

**MINUTES OF THE 120TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 2003**

PRESENT Councillor Pickering –in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cole,
Daws, Mrs Haysom, J Johnston, M Johnston, Mrs Mason, Pasley,
Whitfield

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors Palmer, Terry, Walters

992 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr John Harris, Chairman of Portishead Football Club, to address the Council.

Mr Harris referred to the report in respect of the Development of Bristol Road Playing Field to be considered by the Council later in the meeting. Mr Harris confirmed that the area of land referred to in the report included the Bristol Road Playing Field, the Gordano School Playing Field and the additional land off Clapton Lane to be provided by the East Portishead Consortium as off-site playing field provision for the Ashlands development. Mr Harris also confirmed that early investigations indicated that up to 13 playing pitches could be provided, along with supporting facilities. He hoped the Town Council would support the Football Club's bid to the Football Foundation for funding towards the development of this community sports facility.

Standing Orders were resumed.

993 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

994 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 119th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 12th March 2003 be confirmed as correct, subject to –

984 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Bickley – amend Personal Interest to read –

- Personal Interest in Planning Application No. 03/P/0194/F – 2 Nore Road. Reason – Acquaintance of applicant. (Delete reference to 03/P/0259/F – 7 Slade Road).

995 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROVISION

Further to Minute No. 986, members now received a report of the working party meeting held on 18th March 2003. Members noted that a number of actions had been agreed, including contacting all potential user organisations to assess demand for a new community transport service, liaising with the Primary Care Trust, Rural Transport Partnership and Nailsea Community Transport and surveying interest from volunteer drivers. Members looked forward to receiving a further report in due course.

RESOLVED that the report of the working party meeting held on 18th March 2003 be noted.

996 AUDIT OF 2002/2003 ACCOUNTS – APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Members were reminded that the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 (as amended) required local councils to appoint an independent internal auditor.

RESOLVED that Mr Martin Staines be appointed internal auditor for the audit of the 2002/2003 accounts at a cost of £420.

997 ESTABLISHMENT OF PORTISHEAD TOURISM GROUP

Members were informed that Portishead Partnership had been considering the implementation of the Blue Skies Tourism Strategy for Portishead. However, whilst good progress had been made, the Partnership felt that they could not devote as much time as it would wish to tourism issues and had decided to ask North Somerset Council to set up a dedicated Portishead Tourism Group, similar to those already established in Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare.

Whilst members were generally supportive of the establishment of such a group, a number of concerns were raised –

- Would not wish to encourage inappropriate tourist facilities and activities.
- Lake Grounds must not be over-commercialised.
- Involvement of Gordano Society and Gordano Footpath Group.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council support the establishment of a dedicated Portishead Tourism Group.
2. The Town Council representative on the Portishead Tourism Group to be appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council to be held on 7th May 2003.
3. The Clerk to represent the Town Council at the initial meeting if held prior to 7th May 2003.

998 PORTISHEAD FOOTBALL CLUB – DEVELOPMENT OF BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELD – UPDATE

Members were reminded that Portishead Football Club, jointly with officers of North Somerset Council and the Clerk, had been investigating the possible development of Bristol Road Playing Field and the adjoining Gordano School Playing Fields (including the land to be made available from the S106 Agreement for the Ashlands development) into a joint Community Sports Facility. A feasibility study, funded by Portishead FC, had been carried out and had concluded that sports facilities could be developed that would meet both the requirements of the club and also provide the required sporting facilities for the community and Gordano School for the foreseeable future. It was understood that funding of up to £1M was available for such schemes from the Football Foundation. Matched funding would also be required from the local community, however this could be in the form of in-kind or other support. Facilities that could be accommodated included - up to 13 full and ¾ size football pitches for male and female youth and adult football, 8 mini-soccer pitches for 8-10yr old girls and boys, cricket facilities, changing rooms, and facilities to meet the curriculum requirements of Gordano School (rugby, athletics etc.).

Members were generally very supportive of the scheme and expressed a wish for part of the development to be freely available for public access.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council confirms its strong support, in principle, for the development of Bristol Road Playing Fields and Gordano School Playing Fields into a joint Community Sports Facility.
2. Portishead Football Club, in co-operation with Portishead and North Weston Town Council, submits on behalf of all parties involved with the project, a bid to the Football Foundation for funding.

999 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of March 2003 be APPROVED.

1000 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor J Johnston, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 5th April 2003.

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

03/P/0524/F THE OLD RECTORY, CHURCH ROAD SOUTH, PORTISHEAD

Erection of 6 no. 4, 3 and 2-bedroom houses in the old rectory garden. Formation of new access road. Demolition of old rectory garage, stores, rear porch and greenhouse.

