

**187<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PORTISHEAD & NORTH  
WESTON TOWN COUNCIL – 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

**PRESENT** Councillor Barry Walters – in the Chair

Councillors Pasley, Cruse, Mrs Cruse, Howells, Hazleton, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Parker, Stanley, Terry, Walker, Way and Wright\*

Miss Rebecca Key – Clerk to the Council

Mrs Rachel Tranter – Assistant Clerk to the Council.

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Cameron, Terry and McMurray

\*Councillor Wright joined the meeting after 8pm

There were approximately 10 people present for public participation although only 2 requested to speak.

**1610 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR  
ABSENCE**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and provided the apologies for absence, confirming that Councillor Wright would join the meeting later in the evening.

The Chairman introduced Rebecca Key as the new Town Clerk and confirmed that she had started work on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

In addition the Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the Councillors and all others present to Rachel Tranter and to Sharon Sherbourne for filling the gap so well in the absence of a Town Clerk during the period in which the Town Council did not have a clerk.

**1611 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillors Pasley and Mrs Knight 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.

**The following addition declarations of interest were made:**

## Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal interest in Minute No 1618 Planning Application by Fowlers Florist (Planning Application reference 08/P/2077/F) to redevelop the site  
Reason – the site can be seen from her property.

## Councillor Cruse

- Personal interest in Minute No 1618 Planning Application by Fowlers Florist (Planning Application reference 08/P/2077/F) to redevelop the site  
Reason – the site can be seen from his property
- Personal interest in Minute No 1616(Grant)  
Reason – member of the Portishead Lifeboat Trust

## Councillor Mrs Knight

- Personal interest in Minute No1616 (Grants)  
Reason – member of the Community Safety Local Action Team and a member of the Jubilee Day Centre, which uses the Nailsea and District Community Transport Scheme (who have applied for a grant).

## Councillor Pasley

- Personal interest in Minute No 1616  
Reason – Mr Pasley is the Town Council's representative at the Citizens Advice Bureau and is also a member of Community Safety Local Action Team and SPED.

## Councillor Miers

- Personal interest in Minute No 1616  
Reason- member of the committee of Portishead in Bloom Committee

**1612 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr John Clark of 3 Glenwood Rise addressed the Council in relation to the Open Air Pool. He commented in relation to the possible redevelopment of the site and comments made by District Councillor Ap Rees. Mr Clark stated that in order for development to take place in a conservation area it is necessary to demonstrate that such development will enhance and preserve the character of a conservation area. Mr Clark stated that he struggled to find anything that could be done in the way of redevelopment of the pool site that would fulfil the criteria.

He went on to say that Councillor Ap Rees had stated that the site had a value of £600,000. Mr Clark stated that he was sceptical of this value since if the site were to be redeveloped as a restaurant, it would have to be cleared. Mr Clark didn't think that anyone would be prepared to pay £600,000 for the site in those circumstances. Mr Clark suggested that a block of flats might achieve this value.

Mr P Maltby of 22 South Road also addressed the Council in relation to the Open Air Pool. He reminded the Council that the Councillors were voted in to represent local people on local issues. He commented that the Councillors should consider the concerns of the people rather than party politics and brought the Council's attention to the huge ground swell of local opinion in favour of the keeping the pool open.

### **1613 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 186<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Portishead & North Weston Town Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 be confirmed as correct.

Councillor Walters then signed the Minutes of the 186<sup>th</sup> Meeting as Chairman of the Town Council.

### **1614 CLERK'S REPORT**

#### **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONILLIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OCTOBER 2008.**

The Clerk's report was presented to the Council. Councillor Howells queried the payment to Northcliffe Media and Councillor Pasley confirmed that this payment related to the advertisement of the Town Clerk's job in various media. Councillor Pasley confirmed that the advertisement of the post in various media had resulted in 29 applications.

Councillors Howells also asked for details of the payment to North Somerset Council and it was confirmed that this payment related to the digitalisation of existing CCTV equipment. This did not relate to the CCTV equipment at West Hill, which is yet to be paid.

RESOLVED that the Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of October be approved.

### **1615 PORTISHEAD OPEN AIR POOL**

Councillor Mr Pasley gave a verbal update to the meeting. He joined the march on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The march was well attended.

Councillor Mr Pasley has also attended a number of panel meetings in relation to the Open Air Pool. Whilst most of the meetings have taken place in Portishead for ease of access some other meetings have taken place in Weston Super Mare.

The panel was approached by the Community Trust that has been set up with a view to taking over the pool and running it as a community facility. The panel has assisted the Trust in providing information and in particular in obtaining their

District Council Leisure details and details of the accounts and passing them to the Community Trust.

Councillor Pasley also reported that in the last couple of days a major solar energy company had approached that Community Trust, stating that it was prepared to supply solar panels free of charge to the pool. Councillor Pasley commented that this would have a huge impact on the costs of heating the pool, which has previously been advanced as a reason for the pool no longer being feasible. Councillor Mr Pasley commented that this could result in a 65% reduction in the heating costs for the pool.

In addition, an offer of a new pool cover has been made. Again, this should reduce operating costs of the pool.

