

**196th ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
12 AUGUST 2009**

PRESENT Councillor Pasley – in the Chair

Councillors Cameron, Cruse, Mrs Cruse, Hazelton, Howells,
Mrs Knight, Mrs Mason, McMurray, Miers, Miss Stanley, Walters.

Mr M Dolton – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors Mrs Lord, Parker, Mrs Way, and Wright.

There were 10 members of the public present at the meeting.

1703 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Knight, Pasley and McMurray 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.

Councillor Mrs Cruse :-

Personal Interest in Minute No. RW866 (Youth Centre).

Reason – Town Council representative on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Hazelton :-

Personal Interest in Minute No. RW865 (Honours Board).

Reason – individual suggestion / previous involvement.

Personal Interest in Minute No. RW866 (Youth Centre)

Reason – Town Council representative on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Mrs Mason :-

Personal Interest in Minute No. RW865 (Honours Board).

Reason – individual suggestion / previous involvement.

1704 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 6 members of the public wishing to address the meeting.

Mrs Penelope Beattie a resident of 154 Slade Road, Portishead, stated that she has been a resident of the town for some 30 years. She was disappointed that the old rose garden situated at the junction of Church Close and Slade

Road had incrementally been demolished and the land sold, the current owner having now erected a tall fence on the corner. Mrs Beattie asked all members of the Council to be mindful of the need to keep and protect small parcels of land around the town in their future considerations of land use.

Mr David Walburton a resident of 91 Eastcliffe, Portishead, expressed his concerns in relation to a planning application 09/P/1184/F which related to proposed development at 93 Eastcliffe. Mr Walburton explained that he had not received the letter from North Somerset Council informing him of the proposals until after the meeting of the Planning Committee of the Portishead and North Weston Town Council and had therefore not registered any objection at the time of that meeting. He wished to make it clear that he did have objections to the proposed development which he summarised as loss of privacy and potential reduction in his property value, and he understood that another resident at number 95 had also recently raised similar issues with North Somerset Council.

The Chairman responded to Mr Walburton by summarising the involvement and powers of the Town Council's Planning Committee, and advising him to ensure that his objections were registered with North Somerset.

Mr Phillip Benn a resident of 17 Mulberry Avenue, Portishead, addressed the meeting. Mr Benn explained to those present that he had been operating a website that he founded some 5 years ago aimed at visitors to the town providing information on events in the area. He also handed out a hard copy leaflet to members present. Mr Benn expressed his wish to be able to display the information more on notice boards in the town, and asked for consideration of the provision of a designated board for this use.

The Chairman invited Councillor Mrs Mason as Chairman of the communications working party, to respond to Mr Benn. Councillor Mrs Mason commented that there may well be scope for a link to be provided via the Town Council's own website to that of Mr Benn, and reminded him of the permitted use of the Community Notice Boards already provided in the town. Councillor Mrs Mason also commented that she would feel able to discuss any further opportunities with Mr Benn outside of the meeting.

Mr Ken Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road, Portishead then addressed the meeting. Mr Smith complimented members of the Town Council on their efforts and service to the community as unpaid members. He then drew member's attention to the recently published list of allowances and expenses paid to some of the Councillor members of North Somerset Council, and asked members of that Council to reflect on such payments.

The Chairman responded to Mr Smith by reiterating that members of the Portishead and North Weston Town Council were not in receipt of any remuneration for their service to the community.

Councillor Mrs R Cruse addressed those present as a member of the public. Mrs Cruse referred to the Rock musical event which was to be held at the Youth Centre during the evening of Wednesday the 26 August 2009. Encouraging any persons to support the event she commented that the

evening of that date was a scheduled Recreation and Works Committee meeting of this Council. It was therefore understood that many members would be attending that meeting and therefore unable to attend the event at the Youth Centre. She therefore invited members to attend during the daytime on that date to observe the final rehearsals.

Mr Paul Maltby a resident of 22 South Road, Portishead, then addressed the meeting. Mr Maltby reminded members of his representations in May this year in respect of the provision of cremated remains plots. Mr Maltby asked when progress on such provision could be expected.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Clerk informed Mr Maltby that he had spoken to an officer of North Somerset Council earlier that day, who had informed him that the release of such plots was expected in the very near future.

The Chairman then invited Police Sergeant J Robinson to speak to those present. Sergeant Robinson summarised his background within the police service and assured members and the public that the policing priorities for Portishead and North Weston would be clearly focussed on the needs of the local community. To this end, Sergeant Robinson asked all members to participate as much as possible in the P.A.C.T. meetings, and feel free to contact him at any time with relevant issues. The Chairman confirmed that the Town Council has requested a meeting with the local constabulary to discuss future planning of P.A.C.T. meetings.

Following the Sergeant's response to queries from members, he was welcomed to his new post by the Chairman and members.

1705 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of 195th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 8 July 2009 were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED THAT

The Minutes of the 195th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 8 July 2009 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

1706 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION / CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2009

Members considered the report.

The income to the Council of the refund of the NatWest bank charges for the year to February 2008 (£442.64p) was drawn to the attention of members by Councillor Cruse. This resulted from a meeting held between the business account manager from Natwest, the Clerk and Councillor Cruse, during which

the account manager was reminded of the need for response and clarification of previous requests.

RESOLVED that

The schedule of payments and bank reconciliation / cash statement for the month of July 2009 be approved

The schedule is attached to and forms part of these minutes

1707 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 1

Members received the report of the Clerk.

In discussion members expressed their appreciation to the Clerk for his work in preparing and introducing this process of financial management.

