

**MINUTES OF THE 166TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2007**

PRESENT

Councillor Miers

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

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES

Councillors J H Clark, Miss Way

1416 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mrs Catherine Stockham, a resident of 75 Woodhill Road, to address the Council in respect of the recently submitted planning application to demolish the existing Worthingtons Store and replace it with a new three-storey building. Mrs Stockham informed the Council that there was very strong public feeling against this application and expressed the opinion that if this application were to be approved it could set a very dangerous precedent for future developments in the High Street. Mrs Stockham urged the Council to take into account the High Street's unique historic character when they considered this application. She reminded them that the Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Town Centre required that alterations should be designed to respect the established Victorian and Edwardian architectural character of the High Street and that older style attractive shops should be repaired and retained. Mrs Stockham hoped the Council would support the public feeling and recommend that the application be refused.

On a point of clarification, Councillor Mrs Lord confirmed that the application, having only just been received by the Council, would be considered by the Planning Committee at their meeting on 7th March 2007 and then at the 14th March 2007 meeting of the Town Council.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1417 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1423 (RW714) – Portishead Twinning Association
Reason – Member of Twinning Association Committee

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1423 (RW714) – Portishead Twinning Association
Reason – Member of Twinning Association Committee

Councillor Terry

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1419 – Village Quarter Community Hall
Reason – Member of Trinity School temporary governing body

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.

1418 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 165th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 17th January 2007 be confirmed as correct, subject to the following –

Page 812 – 4th paragraph, 2nd line – amend Councillor Clark to read Councillor J S Clark.

1419 VILLAGE QUARTER – COMMUNITY HALL

Members received a report from Councillor Terry reminding members of the background to the project to provide a community hall within the Ashlands development and outlining the current position with regard to the location, design and provisional costs (Minute Nos. 1412, RW706 and the report of the Chairman's Working Group held on 14th December 2006 refers).

Councillor Terry also reminded members that it was necessary to consider how the hall was going to be managed in the future. He outlined two possible options –

- Direct management by the Council – this could give rise to problems with on-site management and security and would entail entering into a lease with the school trustees.
- Management by the School in accordance with a Service Level Agreement – the Council would agree the lettings and charging policies and a liaison committee could be formed to oversee the management of the facility.

During the ensuing discussion a majority of members expressed the view that there must not be any delay in providing this facility and the only feasible place for it to be built was as part of Trinity School. Other members considered that the Town Council should also appoint their own Quantity Surveyor to oversee their interests in the project.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council confirm that their choice for the design of the community facility is Option 5 of those presented to the Chairman's Working Group meeting held on 14th December 2006 – 80sq m ground floor hall linked to the school building.
2. The Council appoint a sub-committee to negotiate a legal agreement with the Trinity VA Governing body to secure a community hall as part of the school development and a service level agreement for the future management of the facility. The sub-committee to consist of Councillors Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, A McMurray (substitute Councillor Walters) and the Clerk.
3. The sub-committee report direct to the March meeting of the Council.
4. The Clerk be authorised to incur legal and surveying expenses as necessary as a charge on the capital costs of the project.

1420 REPORT OF JOINT MEETING OF STRATEGY WORKING PARTY AND STAFFING COMMITTEE 23.1.2007

Further to Minute No. 1378 Councillor Mrs Lord now presented the report of the joint meeting of the Strategy Working Party and Staffing Committee held on 23rd January 2007.

Members were informed that a detailed investigation of the two options for increasing the office accommodation had now been carried out. With the aid of a computer modelling exercise the architect had confirmed that it would not be possible to accommodate an additional member of staff in the current first floor office space and neither was it possible to expand the first floor accommodation into the Reynolds Room because of the restrictions caused by the loading capacity of that room. Members noted however that it would be possible to convert the Eve Wigan Room on the second floor to office use with very little alteration and at minimal cost. Confirmation of any fire regulation requirements was currently awaited from Building Control.

RESOLVED that

Provided there are no adverse comments from Building Control the Town Council office be moved to the second floor.

1421 PORTISHEAD SKATEPARK PROJECT

Further to Minute No. 1407 (RW710) members now received an update report from Councillor J S Clark detailing the results of the consultation process. Members noted that the majority of respondents had indicated a site at the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre as their preferred location for the skatepark. Councillor J S Clark also confirmed that he had attended a meeting with North Somerset Council officers who had been very positive about the project.

Members of the Council congratulated Councillor J S Clark and members of the Portishead Skatepark Project on their work so far and

RESOLVED to refer the report to the next meeting of the Recreation & Works Committee for further discussion.

An invitation for a Conservative Party member to join the Skatepark Project was deferred until the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

1422 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2007

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

1423 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Recreation & Works Committee meeting held on 31st January 2007.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 31st January 2007 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1424 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Lord presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7th February 2007.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 7th February 2007 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1425 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

NSC Streets & Open Spaces Surgery – Commenced 8th February 2007.
Multi-Use Games Area Initiative – To be referred to 28.2.2007 R&W Cttee
Rubbish or Resource Consultation – To be considered at the 14.3.2007 meeting
Dates for Diary – Play Area Seminar 6.3.2007, Community Safety Event 24.2.2007

The following items were circulated for information –

NSC Streetscene Newsletter – January 2007
Redcliffe Bay Hall Man. Cttee – 22.1.2007
Portishead Children’s Centre Partnership Group – 16.1.2007
Port Marine Public Art Steering Group – 21.11.2006
Portishead Local Action Team – 30.11.2007
Gordano Councils Transport Group 9.11.2006
CCTV Log October 2006
Report of Staffing Committee 23.1.2007
dematters – February 2007

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

..... Chairman

14th March 2007