Councillor Pasley stated that the above developments were an indication that things were moving forward.

A draft report on the open air pool has been put into circulation today.

Finally, Mr Pasley showed the meeting a number of models that pupils of Gordano School had produced in relation to the open air pool. Around 80 pupils had produced presentations, designs and models showing their ideas for the open air pool. A selection of them had been brought to the Council meeting and Councillor Pasley encouraged everyone present to take a look.

RESOLVED that the Town Council would chose the best presentation and runner up and would write a letter of thanks to all those who took part and individual letters to those who produced the best and runner up presentation.

Councillor Mrs Knight commented that she had carried out a straw poll of the elderly members of the community. Whilst none of those she asked used the pool, none of them wanted to lose it.

Councillor Mrs Lord expressed her sadness and disappointment that such ideas as the pool cover and solar panels had not been investigated earlier by District Councillors and North Somerset District Council generally. However, she was pleased that this was now being explored.

Councillor Mr Howells commented that the pool may suffer from a marketing problem and that the management of the pool may have fallen down in this area. Cllr Howells pointed out the possible potential uses of the pool e.g. water polo, scuba diving, restaurant and parties and stated that whilst the facilities may be marvellous, they may not have come of the attention of possible users.

Councillor Mrs Mason also agreed that the pool may not have been well marketed within the wider geographical area and commented that lidos and outdoor pools are now becoming much more popular.

Councillor Walters agreed, commenting that some ex District Councillors carry equal responsibility in such matters.

## **1616 GRANTS WORKING PARTY**

Councillor Mr Walters drew the meeting's attention to the Report of the Grants Working Party. Members received a report from the Grants Working Party detailing the 2008/2009 applications for grants.

Discussions then ensued during which the members received clarification on certain aspects of a number of the applications. A councillor asked for clarification as to why no grant had been made to the MS Therapy Centre. This was because the last grant was not included within the Centre's accounts. The Council expressed the wish that the MS Therapy Centre be informed that if they could show that the last grant had been acknowledged, they be allowed to re-apply.

RESOLVED that

1. The grants detailed on the schedule attached to and forming part of these minutes by APPROVED for payment in the current financial year 2008/2009.
2. In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council approves of the following expenditure which, in their opinion, is in the interest of the area and will benefit the area in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

Children's Hospice South West – grant of £100 towards continuation of care provision.

3. The following be included in the 2009/2010 budget –
  - The sum of £12,098 for the continuation of the Portishead CAB Service (2n Year of the Service Level Agreement)
  - The sum of £10,000 towards the Nailsea and District Community Transport for services provided within Portishead
  - The sum of £750 be awarded to North Somerset Council Ranger Service towards the Family Fun Days which will take place in Summer 2009
  - The sum of £2,000 towards the Portishead Lifeboat Trust (Agreed 2007)
  - The sum of £3,500 (including the cost of garage rent for the storage of the Christmas Lights) for Portishead Christmas Lights
  - The sum of £5,000 for Portishead in Bloom.

The report of the Grants Working Party is attached to a forms part of these minutes.

**1617 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Recreation and Works Committee resulting from the meeting of that committee on 29 October 2008.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations therein be APPROVED subject to the following:

*Add to the end of Item RW806, Recommendation 2 'and requesting details of the anticipated costs savings proposed by the Council'*

The report of the Recreation and Works Committee meeting held on 29 October 2008 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

**1618 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Knight presented the report of the Planning Committee arising from the meeting of that committee on 5 November 2008.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations therein be APPROVED subject to the alteration of the wording of Recommendation 2 in the report relating to the application on The Ashlands, Area 4, Portishead (reference 08/P/2127/RM) be altered to read:

'The plans do not specify the numbers of garages but we note with concern that many of the garages are tandem garages and we know from experience that that are under used.'

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 November 2008 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

**1619 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

An email of thanks has been received from the Portishead Christmas Lights for the second instalment of the grant (£2,000) towards the extension to the Christmas lights in the High Street.

The following have been received and are available in the Town Council office:

Avon Wildlife Trust – Annual Review 2008

Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2008

LCR Journal of the National Association of Councils – November 2008

Streetscene – October 2008

VANS In-Step Newsletter – October 2008.

**1620 STAFF WORKING COMMITTEE –CONFIDENTIAL – EXEMPT ITEM**  
RESOLVED pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s100 of the Local Government Act 1972) the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of except information as defined in Part 1.

RESOLVED that the Council would give Sharon Sherbourne an extra increment in her pay scale back dated to 1 April 2008.

RESOLVED to give Sharon Sherbourne a bonus of an extra 2 weeks pay to be treated as overtime.

RESOLVED to offer to promote Rachel Tranter to Deputy Clerk to JG6 (LC2 26-29) pay scale back dated to 1 April 2008 .

RESOLVED to give Rachel Tranter a bonus of an extra 2 weeks pay to be treated as overtime.

RESOLVED that the Council wishes to express its sincere thanks to Sharon and to Rachel for their hard work and commitment during the period in which the Council did not have a Town Clerk.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Chairman..... Date.....