

**MINUTES OF THE 128TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2003**

PRESENT Councillor Johnston – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse,
Daws, Gething, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Pasley,
Terry, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors A McMurray, J McMurray, Rigby

1069 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Councillor Mrs Cruse to address the Council as a member of the public.

Councillor Mrs Cruse reported that 16 members of Portishead Lifeboat Trust had recently attended the House of Commons where they had been presented with Queen's Golden Jubilee medals in recognition of their service to the local community by Dr Liam Fox MP. A further 13 members of the Lifeboat Trust were also to be presented with medals at a ceremony to be held locally at a later date.

Members asked that their congratulations be forwarded to the Trust.

Standing Orders were resumed

1070 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J H Clark

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 03/P/2745/F – Erection of three bungalows at 52/56 Down Road, Portishead
Reason – acquainted with the applicants

Councillor M Johnston

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 03/P/2735 – Single storey front and rear extension at 53 Wetlands Lane, Portishead
Reason – acquainted with the applicant
- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 03/P/2955/F – Loft conversion with rear dormer and roof-lights to front elevation at 14 Station Road, Portishead
Reason – acquainted with the applicant
- Personal interest in Minute No. 1076 (RW538) – Application for a Grant submitted by 2nd Portishead Scout Group
Reason – Children members of group
- Prejudicial interest in Minute No. 1076 (RW541) – Restrictive Covenant on Land at Pier Road/Woodlands Road
Reason – Close relative of one of the landowners

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1076 (RW540) – Gordano Councils Transport Group (Portishead Railway Heritage Project)
Reason – Member of Group

Councillor Walters

- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1076 (RW539) – North Somerset Agricultural Society
Reason – Member of Society

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

Councillors Daws, Brown, J H Clark, Gething, 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 currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

1071 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 127th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 12th November 2003 be confirmed as correct.

1072 POLICE LIAISON

The Chairman introduced Inspector Patrick McGowan, Avon and Somerset Constabulary North Sector Inspector, and invited him to update members on Policing matters affecting the town.

Inspector McGowan reported that whilst burglaries from domestic properties had increased from 82 in April-Oct 2002 to 126 in April-Oct 2003, an increase of 54%, overall, the total number of reported crimes in the Portishead area had gone down by 8.9%. It was noted that that the majority of domestic burglaries had been attributed to two offenders who had since been apprehended.

Inspector McGowan further reported that three additional front-office staff were being recruited in the district which would enable Portishead Police Station opening times to be extended by 5hrs/day from the current 11am-3pm to 11am-8pm.

In answering questions from Councillors, Inspector McGowan confirmed that –

- The Police were aware of the problem of under-age drinking in the Town, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings, and were working closely with schools, youth organisations and traders to help combat the problem. However, as the alcohol invariably originated from homes, parents needed to take more responsibility.

- There were a number of problems centred around the Lake Grounds – speeding traffic (particularly “boy racers” on Friday and Saturday evenings), anti-social behaviour and out-of-hours access to the swimming pool. Whilst the Police could assist with some of these problems, and would fully support the installation of further traffic calming measures, many of the issues needed to be addressed by the local authority.
- The introduction of an alcohol ban for the Lake Grounds was being investigated.
- The Police were fully supportive of the Community Safety Local Action Teams.
- The Weston-super-Mare policing district was currently 25 officers short. Whilst 120 recruits were currently undergoing training it would take up to two years before they were fully operational. However, a number of enquiries were being received from experienced officers elsewhere in the country who wished to transfer to the Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

In bringing the discussion to a close, the Chairman congratulated Inspector McGowan on the improvements made and thanked him for attending the meeting.

1073 ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Members were reminded that the recently introduced Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 enabled individual local authorities to establish their own allowances scheme, subject to the recommendations of an independent remuneration panel set up by the principal authority.

North Somerset Council’s Members Allowances Review Panel had subsequently met to decide on the issue of allowances for Town and Parish Councillors, as provided for in the regulations, and had decided as follows –

- Parish Basic Allowances – Whilst the panel recognised the valuable work carried out by Town and Parish Councillors the panel had decided that there was no case at present or opinion in favour of paying basic allowances for Town and Parish Councillors.
- Travel and Subsistence – The Panel had agreed that Town and Parish Councils should decide for themselves whether or not to pay travel and subsistence allowances and under what circumstances. They had however given advice on the rates that should be paid.

Members noted that the payment of a Chairman’s Allowance under S15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 was not affected by the new Regulations, any scheme had to be publicised and records of allowances paid had to be kept and made available for public inspection.

During the ensuing discussion some members expressed their disappointment that no provision had been made for the payment of a carers allowance and asked that the remuneration panel be made aware of these concerns.

RESOLVED that

1. The decision of the North Somerset Council Members Allowances Review Panel that Town and Parish Councils do not pay a Basic Allowance to Town and Parish Councillors was noted.
2. The North Somerset Council Members Allowances Review Panel be made aware of the Town Council's disappointment and concern that no provision had been made for the payment of a carers allowance and they be asked to re-consider this when reviewing the Members Allowances scheme in six months time.
3. Portishead and North Weston Town Council will pay the travel and subsistence allowances as recommended by the North Somerset Council Members Allowances Review Panel for the duties as set out in the Portishead and North Weston Town Council Travel and Subsistence Allowance Scheme, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1074 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2003

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

1075 PLANNING COMMITTEE

As the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Mrs Bickley, had been absent from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 6th December 2003, the report of the meeting was presented by Councillor Mrs Lord, who had chaired the meeting.

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

03/P/2745/0 52/56 DOWN ROAD, PORTISHEAD

Erection of three bungalows

Add to recommendation for APPROVAL – for 3 single-storey dwellings only.

03/P/2779/RM THE ASHLANDS, PORTISHEAD

Public Open Space 5

Add to recommendation for APPROVAL – and shrub under-planting being removed as it is considered unnecessary.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 6th December 2003 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1076 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

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

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

RW536 BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELD

Add to Recommendation 4 –

, by prior agreement of the Town Council.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 26th November 2003 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1077 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

North Somerset Local Access Forum – Councillor J H Clark Town Council representative

Community Transport – Invitation to appoint a representative to the N&DCT Management Committee in due course.

Audit of 2002/2003 Accounts – External Audit complete and Certificate issued.

Letters of thanks for grants awarded received from Portishead Youth Centre, Victim Support, Multiple Sclerosis Centre, St Peter & St Pauls Church, Gordano Valley Giants.

NSC Standards Committee – Councillor J Dagnall elected second Town and Parish Council representative

The following items were circulated for information –

Portishead Quays Public Art Group – 14.11.03

Portishead Partnership – 10.11.03

NSC Highways Services – October 2003

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

..... Chairman

14th January 2004