

**MINUTES OF THE 169<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF  
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD  
ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Mason – in the Chair

Councillors Cameron, Mrs Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, Miers, Parker, Miss Stanley, Terry, Mrs Way, Walters, Wright

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillors M Cruse, McMurray, Pasley

**1453 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Councillor Mrs Cruse, speaking as a member of the public, reported on the very enjoyable Twinning trip to Den Dungen that had taken place the previous weekend. She also reported that the local junior football team, *RKVV Den Dungen*, had played host to a team of U-13's from Portishead Juniors Football Club over the May Bank Holiday. This had also been a very successful trip that had been enjoyed by all the participants. It was hoped that a reciprocal trip could be arranged in the near future. A copy of the Spring edition of Twinning News was circulated.

Mr Ken Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road, asked for information about the work being carried out at the quarry opposite the recycling centre on Valley Road.

In reply, Councillor Mrs Lord confirmed that the Council understood that planning permission had been given for the site to be used for growing Christmas trees. As the site was in the parish of Weston-in-Gordano and not in Portishead, the Town Council had no further information.

Standing Orders were resumed.

**1454 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hazelton

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/0857/F Weston Lodge Farm, Valley Road, Portishead – Continued use of recreational clay pigeon shooting, paintball games and karting, together with the retention of buildings and structures associated with this use.

Reason – Acquainted with applicant as both members of the Portishead Tourism Group

Councillor Mrs Knight

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1457 Gordano School Consultation on Foundation Status  
Reason – Acquainted with a Gordano School Governor

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/1043/F 236 Down Road, Portishead – Erection of a replacement two storey dwelling following demolition of bungalow.  
Reason – Acquainted with occupant
- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/0857/F Weston Lodge Farm, Valley Road, Portishead – Continued use of recreational clay pigeon shooting, paintball games and karting, together with the retention of buildings and structures associated with this use.  
Reason – Can hear shooting from home property

Councillor Miers

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/0857/F Weston Lodge Farm, Valley Road, Portishead – Continued use of recreational clay pigeon shooting, paintball games and karting, together with the retention of buildings and structures associated with this use.  
Reason – Can hear shooting from home property

Councillor Stanley

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/0857/F Weston Lodge Farm, Valley Road, Portishead – Continued use of recreational clay pigeon shooting, paintball games and karting, together with the retention of buildings and structures associated with this use.  
Reason – Partner's parents live in Valley Road
- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/0954/RM Chandlery Square, East Dockside, Portishead Quays, Portishead – Submission of reserved matters of external siting, design, means of access for the erection of mixed use building comprising pub, delicatessen, restaurant and catering facilities together with associated staff accommodation, plant rooms, wash rooms, toilets and parking facilities pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 94/0348  
Reason – Is employed by company marketing residential properties in the area.
- Prejudicial interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/1052/RM Block D, Dockside, Portishead Marina, Portishead – Submission of reserved matters for 142 No. residential dwellings (1, 2 and 3 bedroom), refuse and cycle stores, an electrical substation and centralized boiler, a commercial unit Class A1/A3 and associated car parking and landscaping pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 94/0348.  
Reason – Employed by competitor

Councillor Mrs Way

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/0857/F Weston Lodge Farm, Valley Road, Portishead – Continued use of recreational clay pigeon shooting, paintball games and karting, together with the retention of buildings and structures associated with this use.

Reason – Acquainted with applicant

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

Councillors Mrs Knight and Terry 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.

**1455 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007 be confirmed as correct.
- (b) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 168<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007 be confirmed as correct.

**1456 MOTION TO COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 9**

Councillor Terry proposed, Councillor Walters seconded, the following Motion –

**Motion**

The Council recognise the significant number of residents who now live outside the town boundary, but naturally look to Portishead for the provision of community facilities and request North Somerset Council to initiate a Parish Boundary Review at the earliest opportunity.

**Debate**

Members generally expressed their support for the motion, some pointing out that as both East Ward and Central Ward were growing rapidly it would also be necessary to have a Ward Boundary Review. Other members considered it only right that residents currently living in the area of East Portishead, but actually living in the Parish of Portbury, should have a democratic influence over the facilities with which they had a social affinity.

Upon being put to the vote the **Motion** recorded above was carried unanimously.

It was therefore RESOLVED that

The Council recognise the significant number of residents who now live outside the town boundary, but naturally look to Portishead for the provision of community facilities and request North Somerset Council to initiate a Parish Boundary Review at the earliest opportunity.

**1457 GORDANO SCHOOL – CONSULTATION ON FOUNDATION STATUS**

Further to Minute No. 1447, the Chairman welcomed Mr Graham Silverthorne, the Headteacher of Gordano School, to the meeting and invited him to address the Council.

Mr Silverthorne stated that he had been very concerned to hear of the Town Council's negative response to the consultation. He hoped now to be able to explain more about the school's ambitions and to provide members with a greater understanding of the school's aims in considering Foundation Status. He stressed that the school were very proud of their community links and considered itself to be the "learning heart of Portishead". Mr Silverthorne outlined the reasons the school had decided to apply for Foundation Status and during the following full and frank discussion clarified the school's position on the admissions policy and future of the community facilities, both of which had been of great concern to the Town Council.