RESOLVED that

The quarterly financial management report for quarter 1 (April to June 2009) be approved

1708 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Members received the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council approves that the Responsible Financial Officer; with the concurrence of at least one of the members of the Banking Arrangements Working Party, Cllr M Cruse, Cllr R Hazleton and Cllr C Howells; may invest Council funds in Fixed Interest Bonds. The Bonds must be issued by the Council's bankers and not exceed a period of six months to maturity. The terms of the Bonds must comply with legislation and guidance governing Local Council investment.

1709 VARIATION TO STANDING ORDERS

Members received the report of the Clerk.

The Clerk addressed members commenting that the recommended amendment is an administrative update only and has no operational effect on the business of the Council.

RESOLVED that

The Standing Orders of the Portishead and North Weston Town Council be amended as follows :-

Paragraph 14. - DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Delete 14.1Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 6th February 2002

Insert 14.1Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 10th October 2007

Delete 14.3 If a member reasonably believes another member is in breach of the code of conduct, that member is under a duty to report the breach to the Standards Board for England

Insert 14.3 If a member reasonably believes another member is in breach of the code of conduct, that member is under a duty to report the breach to the Monitoring Officer at North Somerset Council.

Paragraph 28. - INTERESTS

Delete 28.1 Code of conduct adopted by the Council on 6th February 2002

Insert 28.1 Code of conduct adopted by the Council on 10th October 2007

Paragraph 37. - CODE OF CONDUCT ON COMPLAINTS

Delete 37.1 Standards Board for England

Insert 37.1 Monitoring Officer for North Somerset Council

1710 REPORT OF COMMUNICATIONS WORKING PARTY

Councillor Mrs Mason addressed the meeting, referring to a report she had circulated to members. The communications working party had discussed the presence of vacant office and shop facilities within the town, and had felt that this Council was not being updated about the strategy of North Somerset Council to attract new business ventures to the town.

Members agreed on the proposal to invite an officer of North Somerset Council to attend a meeting of this Council, and discussed which of the meetings of the Council would be the most appropriate.

RESOLVED that

The Clerk to write to officers of North Somerset Council, inviting them to present that Council's strategy on attracting new business ventures to the Portishead area, to a future meeting of the Recreation and Works Committee.

1711 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Howells presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 August 2009.

Councillor Howells drew the attention of members to the matter of 93 Eastcliffe, Portishead – Application number : 09/P/1184/F.

At the time of the meeting of the Planning Committee no valid objections had been made by any persons. It was now known that both neighbours, at number 91 – Mr & Mrs Walburton (who had spoken to this meeting during public participation), and Mr Gill at number 95 had since raised objections. It was therefore proposed that the recommendation of the Planning Committee be amended to reflect this.

Members then discussed the difficulty that had arisen in this matter, by the timing of the notices being issued to residents by North Somerset Council.

Councillor Howells also commented on a minor amendment suggested to recommendation '2' in relation to the 'Redundant Portishead School Site' in that it was intended that the report from the Clerk be a 'without prejudice scoping report' on the matter.

RESOLVED that

The report of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 August 2009 and recommendations therein be APPROVED subject to the following amendments :-

- (a) Re : 93 Eastcliffe, Portishead (09/P/1184/F)

'Portishead and North Weston Town Council note that two neighbours have concerns with the proposed development overlooking their properties and gardens and ask the relevant officers to consider these objections appropriately.

- (b) Re : Redundant Portishead School Site

'The Clerk to prepare a without prejudice scoping report on Town Council owned land in the Slade Road area, and present that report to the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

- (c) 'The Clerk to write to the officers of the Planning Department at North Somerset Council, conveying the views of the Portishead and North Weston Town Council members that the timing of issuing planning notices to residents near a proposed development should be

considered in light of the need for the Town Council to be able to be aware of any objections raised.'

The report of the meeting held on 5 August 2009 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1712 RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Recreation and Works Committee held on 22 July 2009.

Members indicated that they wished to discuss Item RW 865 from the report (Honours Board).

Some members expressed their views that there was no budget allocation in the current financial year for the provision of such a board, and it was not necessary expenditure in the current climate. Others held a different view, drawing attention to the voluntary nature of member's work for this Council, the fact that most other Councils maintained a board, and seeing it as publicly displayed recognition of that work. The chairman reminded members that this item was a recommendation arising from a previous meeting of the Heritage Working Committee.

Members then voted on the recommendation from the Recreation and Works Committee (RW 865) put to this meeting, which was :-

'That Portishead and North Weston Town Council provide an honors board (s) to the wall in the main area of The Folk Hall to display all Past Chairmen of the Council since 1974. The Clerk to arrange such provision in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and complying with the Council's Financial Regulations in relation to quotations, to a spend limit of £750.00p.' was put to the vote :-

Vote Result :- For 6 Against 4

The recommendation was therefore approved.

Councillors Cruse and Walters asked that their vote against the recommendation be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED that

The report and recommendations of the Recreation and Works Committee held on 22 July 2009 were approved.

The report of the meeting held on 22 July 2009 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1713 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Correspondence –

Cludo Club – Letter of thanks received from the Cludo Club for the £700 grant awarded for the outing to Ashton Court. The club had a very successful year and registered 233 children attending.

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

- North Somerset CCTV Log Book – May & June 2009
- North Somerset Partnership – Stakeholder Bulletin – July 2009
- Inter-agency meeting held at Folk Hall 21 July 2009 to discuss response to threatened Fluvial and Tidal flooding – notes of meeting
- Streetscene – July 2009

Circulated For Information –

ALCA Newsletter – August 2009

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman

9th September 2009