

**MINUTES OF THE 157TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY 2006**

PRESENT Councillor Miers – in the Chair

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

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors J S Clark, Gething, Rigby

1336 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Council.

1337 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Johnston

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 06/P/0884/F Former St Joseph's School, West Hill, Portishead – Change of use from D1 school to B1(a).
Reason – Acquainted with current residents
- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 06/P/0906/LB Former St Joseph's School, West Hill, Portishead – Demolition of outbuildings including those previously forming part of the school, reinstatement of west elevation of listed building, hard and soft landscaping and provision for 14 car parking spaces.
Reason – Acquainted with current residents

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 06/P/0779/F Tudor Cottage, Battery Lane, Portishead – Erection of two storey side extension following the demolition of a single storey side extension.
Reason – Acquainted with neighbour

Councillor Mrs Bickley

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 06/P/0996/F 10 Woodhill Road, Portishead – Extend existing first floor WC to form bathroom (Phase 1). Extend small bedroom.
Reason – Acquainted with owner

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

Councillors J H Clark, Johnston, Terry & 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.

1338 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 14th Annual Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 10th May 2006 be confirmed as correct.
- (b) RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 156th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 12th April 2006 be confirmed as correct, subject to the following –

RW671 – amend 2nd paragraph to read –

Councillor Johnston, speaking as the North Somerset Council representative on the Trust, stated that it was hoped that a new siren would be installed in the area in due course; it was not yet clear whether this would be in the vicinity of Weatherly Drive (water-board land) or Down Farm.

1339 REPORT OF MEETING HELD TO CONSIDER THE REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Further to Minute No. 1335 members now received a report from the Joint Strategy and Salaries and Conditions of Service Working Group meeting held on 5th May 2006.

RESOLVED that

1. Staff Changes

- (a) The Council would benefit from additional clerical support (minimum 14 hours per week). This would allow the Town Council office to be open to the public all day Monday to Friday. Other duties of the post to be subject to further detailed discussion. This matter to be referred to the Strategy Working Party for detailed consideration.
- (b) Facilities management could be undertaken by the Assistant Clerk, subject to the provision of additional clerical support in recommendation (a) above.
- (c) The University of Gloucester recommendation that an additional person equivalent to the Assistant Clerk be appointed to help manage projects be kept under review. The Clerk to report back to the Council should a need arise in the future.
- (d) A Deputy Clerk will be appointed. This matter to be referred to the Salaries and Conditions of Service Working Group for detailed consideration.

2. Accommodation and equipment

The provision of office accommodation be looked at in more detail by the Strategy Working Party.

3. **Establishment of Staffing Committee**

The Salaries and Conditions of Service Working Party to continue for the immediate future and come up with a recommendation for the remit of a Staffing Committee. In the meantime, the people on the Salaries and Conditions of Service Working Party to remain as members in the interest of continuity.

4. **Planning**

- (a) The Planning Committee should be serviced by an officer.
- (b) The Strategy Working Party to consider the practicalities of giving both of the Council's Committees delegated powers.
- (c) The University of Gloucester recommendation that the Council draw up its own planning policies and/or design statement to speed up decision-making be deferred pending further work on delegated powers (see b. above). This matter be referred to the Strategy Working Party for detailed consideration.

5. **Finance**

- (a) More detailed financial reporting to commence with effect from April 2007. The Clerk to research appropriate computer software and report back to the council in due course.
- (b) Additional monitoring of financial procedures be deferred for the time being.

6. **Future developments**

- (a) Councillor Walters to initiate discussions with Gordano School.
- (b) The Communication Working Party to consider how other groups of residents can be contacted.
- (c) Informal discussions to establish priorities for the future and the development of a four-year business plan be held after each election and reviewed annually before setting the budget for the following year. This matter be referred to the Strategy Working Party for detailed consideration.

On a point of information, Councillor Walters informed members that Mr Silverthorn, Headteacher at Gordano School, had welcomed his initial approach and a meeting to progress matters would be held shortly.

1340 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2006

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

1341 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bickley presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13th May 2006.

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

06/P/0182/RM BLOCK S, DISTRICT CENTRE, PORT MARINE, PORTISHEAD

Erection of three storey building comprising of ground floor health centre with 22 affordable housing units on the first and second floor levels, parking and landscaping – Amendment dated 5th May

A lengthy discussion ensued on this application. Whilst members generally welcomed the provision of accommodation for a Health Centre on the ground floor, the proposal to provide housing accommodation on the upper floors was not supported. Some members expressed the view that there was no shortage of land for housing and this site must be retained for health provision purposes.

RESOLVED that

This application be REFUSED until such time as health facilities are made available to serve the new community.

06/P/0927/F ASHLANDS, PORTBURY

Variation of Condition 5 of Planning Application No. 00/P/1844/OT2 which restricts construction to no more than 1500 dwellings to enable construction of no more than 1650 dwellings.

Members unanimously supported the Planning Committee's recommendation that this application be REFUSED.

Councillor Terry also reminded members that there was still no agreement on changes to Junction 19 between North Somerset Council, Ove Arup (on behalf of the developers) and the Highways Agency and expressed the view that no further planning applications should be allowed until such time as agreement had been reached. Councillor J H Clark also questioned where the facilities that had been promised in the Ashlands Masterplan Report of July 2000 were, referring in particular to the commercial, social and retail resources that were stated in the Report as being provided at key points within the development.

Other councillors stated their general concerns with the on-going development and its impact on the rest of the community.

RESOLVED that North Somerset Council's Chief Executive and Director of Development and Environment and the Development Director be invited to attend a meeting of the Town Council to discuss the many matters of concern with the development.

INFILL DEVELOPMENTS

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Bickley make a statement on behalf of the Town Council during the North Somerset Council North Area Committee Parish Voice session to be held on 13th July 2006.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 13th May 2006 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1342 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation & Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 26th April 2006.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 26th April 2006 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1343 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Correspondence – Letter thanking the Council for their grant and support received from Nailsea & District Community Transport.

Play Area, Lake Grounds – New type of swing fitted.

Audit of Accounts 2005/2006 – Audit details and timetable received from Mazars.

The following items were circulated for information –

NSC – Briefing Note from Solicitor to Council ref. Code of Conduct – Making Declarations of Interest

dematters – NSC Development & Environment Newsletter – May 2006

Port Marine Public Art Steering Group – 21.3.2006

Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Cttee – 27.3.2006

Portishead Local Action Team – 23.3.2006

NSC Update Information for Councillors – April 2006

CCTV Log – January 2006

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

..... Chairman

7th June 2006