

**194th ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
10 JUNE 2009**

PRESENT Councillor Pasley – in the Chair

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

Mrs Tranter – Deputy Clerk of the Council

*Miss Stanley arrived at 7.35pm

APOLOGIES Councillor McMurray

There were 8 members of the public present at the meeting.

1679 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal Interest in Planning Application 9 Sage Close, Portishead
Construction of balcony over ground floor extension
Reason – Association with the objector to the application.

Councillor Terry

- Personal interest in Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Development Plan
Document
Reason - Member of the Police Authority, Chairman of Finance Committee.

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 currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

1680 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 5 members of the public wishing to address the meeting.

Mrs Jacqueline Marshall-Llewellyn, a resident of 7 Fieldfare spoke on behalf of the Portishead Women's Institute. Mrs Marshall-Llewellyn spoke from a statement calling on all relevant Agencies and Government Departments to implement an intensive campaign of informative education and restraint to effectively curb dog fouling on public ways, open spaces and private property.

She asked that in addition to the 10 dog bins to be provided by North Somerset Council what action the Town Council will take to prevent Portishead becoming the Dog Fouling Capital of Europe? Mrs Marshall-Llewellyn expanded on the current

problem of bagging up dog excrement in nappy bags, polythene bags and disposing of it in hedges and bushes. In the past the rain would wash away the offending mess but now this was being made worse by being bagged up and discarded with little thought of the consequences. Mrs Marshall-Llewellyn had spoken to numerous bodies, developers, council officers, dog warden, about the problem in the newer part of the town but had been told it was not their respective problem.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Marshall-Llewellyn for bringing the matter to the Town Council's attention.

Clerk's Note: This item is to be discussed on 24 June at the Recreation & Works Committee Meeting.

Councillor Mrs Knight confirmed the installation of the 10 additional bins and explained that there was to be a strong drive to improve the position within the new part of the town and along the Coastal Path.

Mr Warwick Black, a resident of 49 Woodhill Road spoke of his experience on a similar project, to that of the Skatepark Project, in Hartcliffe where he was a School Governor and a member of the Youth Centre Management Committee. He explained that various pieces of equipment were to be put in for the Youth following successful fund raising and money from the Lottery. Three different agencies had been involved in three different projects but it was only when the Youth were eventually consulted that it was realised that what the Youth wanted was a Coffee Shop. This was eventually implemented and had gone from strength to strength. The Coffee Shop was well used by teenagers who would not normally go to the Youth Centre or were not sporty types. It was now a hub of activity and had taken youths and teenagers off the streets.

Another hurdle which is often not included in these sorts of projects is the ongoing maintenance costs. All too often the Capital costs are covered and when maintenance is needed the cost will have to be found from other budgets. In his case this had resulted in money coming from a school budget. Mr Black concluded that it took a lot of work to obtain grants and a great deal of thought needs to be taken on how the money will be spent.

Councillor Miss Stanley, speaking on behalf of the Skateboard Project confirmed that a lot of consultation had taken place with the youth, for example Gordano School, surveys had been carried out and contact made with other councils who offered similar facilities. However the group would take on board the comments which had been made.

Mr Ken Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road, Portishead congratulated the Council on the Annual Town Meeting which had been the best which he had attended and for the Council's stance on the Cabstand redesign.

Mr Smith also spoke about the current edition of the North Somerset Life. He had tuned the pages in the hope that something other than Weston-super-Mare would be in the publication. However although there was advertising for the Winter Gardens, and

the Playhouse there were no items on Portishead. There was no advertisement for the Portishead Pool.

The Chairman confirmed that the pool was now run solely by the Portishead Community Pool Trust and was therefore not a Council run operation.

Mr Paul Maltby, of 22 South Road, Portishead raised the question of whether North Somerset Council would receive 50% profit from the running of the Open Air Pool.

Councillor Pasley confirmed that this was not the case.

Sergeant Lee Ashdown then introduced himself to those present. He confirmed that meetings were to be held in the town of the newly formed PACT (Partners and Communities Together). He would be informing the Town Council of the issues raised, what had been done and matters that the Town Council could help with.

At the present time he confirmed too that there was an Anti-Social Behaviour Ban. The team were confiscating alcohol from underage youths and taking the youngsters home to their parents. This had reduced the amount of anti-social behaviour around the Lake Grounds and elsewhere in the Town.

Finally, Sergeant Ashdown advised the meeting that he was leaving his post in Portishead. He had been taken on a 6 month term and this term was nearly at an end. Interviews were being undertaken at present for his replacement.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Ashdown for continuing the good work around the town.

One last question was put to Sergeant Ashdown about the police on the beat in the High Street. Councillor Hazelton asked if the old fashioned tall, helmets were still worn by the police as he had not seen any in the High Street area. Sergeant Ashdown confirmed that there were two helmets at the Police Station for police on the beat. However if officers were in cars they would wear their peaked caps.

1681 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of 193rd Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the 193rd Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 13 May 2009 were confirmed as correct.

1682 VARIATION TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The members considered the report.

The Local Government Act 1972, Part V111 Finance (Section 150(2)) states that -

“Every Cheque or other order for the payment of money by a community council shall be signed by two members of the council.”

Therefore, at present each cheque is signed by any two of the following –

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee

As the number of signatories has been reduced it is proposed to now increase the number of member signatories to include the following –

The immediate past Chairman
Chairman of Planning.

By increasing the number of persons able to sign cheques this will ensure that during periods when signatories are on holiday or are unavailable there are sufficient members available for payments to be made.