With regard to the admissions policy, Mr Silverthorne stressed that the granting of Foundation Status would not allow Gordano School to adopt a selective Admissions Policy as this was against the law. He explained that all school admissions are controlled by a Local Admissions Forum which allocates places according to statutory regulations. Regardless of their status, all maintained schools (which includes Foundation Schools) are required to adhere to the agreed policies of the Local Admissions Forum. There is no scope for variation, no possibility that a future Governing Body may make a different decision and no circumstances under which a process of selection can be brought in.

In respect to the community facilities, Mr Silverthorne stated that it was the School's wish to secure and extend the community facilities, not the reverse. He pointed out that the school had recently employed a Community Manager whose task it was to increase the number of community activities at the school. Currently the local authority did not provide any financial support to repair or develop the sports hall, tennis courts, five-a-side courts or Astrotuf. All of these items were paid for by the school from its own funding. Foundation Status would enable the school to have control over its own assets, buildings and land and would enable them to engage with partners to plan for the long term. The necessity for the school to have more control had become even more apparent to the governors during the recent major building programme when they were not included in the building contract, even though they were the recipient of the development.

Mr Silverthorne concluded by confirming that the Governors at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 had agreed to proceed to the next stage of the formal consultation process.

In responding to Mr Silverthorne's address, councillors made the following comments –

- There was no guarantee that statutory regulations would not be changed in the future which could allow the school to be selective in its admissions.
- As schools in North Somerset already had a certain degree of autonomy why did Gordano School need to take this step? In reply, Mr Silverthorne stressed that the school wished to have more control of its future.

- It is not in the best interests of the town for the school to move to Foundation Status. Staff and Governors are transitory and there can be no security for the future.
- Elected members would lose local education control.
- What would happen to special education needs? Mr Silverthorne confirmed that the resources for special education needs were secure.

In bringing the discussion to a close, the Chairman thanked Mr Silverthorne for attending the meeting and clarifying the schools position.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council note that the Governors have made a decision to proceed to statutory consultation.
2. The Town Council will review their position in light of that statutory consultation in due course.

#### **1458 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Members were notified that North Somerset Council were seeking nominations for two Town/Parish Council representatives to serve on the Standards Committee for the period 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007 to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

RESOLVED that the Town Council decline to nominate a representative to serve on the NSC Standards Committee for the period 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007 to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

#### **1459 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

Further to Minute No. 1442 Members now received a further report detailing the proposal to amend Standing Orders in order to give the Staffing Committee delegated powers to fulfil its role in implementing the Council's Grievance, Discipline and Complaints Procedures.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order No. 38.2 the following recommendation stands adjourned, without discussion, to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

#### **Recommendation**

Standing Orders be amended to include the following new clause –

#### **42 STAFFING COMMITTEE**

- 42.1 The remit of the Staffing Committee shall be –

1. The membership of the Committee to be the Clerk (advisory and non-voting capacity), Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and, normally<sup>1</sup>, the Chairman of the Recreation & Works Committee and the Chairman of the Planning Committee.
2. To be responsible for all employment matters
3. To oversee the job descriptions and terms and conditions of employment of all members of staff, through the Clerk.
4. To oversee the Policies which employers are required to have for their employees eg Health and Safety Equal Opportunities, Bullying and Harassment, Grievance and Discipline, Complaints Procedure.
5. To hold delegated powers for the implementation of the Council's Grievance, Discipline and Complaints Procedures and to conduct formal hearings (not appeals<sup>2</sup>) which arise under these policies.
6. To oversee the Personal Development Review process, through the Clerk.
7. At least two members of the Committee, normally including the Clerk, to conduct interviews of potential staff.

42.2 The Staffing Committee be given delegated authority to fulfil its role in implementing the Council's Grievance, Discipline and Complaints procedures only.

**1460 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2007**

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of April 2007 be APPROVED.

**1461 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Having declared a prejudicial interest in Planning Application No. 07/P/0954/RM, Councillor Stanley left the meeting prior to discussion on the Planning Committee report.

Councillor Mrs Lord presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

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

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<sup>1</sup> The 'normally' is inserted here to give the Council the option of nominating another Councillor who may have considerable expertise in the area of Human Resources.

<sup>2</sup> Appeals Panels will be conducted by the most recent ex-Chairman of the Council and two other members who do not sit on the Staffing Committee

**07/P/0954/RM CHANDLERY SQUARE, EAST DOCKSIDE,  
PORTISHEAD QUAYS, PORTISHEAD**

Submission of reserved matters of external siting, design, means of access for the erection of mixed use building comprising pub, delicatessen, restaurant and catering facilities together with associated staff accommodation, plant rooms, wash rooms, toilets and parking facilities pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 94/0348.

Add to Planning Committee recommendation –

The Town Council request that North Somerset Council give consideration to the provision of public conveniences on the car park adjacent to the site via a S106 contribution.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

**1462 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

New Councillors Training – 22.9.2007 at Felton Village Hall

Correspondence – Letters of thanks for grants awarded received from Portishead Horticultural Society and North Somerset Arts.

NSC Revocation of TPO – TPO 522 (Bruton Manor/Downleaze) revoked and new TPO909 made.

NSC Street Trading Consent Scheme – To apply to High Street, Wyndham Way/Old Mill Road and Portbury Hundred w.e.f. 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

Code of Conduct – Revised Code to take effect by 1.10.2007.

TC Meeting 13.6.2007 – Webmaster to take photographs for website. Councillors requested to arrive by 7.00pm and to provide the Clerk with a 250-word biography asap.

The following reports were circulated for information –

NSC Streetscene Newsletter – April 2007

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

..... Chairman

13<sup>th</sup> June 2007