella Dicks, a resident of 32 Hillcrest Road spoke against Planning Applications 9/P/01747/F and 09/P/1748/F at 20a and 20b Seaview Road, Portishead. Mrs Dicks advised members that she shares her rear boundary with the properties in Seaview Road.

Mrs Dicks considered the proposal to be an overdevelopment of the site. The removal of the existing window and its larger replacement with balcony would cause a complete loss of privacy through her conservatory, dining room and lounge doors which are glass. There will also be a loss of privacy to her bedroom and bathroom because of the steep nature of the land.

- (iv) Mr Dicks, the husband of Mrs Stella Dicks of the same address, also addressed members on the same application, and echoed the representations made by his wife. He further stated that he held major concerns about the proposal that large picture windows would be

installed at the rear of the development, and that the planned balcony would in effect be a 'platform in the sky'

- (v) Mr Derek Ainsworth a resident of 18a Seaview Road, Portishead spoke against Planning Applications 9/P/01747/F and 09/P/1748/F at 20a and 20b Seaview Road, Portishead explaining that he had lived at his property since 1985. There had originally been one bungalow on the plot where the two properties 20a and 20b Seaview now exist. The site had been the subject of two previous applications in 2004/2005 for more substantial properties but these had been refused because they would be overbearing for neighbours and cause a loss of light. Mr Ainsworth is concerned that these new planning applications return the properties to this original and larger footprint.

Mr Ainsworth had three main concerns –

- (a) Overdevelopment of the site - There is only a metre between his property and the next house and the proposal will extend the current property beyond his own returning the footprint to the same size as was refused in 2004.
 - (b) Impact and Privacy - Due to its proximity to the boundary and protrusion beyond his property the occupants will be able to look into his own property and therefore impinge on his living conditions. This will also be the case from the external staircase. There will also be a loss of light.
 - (c) Precedent – There are no other examples of two storey extensions which protrude beyond the building line anywhere else in Seaview Road. If this protrusion had existed on the application in 2005 he felt it unlikely that they would have been approved.
- (vi) Mr Kenneth Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road, Portishead addressed the meeting expressing his concern at the recent announcement by North Somerset Council in relation to adjustments to the waste collection arrangements to be implemented during 2010. Mr Smith said that he feared that the changes would result in hygiene problems.

Mr Smith also commented on the suggestion by Portishead In Bloom that a Town Orderly should be employed, stating that he paid his council tax to North Somerset Council to keep the streets of Portishead clean and tidy, and questioned why such a need should arise.

1735 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 198th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 14 October 2009 were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED THAT

The Minutes of the 198th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 14 October 2009 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

1736 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION / CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2009

Members considered the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that

The schedule of payments and bank reconciliation / cash statement for the month of October 2009 be approved.

The schedule is attached to and forms part of these minutes

1737 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 2 – 01 JULY 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

Members received the report of the Clerk, commenting that they welcomed the additional information such quarterly reports provided, and thanked the Clerk for the clear method of presentation.

RESOLVED that

The quarterly financial management report for quarter 2 (July to September 2009) be approved

1738 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members received the report of the Clerk, commenting that they were disappointed that the external auditors had felt it necessary to make comment about the annual return being approved some seven days late, even though every possible step had been taken to achieve the tight deadline and the external auditors had been informed of the situation prior to the deadline.

RESOLVED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council

- (i) Note the report of the external auditor and comments therein for the financial year April 2008 to March 2009.
- (ii) Note the actions taken by the Clerk to adjust the Fidelity Insurance cover held by this Council

- (iii) Note the compliance of the display of the public notices of the audit report as required by Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 (as amended).
- (iv) Record the thanks of council members to the staff of this Council and Miles & Co accountants, in preparing the end of year figures in difficult circumstances and tight time constraints.

1739 RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Recreation and Works Committee held on 28 October 2009.

Members discussed item No RW893 – provision of sign – Portishead In Bloom. Councillor Mrs Cruse expressed the view that the recommendation as written needed further clarification to assist the Clerk in implementation. Following discussion and vote it was agreed that the recommendation would be amended to read 'replace the top boards on the 5 existing signs at the entry points to Portishead'.