RESOLVED that Portishead & North Weston Town Council's Financial Regulations Payments of Accounts Paragraph 5.4 is amended to read –

Cheques shall be signed by two of the following –

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Chairman of Recreation & Works Committee
Chairman of Planning Committee
The immediate past Chairman

1683 PORTISHEAD POOL COMMUNITY TRUST

Councillor Pasley gave a verbal update on the re-opening of the Open Air Pool by the Portishead Community Pool Trust. The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the opening following the make-over by the television company and the local community. Ty Pennington the presenter for the company had commented that the community spirit had been really good and better than in other parts of the country.

Councillor Pasley confirmed that the pool had taken more in the last month than throughout the whole of last season. Queues were regularly 80-100 yards. The pool cover was working well and the average temperature could be maintained at 28°-30°C. The early morning start was also proving popular, although one resident had reported that the water was too warm!

The Trust had applied for both a licence for alcohol and live music and proposals were under way for converting the existing snack bar to a tapas bar.

RESOLVED that

The Clerk write a letter to the local press congratulating the Portishead Community Pool Trust on the opening of the pool and thanking them for all their hard work and commitment to the project.

1684 FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2009

Members received the Financial Report for the Year ended 31 March 2009.

The report consisted of an Income and Expenditure Account compared with the Budget, a Balance Sheet setting out the financial position of the Council and a Supporting Statement detailing the Council's fixed assets. Councillor Walters informed members that overall the accounts had come in under budget because monies had not yet been paid for the Trinity Hall. Some other minor variations were also noted and clarification of the Youth Incentive Budget was given by Councillor Mrs Cruse.

RESOLVED that the Financial Report and Accounts Ended 31 March 2009 be APPROVED.

RESOLVED that the Clerk review the level of Reserves, particularly the Allocated Reserves, consulting individual councillors as necessary and provide a written report to the July Meeting of the Council.

The Financial Report is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

1685 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2009

Several questions were raised about minor points in the accounts. However

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of May 2009 be APPROVED.

1686 COMMUNICATION WORKING PARTY – SEVERNSIDE SIRENS

Members discussed the Severnside Sirens and the reason for the sirens installation following a major incident where toxins had been released. Some members questioned the continuing need for the sirens and were advised that the fund which paid for the sirens was diminishing because fewer companies were now contributing to the costs of the Trust.

Councillor Mason, the Chairman of the Communications Working Party confirmed that the item was considered by the group following a Motion to Council by Councillor Pasley in July 2008. At that time there seemed to be a lot of confusion amongst residents who were unsure of the correct procedures to be undertaken when the sirens sounded and with the regular monthly testing of the sirens.

In the meantime a leaflet had been distributed to all homes in the Town by the Severnside Siren Trust giving further guidance. Given this increased publicity since the original motion it was recommended that no further action is taken by the Council.

RESOLVED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council take no further action.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Knight, who is a member on the Severnside Siren Trust would produce a report for the next Town Council Meeting in July, with a list of those companies producing dangerous products/toxins in the area.

1687 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Howells presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3 June 2009.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations for the first section of the meeting concerning all Planning Applications be APPROVED.

Councillor Howells continued by introducing the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Development Plan Document. Members noted that North Somerset Council had arranged exhibitions/meetings at various locations throughout the district. The Planning Chairman informed members that North Somerset Council was obliged to allocate land for 36 residential spaces and 10 transit pitches in addition to the 42 places already existing in the area. This document was an opportunity for stakeholders/residents to put forward any areas of land in their parish/town to be considered for the allocation. It was noted that all possible sites must be close to amenities, such as schools, shops and main roads.

The document had been debated at the Planning Meeting and a recommendation made, although this had not been unanimous. The recommendation made by the Committee was that "North Somerset have regard to areas to the south of the Police Headquarters (off Valley Road) already in public ownership, conditional upon adequate space spaces being available before the site is open".

Questions were raised about the location of this piece of land being outside the Portishead Boundary. A discussion followed and the recommendation made by the Committee was overturned.

RESOLVED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council write to North Somerset Council with the following response –

Due to development in the Town and oversubscribed schools Portishead and North Weston Town Council regret that they are unable to suggest any sites at this time.

Councillors Miss Stanley and Terry abstained from voting and asked that this be recorded in the Minutes.

RESOLVED that

The delegated decisions in Section 2 of the report be APPROVED.

The report of the meeting held on 3 June 2009 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1688 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Carnival – The Chairman advised members that the Town Council had been approached by the organisers of the Portishead Carnival. Volunteers were required for judging the floats on Saturday 20 June 2009. Members to meet outside the Folk Hall between 12.30pm – 1pm. Councillors Pasley, Parker, Miers, Mrs Way, Mrs Cruse, Mrs Knight and Mrs Mason confirmed that they would attend.

Town Council – Open Day And Cultural Events At The Lake Grounds-
Councillor Pasley explained that these items were within his Acceptance Speech at the Annual Meeting on 6 May 2009. Both of these new ideas will be discussed by the Recreation & Works Committee on 24 June 2009.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that he had been informed by North Somerset Council of an event which would be taking place on 27 June at the Lake Grounds. The event would be a picnic by the lake, open to all and free of charge. An opera singer and band would be performing and people were being encouraged to bring along a picnic and enjoy the event.

Publications and Reports – The following items have been received and are Town Council office –

- ALCA Newsletter – June 2009
- Avon & Somerset Police Authority – Policing Plan – 2009 -2012
- Forest of Avon Annual Review – March 2009
- North Somerset CCTV Log Book – 1.2.2009–31.3.09
- South West Employers – Affiliate and Associate Member Newsletter – Late Spring 2009

1689 STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Staffing Committee presented the report and reminded members that if they wished to discuss the report the council would need to go into confidential session. No discussion took place.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations for the meeting held on 21 May 2009 be APPROVED.

The report of the meeting held on 21 May 2009 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman

8 July 2009

