

**MINUTES OF THE 149<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF  
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD  
ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Lord

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Gething,  
Miss Griffiths, Johnston, Mrs Mason, Miers, J McMurray, Terry,  
Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Fowles, A McMurray, Pasley, Rigby

Before commencing the formal business of the meeting the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Mrs Cruse and wished her a speedy recovery from her recent operation. In reply, Councillor Mrs Cruse thanked the Council for their kind wishes and flowers.

**1268 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Mrs Reyna Knight, a resident of 15 Slade Road and Chairman of the Slade Road and Area Action Group, brought to members attention the difficulties being faced by residents following the installation of the new traffic management system at Cabstand. She expressed the opinion that insufficient thought had been given to the “ripple” effect of new developments on existing areas of the Town and little consideration given to the detrimental impact on the wellbeing of residents. She reminded members that they were elected to represent the people already living in the Town.

Mr Ron Hazelton, a resident of 28 Roath Road and President of Portishead Chamber of Trade, referred to his address to the August meeting of the Council and confirmed that he had been in communication with North Somerset Council who had answered his queries about the lack of an audible signal at the new pedestrian crossings at Cabstand. He understood that the new system, a tactile spinning cone, was acceptable to the visually impaired. He was however still concerned about the pedestrian crossing lights which he considered to be confusing for the elderly and young children.

In addition, Mr Hazelton acknowledged that the new traffic management system at the Cabstand was now more pedestrian friendly but pointed out that the system had numerous shortfalls, queuing traffic being a particular problem. He understood that traffic engineers were monitoring the system and adjustments were being made to the timing of the lights. Fellow Chamber of Trade members had reported that the queues were slowly getting better. He urged residents to give the system chance to settle down.

Standing Orders were resumed.

## **1269 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Johnston

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 05/P/2951/F – 20 High Street, Portishead. Proposed change of use, ground floor only from retail shop (A1) to estate/letting agent (A2) incorporating new glazing to side elevations.  
Reason – Acquainted with owner

### **Declaration by members who serve on both the Town 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 currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

## **1270 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 148<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2005 be confirmed as correct.

## **1271 CABSTAND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The Chairman reminded members that this matter had been referred back to the Town Council from the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005 meeting of the Recreation and Works Committee (Minute No. RW632 refers).

The Chairman introduced Mr Mike Schneider, NSC Highways Team Leader, and invited him to update members on the Cabstand Traffic Management System.

Mr Schneider reminded members that the old traffic management system was inherently unsafe, with a long history of accidents caused by conflicting manoeuvres in the central reservation. Safe pedestrian facilities were virtually non-existent. The new system was intended to make this area of the town more pedestrian friendly. Whilst he acknowledged that many residents had suggested that a roundabout be installed, modelling this option had proved that this would have even more of a detrimental impact on surrounding roads than the current traffic management system ie heavy traffic on the High Street in the morning would cause queues on Cabstand because they would not have right of way and in the evening heavy traffic on Wyndham Way would cause queues in the High Street. There would also be no improvements to pedestrian safety.

Mr Schneider conceded that regrettably the new system had proved to be problematic from the start. North Somerset Council officers, in conjunction with the developers and consultants, were working to improve the operation of the junction and a new computerised control system had recently been installed which allowed the system to recognise queue lengths and operate the lights accordingly. He hoped that residents would soon see the system operating more efficiently and return to using the main

road. Mr Schneider acknowledged that there were still a few matters to be dealt with but he considered that when completed they would bring further benefits to the efficiency of the system. He urged residents to give the system chance to settle down.

In answering questions from Councillors Mr Schneider confirmed that –

- Various physical changes, providing they did not compromise pedestrian safety, could be considered –
  - Left filter from Station Road to Wyndham Way (outside the garage)
  - Straight on filter from High Street (going towards Cabstand/Station Road)
  - Yellow cross-hatched box outside garage
- An additional left filter light would be added to the traffic lights at the Wyndham Way/High Street junction shortly.
- There was currently a technical difficulty with the pedestrian crossing outside Morgan-Westley.
- The pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Cabstand was a single crossing, not a double crossing with pedestrian refuge.
- The design of the new pedestrian crossings was in accordance with latest European legislation.
- He expected many of the problems to be sorted out within the next month.
- A full three-stage safety audit was carried out during the design and installation of the new system.
- Further speed and volume counts were currently being undertaken on Slade Road, St Peters Road, and Ferndale Road.
- Transport operators would be contacted to request that large vehicles use Quays Avenue to reach the Harbour Road industrial area, not Wyndham Way and Cabstand.
- A press release would be issued shortly to inform the public of the improvements that were being made.

In bringing the discussion to a close, Councillors asked Mr Schneider to issue the press release as soon as possible. Councillors also urged residents to give the new computer system chance to settle down and for the other improvements to be made.

The Chairman thanked Mr Schneider for attending the meeting and invited him to report back to the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005 meeting of the Town Council.

## **1272 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2005**

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of August 2005 be APPROVED.

## **1273 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005.

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

**05/P/2051/F MAKIT, 20 HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD**

Proposed change of use, ground floor only from retail shop (A1) to estate/letting agent (A2) incorporating new glazing to side elevations.

Amend recommendation for approval to

The Town Council wish to retain a vibrant High Street and are strongly opposed to the loss of a retail unit. Recommend REFUSAL.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

**1274 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation & Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

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

**RW632 CABSTAND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

RESOLVED that further consideration of the recommendation be deferred until the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005 meeting of the Town Council.

**RW633 BRITISH TELECOM CONSULTATION**

Amend recommendation to read –

RESOLVED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council have no objection to British Telecom's proposal to remove the payphone box in the High Street (outside the Royal Mail office) but formally object to the proposal to convert the payphones at North Weston and Lake Grounds to cashless payment facilities.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

**1275 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

Correspondence – Letters thanking the Council for grants awarded received from Cludo Club and Gordano Society.

Bristol Water – Works to re-route water main expected to commence in October.

Fruit trees on grass verge on Wyndham Way to be relocated to a site in the vicinity of The Vale. Wildflower meadow to be reinstated.

Dates of events – Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forum 13.9.2005,  
Portishead Rotary Race & Fun Run 11.9.2005, SW Civic Society Conference  
29.10.05.

The following items were circulated for information –

North Somerset Primary Care Trust – Response from Katie Norton ref. registration  
figures for Portishead, Harbourside and Pill surgeries (Minute No. 1262 refers).  
Redcliffe Bay Hall Man.Cttee – 25.7.2005  
Nailsea Community Transport – AGM 21.6.2005 and Meeting 2.8.2005

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

..... Chairman

12<sup>th</sup> October 2005