

**MINUTES OF THE 176TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2007**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Mason – in the Chair

Councillors Cameron, Cruse, Mrs Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, Miers, Parker, Pasley, Mrs Way, Walters, Wright*

*Arrived at 8.25pm during consideration of Minute No. 1528

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillor McMurray, Terry

1521 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1524 – Portishead Youth Centre
Reason – Town Council representative on Youth Centre Management Committee and Chairman of that Committee.

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1528 (RW761) - Portishead Skatepark Project
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1528 (RW762) - Redcliffe Bay Hall
Reason – Member of Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee

Councillor Miers

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1528 (RW762) - Redcliffe Bay Hall
Reason – Member of Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee

Councillor Mrs Way

- Personal interest in Minute No.1528 (RW762) - Redcliffe Bay Hall
Reason – Member of Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee

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

Councillors Mrs Knight and 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 known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

1522 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr K Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road, Portishead, spoke about caring for the community and in particular expressed his concern that the Town Council had turned down the grant for Wellspring Counselling at their last meeting because it was considered that this provision should be funded by the NHS. Mr Smith reminded the Council that Portishead was now the 2nd largest town in North Somerset and they should be putting pressure on other agencies and fighting for bigger things, not just talking about bus shelters.

1523 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 175th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 7th November 2007 be confirmed as correct.

1524 PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Members received an update report from the Chairman of the Youth Centre Redevelopment Committee and a request for a further grant of £50,000 towards the project.

Councillor Mrs Cruse also confirmed that it was hoped that the building project would commence by March 2008 as funding for the refurbishment of the media suite and toilets was earmarked to be spent by that date.

Some members commented that they were surprised to receive another application for funding from the Youth Centre as the Town Council had already granted £100,000 towards the project.

RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the 30th January 2008 meeting of the Recreation & Works Committee for further consideration.

Councillor Mrs Cruse asked that her abstention from voting on this matter be recorded.

1525 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Members were informed that North Somerset Council's independent Members Allowances Review Panel were shortly to embark on a review of the members allowances scheme and comments on the current scheme had been invited.

After receiving clarification on particular aspects of the scheme it was

RESOLVED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council consider that

1. There is no case or opinion in favour of paying a basic allowance for Town and Parish Councillors.

2. Members travel allowances should be kept at the same rate as those paid by North Somerset Council, and be altered accordingly.

1526 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS & BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2007

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

1527 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Lord presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5th December 2007.

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

**07/P/2712/RM CHANDLERY SQUARE, EAST DOCKSIDE,
PORTISHED QUAYS, PORTISHEAD**

Submission of reserved matters of external appearance, siting design, means of access and landscaping for the erection of a mixed use building, comprising pub, delicatessen, restaurant and catering facilities plus associated staff accommodation, plant rooms and marina reception and changing rooms.

Add to recommendation –

Consideration should be given to the public house making the toilet area open to the public under the national scheme paying the landlord £600 per annum.

07/P/2968/F 149 HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD

Demolition of 149 High Street and erection of 7 no. detached dwellings

Amend recommendation to read –

Object to the planning application on the following grounds –

- Part of this site is amenity land and the proposed development does not enhance it.
- The rural aspect forms an important entrance to this part of the town and matches the other farming areas at this end of the High Street.
- The proposed development will suffer from air pollution produced by traffic.
- Granting permission on this site will prevent any future improvements to the road layout.
- Transport issues already exist around this area (proposals for a zebra crossing, traffic calming and restricted parking in St Mary's Road are being considered).
- The extra traffic needing access to and from these houses (residents and visitors) will create additional problems on a very busy gyratory system.

The Council would also comment that should North Somerset Council be minded to approve the application there should be restricted access to the development to avoid parents parking and/or picking up and dropping off children during school hours. The Council would also ask that note is taken of the passage of the oil pipeline across the site.

PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING, TRAFFIC CALMING AND RESTRICTED PARKING – ST MARY’S ROAD, PORTISHEAD

RESOLVED that the response submitted by the Chairman and Clerk be endorsed.

The report of the meeting held on 5th December 2007 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1528 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21st November 2007.

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

RW761 PORTISHEAD SKATEPARK PROJECT

Add to recommendation –

4. The Town Council feels that there could be alternative sites that have not been fully explored and would urge that a further assessment be made. The Town Council would prefer a more central site.

The report of the meeting held on 21st November 2007 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1529 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

2008/2009 Budget Arrangements – Working party meeting to be held on Tuesday 8th January 2008.

Proposed Walking Scheme: Zebra Crossing with Central Refuge at West Hill, Portishead – Traffic Regulation Order to be advertised shortly.

Avon Pension Fund – Employers contribution rates increased wef 1st April 2008 (Minute No. 1530 below refers).

Letters thanking the Council for grants awarded received from MS Therapy Centre, St Peter & St Paul Church, Redcliffe Bay Girl Guides, Gordano Valley Church Cludo Club, Woodspring Assoc. for Blind.

Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places – East Ward to be divided into two polling districts and Central Ward polling station to be relocated to Parish Wharf Leisure Centre.

North Somerset Council Chairman – to attend 13th February 2008 meeting of Town Council.

Portishead Twinning Association – Bridge on Harbour Road now named Schweich Bridge. Official naming ceremony for Den Dungen Bridge (Newfoundland Way/Phoenix Way) to take place during next Twinning visit in Spring 2008.

The following items were circulated for information –

Streetscene – NSC Streets & Open Spaces Newsletter October & November 2007
Public Art Steering Group – 18.9.2007

1530 MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA

AVON PENSION FUND

This matter had been reported for information. However, members expressed their concern at the increase in the employers contribution rate with effect from 1st April 2008. A lengthy debate ensued.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cruse and Councillor Howells discuss the matter with representatives of the Avon Pension Fund.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

..... Chairman

16th January 2008