

**MINUTES OF THE 163RD ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2006**

PRESENT Councillor Miers – in the Chair

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

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillor J McMurray
Sgt Terry Scoble – Portishead Police

Before commencing the formal business of the meeting Councillor Miers thanked members for their best wishes following his recent accident.

1392 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Councillor Howells, speaking as a member of the public, informed members that he had received numerous complaints from residents in the Weatherly Drive area about the number of cars parking in the vicinity of the Police Headquarters. He understood that road junctions and driveways were being blocked, buses were having difficulty manoeuvring around the roundabout and traffic island and cars were also parking on grass verges. He asked why vehicles had been stopped from parking on-site within the Police Headquarters and asked the Council to take this matter up as a matter of urgency with the Chief Constable.

Councillors J S Clark and Johnston reported that they had also received numerous complaints.

In reply, Councillor Terry, speaking as the North Somerset Council member on the Police Authority, explained that an increase in the use of the training facility at the Police Headquarters had led to a shortage of on-site parking spaces. He had taken the matter up with the Chief Constable and had been informed that it had not been possible to use the on-site overspill car park as the surface was not suitable for parking during wet weather. He understood that a scheme was being prepared to rectify this. Meanwhile, a leaflet had been prepared for distribution to residents in the Weatherly Drive area updating them on the situation and apologising for the inconvenience that had been caused. He confirmed that in the last few days vehicles causing an obstruction had been issued with fixed penalty notices.

The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with the Chief Constable.

Mrs Gwyneth Singer, a resident of 113 High Street, asked the Council to be mindful of the unique setting of the Lake Grounds when considering the proposals to enhance the children's play area. In her opinion, the Lake Grounds was a place for quiet enjoyment and relaxation, not more structures and a skateboard park. She asked if it would be possible to have boats returned to the Lake.

Mr Les Summerfield, representing Gordano Valley Transport Group, raised concerns about North Somerset Council's proposal to divert the cycle track to utilise existing railway bridges at Royal Portbury Dock and Marsh Lane. He reminded the Council that the railway line must be safeguarded and protected at all costs.

Mr Bill Shier, Chairman of Portishead Tourism Group, informed members that he had discovered that the former Kodak building on Old Mill Road was vacant and suggested that it could accommodate a skateboard facility, climbing wall, coffee bar and drop-in centre. He urged the Council to consider taking a lease of the building and developing it into a much needed facility for the town's teenagers. Mr Shier also updated members on the activities of the Tourism Group and confirmed that their survey of the town's public toilets had been completed and forwarded to North Somerset Council. He understood that NSC would be entering into a new contract for public toilet cleansing in the New Year and plans were also in hand to carry out much needed upgrading of public toilet facilities in the district. Mr Shier also urged the Council to continue to press for public toilet facilities in the newly developed areas of the town, particularly around the Marina and public open space areas of the Village Quarter.

Mr Ken Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road, expressed his full support for the Council's proposal to lease the Bristol Road Playing Field to Portishead Football Club at a discounted rent. He reminded the Council of the support given to the Junior Football Clubs by the Portishead Football Club and of the high standard of football played.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1393 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Bickley

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1398 Portishead to Bristol Cycle Route – Proposed Improvements
Reason – Member of Gordano Councils Transport Group

Councillor Johnston

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1398 Portishead to Bristol Cycle Route - Proposed Improvements
Reason – Member of Sustrans

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1395 Application for a Grant from Nailsea & District Community Transport
Reason – Town Council representative on N&DCT Management Committee

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1398 Portishead to Bristol Cycle Route – Proposed Improvements
Reason – Member of Portishead Railway Group
- Personal interest in Minute No. 1397 (RW703) Lake Grounds Play Area
Reason – Lives close to Lake Grounds

Councillor Miers

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1395 Application for a Grant from Portishead in Bloom
Reason – Member of Portishead in Bloom Committee

Councillor Pasley

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1395 Application for a Grant from North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau
Reason – Town Council representative on North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau Board
- Personal interest in Minute No. 1397 (RW703) Lake Grounds Play Area
Reason – Lives close to Lake Grounds
- Personal interest in Minute No. 1398 Portishead to Bristol Cycle Route – Proposed Improvements
Reason – Member of Gordano Councils Transport Group

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

Councillors J H Clark, 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.

1394 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 162nd Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 4th October 2006 be confirmed as correct.

1395 2006/2007 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Members received a report from the Grants Working Party detailing the 2006/2007 applications for grants.

After being provided with clarification on a number of points it was –

RESOLVED that

1. The grants detailed on the schedule attached to and forming part of these minutes be APPROVED.

2. In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council approves the following expenditure which, in their opinion, is in the interests of the area and will benefit the area in a manner commensurate with the expenditure –

- Victim Support (North Somerset Scheme) – Grant of £250 towards supporting victims of crime
- Womens Project – Grant of £300 to be ring-fenced for counselling sessions for victims of domestic abuse in Portishead
- Portishead Lifeboat Trust – Grant of £1,200 towards continuation of service

3. The following be included in the 2007/2008 budget –

£11,257 for the continuation of the Portishead CAB Service
£7,500 towards the Portishead Community Transport and Dial-a-Ride Service provided by Nailsea & District Community Transport

1396 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2006

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of October 2006 be APPROVED.

1397 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Recreation & Works Committee meeting held on 25th October 2006.

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

RW703 LAKE GROUNDS PLAY AREA

A lengthy debate ensued on this matter.

Whilst a majority of members welcomed North Somerset Council's intention to invest £40,000 in the Lake Grounds play area comments and concerns were expressed about various aspects of the proposals –

- Health and safety and maintenance issues in respect of the proposal to install a sandpit.
- Area to be enclosed – some councillors considered that the area was too large and would be intrusive and detrimental to the setting of the Lake Grounds. Others considered that parents would welcome having a dog-free area where children could run around safely and where picnic tables could be sited.
- The intention to include equipment for older children in the same area as the play area for young children.

- The need to ensure a full consultation exercise is carried out before making any firm decisions. Schools, visitors and users of the play area and the Local Action Team must all be involved in the consultation.
- Works would be required to improve the drainage
- Portishead deserves a premier play area to the same standard as that already supplied in Nailsea and Clevedon.
- Children of all ages and abilities must be able to enjoy the play area.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council supports in principle North Somerset Council's proposal to spend £40,000 in the environs of the play area at the Lake Grounds.
2. The Town Council will allocate £30,000 of the funds set aside for community projects in this year's budget to fund the provision of additional equipment in the lower play area.
3. The Town Council will request £25,000 grant aid from YANSEC for providing equipment for older children in the upper area.
4. In conjunction with North Somerset Council and prior to the installation of any new equipment, a publicity and consultation exercise will be carried out. The consultation exercise to include Gordano School, local primary schools, visitors and users of the area, the Local Action Team and the press.

North Somerset Council be asked to liaise with the Clerk, Councillor Gething and Councillor Walters.

Councillor Pasley asked that his vote against this matter be recorded.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 25th October 2006 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1398 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Lord presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st November 2006.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 1st November 2006 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1399 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Diary Dates for November

Citizens Advice Bureau – Letter thanking the Council for their continued support.

The following items were circulated for information –

CCTV Log – July 2006

Portishead Children’s Centre Partnership Group – 20.9.2006

NSC Councillors Update – September 2006

NSC Streetscene Newsletter – September 2006

Portishead LAT – 14.9.2006

Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee Minutes – 4.9.2006

NALC Briefing – Local Government White Paper Summary – Strong and Prosperous
Communities

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

..... Chairman

6th December 2006