(Members then indicated that they wished to discuss item No. RW896 – Twinning Association – 20th Anniversary,. Due to their declared personal and prejudicial interests, Councillors Mrs Cruse, Mrs Lord, and Cruse left the meeting for this discussion)

Members expressed various views on the recommendation of the committee in relation to the 2010 twinning anniversary with Den Dungen. Some felt that the sum allocated of £1500 was excessive, and others feeling that there would be a perception of an inappropriate use of public funds. Following discussion and vote on a proposal, members agreed by a majority vote that the committee of the Twinning Association would be asked to advise the Council on the nature and details of the proposed reception event, and if any funding is required, they should apply to the Council for a grant in the usual manner.

RESOLVED that

The report of the Recreation and Works Committee meeting held on 28 October 2009 be approved subject to the following amendments:-

RW893 (Provision of signage – Portishead In Bloom) :-

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council, in partnership and joint funding with North Somerset Council, provide replacement top boards on the existing five signs situated at the entry to Portishead to celebrate and display the achievements of the Portishead In Bloom committee and volunteers during 2009. The Clerk being authorized to arrange this provision and spend to a limit of £250 without further referral to members.

RW896 (Twinning Association Anniversary Function) :-

The Twinning Association be asked to advise the Council on the nature and details of the proposed reception event they wish to see held in the town on the event of the 20th anniversary of twinning with Den Dungen, and if any funding is required, they should apply to the Council for a grant in the usual manner.

The report of the Recreation and Works Committee meeting held on 28 October 2009 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

1740 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Howells presented the report of the Planning Committee held on 04 November 2009.

Members agreed that they did not wish to discuss any of the planning applications and resulting recommendations of the committee in that report.

Councillor Howells then sought the views of those present, on the matter included within the report relating to not displaying all plans at Town Council meetings in future. Members agreed to the recommendation, noting that the plans would be available at future meetings from the Clerk.

RESOLVED that

The report of the Planning Committee held on 04 November 2009 be approved.

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 04 November 2009 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

1741 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Town Council Open Day :

The Chairman addressed members, thanking them, the Clerk, and the Clerk's wife, for the commitment and effort made to ensure that the Town Council's first Open Day held at the Somerset Hall on Saturday 31 October 2009 resulted in such a success. Some 100 residents attended throughout the morning, meeting with members and the Clerk, and over 50 enquiry / action forms had resulted. The Clerk will now action all those forms, and write to the residents who provided their details providing results of their enquiries. The main themes from residents related to litter in the streets, road /pavement repairs and speeding traffic. From the positive feedback received by the Chairman from several members and residents, the Council may wish to consider repeating the event at a future date.

- **Correspondence Received :-**

Letters have been received from the following organisations expressing their gratitude for recent grant awards

-St Peter & St Paul Church, Weston in Gordano

-Weston & North Somerset D I A L (Disability Information & Advice Line)

-N A D A (North Somerset Against Domestic Abuse)

- **Publications and Reports –** The following items have been received and are available in the Town Council Office –

‘Digital uk’ – switchover information pack on Digital TV implementation

‘Quartet Community Foundation’ – Annual Review 2008/9

Avon Wildlife Trust – seed appeal

North Somerset Council – One day closure – Victoria Square

Circulation re cessation of ‘Forest of Avon Partnership’.

1742 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING COSTS AND FUTURE CONTRACTS – CONFIDENTIAL EXEMPT ITEM

Prior to any consideration of this item, members RESOLVED that pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1.

Members received the report of the Clerk.

Following discussion by members it was agreed to invite Miles & Co accountants to continue to conduct the routine management of finances for a further financial year, April 2010 to April 2011, and that this arrangement should again be reviewed late in that financial year.

RESOLVED that

Miles & Co Accountants of Portishead be invited to provide financial management services to this Council for the financial year 1 April 2010 to 31

March 2011, to a maximum cost of £10,500 excluding VAT. The award of such a contract to Miles & Co is exempt from the Council's Financial Regulations by virtue of Paragraph 10.1 (a) (ii) 'Specialist Services', as to award to any other provider would incur unnecessary additional expenditure of public funds due to the system preparation work already undertaken by Miles & Co.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman

09th December 2009