03/P/0525/F THE OLD RECTORY, CHURCH ROAD SOUTH, PORTISHEAD

Erection of 4 no. 4-bedroom houses, demolition of old rectory garage, stores, rear porch and greenhouse.

Add to recommendation for APPROVAL - The Town Council ask that the plans be amended to avoid the felling of the existing walnut tree.

03/P/0564/F ROYAL HOTEL, PIER ROAD, PORTISHEAD

03/P/0763/LB

Change of use from public house with first floor training centre to a single dwelling

Add to recommendation for REFUSAL – The Town Council note that the plans do not show the public access to the beach below the Royal Hotel and ask North Somerset Council to draw this to the attention of the applicant.

LAND ADJOINING 48 WOODHILL ROAD, PORTISHEAD

Erection of dwelling and formation of vehicular access

Add to recommendation for REFUSAL – The Town Council also point out that this development does not offer any enhancement to the Woodhill Road Conservation Area (CON/13).

The report of the meeting held on 5th April 2003 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

As this was the last meeting of the Council prior to the election on 1st May, the Council asked that their very grateful thanks to Councillor J Johnston for all his hard work and dedication in Chairing the Planning Committee be recorded. In paying tribute to Councillor Johnston, the Chairman reported that Councillor Johnston considered on average 40+ planning applications per month, as well as tree applications and such documents as the Local Plan and Structure Plan. This represented hours and hours of work for which the Council were extremely appreciative. The Council also asked that Mrs Rachel Tranter, the Assistant Clerk, be thanked for the support she gave to Councillor J Johnston.

Councillor Daws also complimented Councillor Johnston on his Chairmanship of the Planning Committee and commended the Town Council on the quality of their responses to North Somerset Council.

In reply, Councillor J Johnston thanked the Council for their kind remarks.

1001 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 26th March 2003.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED.

The report of the meeting held on 26th March 2003 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

1002 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Correspondence – Letters of thanks for grants awarded received from North Somerset Mencap Cool Summer Club and 8-18yrs Summer Playscheme, National Trust, Portishead Youth Centre, Jubilee Day Care Centre and Portishead Town Band.

Merlin Park Skateboard Park – Grant of £3,000 awarded to the project from Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust. The Chairman also reported that the skateboard park had been installed and was already being well used. There had been a few noise-related problems but these were being addressed. It was understood that the young people were delighted with the facility.

Avon Wildlife Trust – Not able to proceed with acquisition of Bourton Combe and/or Priors Wood.

Forest of Avon – Timberland Trail being constructed through Ashton Court Estate and Fifty Acre Wood

Parish Wharf – Objection submitted to draft Agreement.

Traffic Regulation Order A369 Wyndham Way – 40mph speed limit on (parts of) Wyndham Way, Conference Avenue/Sheepway, Portbury Common with effect from 7th April 2003.

The following matters were circulated for information –

NSC Highways Services Newsletter – February 2003

Port Marine Public Art Management Group – 17.2.03

Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Cttee – 3.2.03

North Weston Allotment Cttee Newsletter – March 2003

Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team – 21.1.03

Portishead Partnership – 17.3.03

DEFRA – Quality Town and Parish Council Initiative

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman reminded members that this was the last meeting of the Council prior to the election on 1st May. He thanked all members for their hard work and dedication over the last four years and paid particular tribute to those Councillors who were not standing for re-election – Councillors Brine, Mrs Cole, Palmer and Mrs Haysom. In recognition of her 30 years of public service, the Chairman paid special tribute to Councillor Mrs Haysom, referring in particular to her membership of both the Town and District Councils, her years as Chairman of both authorities and the support she had given to many of the Town's groups and organisations. Councillor Brown spoke in support of the remarks made by the Chairman and also paid his own tribute.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman presented Councillor Mrs Haysom with a climbing rose and shrub *Exochorda x Macrantha The Bride*.

In reply, Councillor Mrs Haysom thanked the Council for their friendship and support. She had thoroughly enjoyed her years as a Councillor and felt it a great privilege to have been able to serve the town and residents of Portishead. Councillor Mrs Haysom also thanked the Clerk and all members of staff for their help and assistance. In paying tribute to the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Haysom thanked Councillor Pickering for his kind remarks and for his fair and unbiased Chairmanship of the Council.

Councillor Pickering then informed members that this meeting signified the 10th Anniversary of Portishead and North Weston Town Council, during which time the Council had been served by the Town Clerk, Mrs Penny Rendle. Councillor Pickering thanked Mrs Rendle for her help and support and, on behalf of the Council, presented her with a bouquet in recognition of her 10 years service.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00p.m.

..... Chairman

14th May 2003