

**189th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PORTISHEAD & NORTH
WESTON TOWN COUNCIL – 14 JANUARY 2009**

PRESENT	Councillor Barry Walters – in the Chair Councillors Mrs Lord, Miers, Mrs Way, Cruse, McMurray, Cameron, Pasley, Mrs Knight, Mrs Stanley, Terry, Mrs Cruse, Mrs Mason Mrs Rebecca Key
APOLOGIES	Councillors Hazelton and Wright

There were approximately 10 people present for public participation and 5 spoke.

1633 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received as listed above.

1632 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr R Whitfield introduced himself to the meeting as the Head of the Community Trust which had been set up in order to run the Open Air Pool. Mr Whitfield stated that he felt it was extremely important to get the backing of the Town Council in order to assist the Open Air Pool and hoped that the Town Council would pass a resolution to give a declaration of support to the Open Air Pool Trust. He felt that this was extremely important in order to demonstrate to North Somerset Council that the Town Council and the Community was supportive of the project.

Mr Whitfield also expressed his hope that members of the Town Council would be represented on the Open Air Pool committee and that the whole community would be involved.

Councillor Howells announced that there would be an opening ceremony for the refurbished Avon Way Hall. The ceremony is to take place on Saturday 17th January 2009 at 12 noon. Members of the public are requested to come along for 11.30am. The ribbon will be cut by Councillor Walters.

Mrs Stockham then took the floor. She explained that she was appalled by Councillor Cameron's letter in relation to the Open Air Pool in the local press recently. She felt that the Open Air Pool was invaluable and allowed children to enjoy themselves in a healthy and happy environment. She also stated that she felt that North Somerset Council was cashing in on the pool and pointed out that the proceeds of sale of the site could only be spent once whereas if the site remained operational as an open air pool it would continue to be used for generations to come. Mrs Stockham did not agree with Councillor Cameron's comment that the pool was haemorrhaging money and would not do so if properly run.

Mr Smith then asked to speak and his request was granted. He stated that he upheld Councillor Cameron's democratic right to state his views and that Councillor Cameron had made his views clear in his manifesto (on which he was voted into office).

Mr Maltby then echoed Mr Smith's comments . However, he also stated that Councillors are elected to represent the people who voted them in. He felt that this was not done.

1633 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors Pasley, McMurray 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 additional declarations of interest were made:

Councillor Mrs Knight

- Personal interest in Minute No 1639 Planning Application in relation to Jubilee Hall, 49 Slade Road, Portishead (Planning Application reference 08/P/2600/F)
Reason – Chairman of the Jubilee Day Care Centre

1634 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 188th Ordinary Meeting of the Portishead & North Weston Town Council were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the 188th Ordinary Meeting of the Portishead & North Weston Town Council held on 10th December 2008 are confirmed as correct.

Councillor Walters then signed the Minutes of the 188th Meeting as Chairman of the Town Council.

1635 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH DECEMBER 2008

The Clerks' report was presented to the Council. Councillors queried a number of items in relation to the statement but were satisfied by the responses.

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation Cash Statement for the month December 2008 be approved.

The report referred to is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1636 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME 2009 – GUIDE TO PROACTIVELY PUBLISHED INFORMATION.

The clerks' report was presented to the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Portishead and North Weston Town Council adopt the Guide to Proactively Published Information attached to the clerk's report.
2. That the Portishead and North Weston Town Council publish the Guide to Proactively Published Information on its website and that hardcopies are placed in the following locations: the Folk Hall and the Town Library
3. That the Portishead and North Weston Town Council regularly review the Guide to Proactively Published Information in order to ensure the document is up to date.

The report referred to is attached to a forms part of these minutes.

1637 OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

Various Councillors spoke in relation to the Open Air Pool and the efforts of the Community Trust to take over management and running of the Open Air Pool. Discussions ensued with following points being made:

- Councillor Cameron stated that he was speaking for the taxpayers and that he had made his views and proposals clear in his manifesto. He was concerned about the fact that taxpayers pockets were being increasingly squeezed and that the taxpayer's pockets were not an infinite resource. In general Councillor Cameron felt that subsidies were an unattractive idea.
- The weather has had a significant effect on the success in the past couple of years at the Pool.
- Increasingly central government is taking control of local authority spending and is removing discretion from local authorities in relation to spending decisions. North Somerset Council is therefore under a duty to carefully consider all expenditure.
- Whatever happens to the Pool, it will take a long time and a lot of effort in order to bring the Pool back to full use.
- All Councillors agreed that attracting additional people through advertising and marketing was critical.

- Finally, Councillors wished the Pool Trust well in their efforts

RESOLVED:

That Portishead and North Weston Town Council considers that the Portishead Open Air Pool is a facility that for the last 40 years has been enjoyed by, and has improved the quality of life of, many residents in our Town.

The Council therefore supports the endeavors of local people to ensure that the pool remains available by running it as a Trust or similar not for profit organization. To this end it has contributed a one-off grant of £1,000 to assist in the legal costs of setting up a suitable organization to operate the pool facilities.

1638**BUDGET**

Members received the report of the Budget Working Party meeting held on 8 January 2009 which detailed a recommended draft budget and a precept requirement for 2009/2010 of £304,348 giving a charge of £35.16 per annum per Band D property. This included, in addition to the Baseline Budget, funding for Improvements to Notice Boards, Improvements to Bus Shelters, Benches etc, Minor Improvements to Halls.

Baseline Budget

RESOLVED that the Baseline Budget be approved in the sum of £317,848.

Debate ensued in relation to the budget and the discretionary items.

Youth Recreational Incentive

RESOLVED that any unspent balance remaining in the 2008/2009 Youth Recreational Incentive budget be transferred to an ear-marked reserve.

Improvements to Notice Boards

RESOLVED that the sum of £2,000 be included in the budget to enable improvements to Notice Boards.

Improvements to Bus Shelters, Benches etc

RESOLVED that the sum of £6,000 be included in the budget to enable improvements to Bus Shelters, Benches etc.

Minor Improvements to Halls

RESOLVED that the sum of £5,000 be included in the budget to enable minor improvements to halls.

It was therefore RESOLVED that:

1. The budget as detailed on the report attached to and forming party of these minutes be APPROVED
2. A precept for 2009/2010 be issued in the sum of £304,348 giving a charge of approximately £35.16 per annum per Band D property.
3. A review of the reserves held by Portishead and North Weston Town Council be carried out in the financial year 2009/2010.

1639 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Knight presented the report of the Planning Committee arising from the meeting of that committee on 3 December 2008.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations therein be APPROVED.

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3 December 2008 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

1640 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

- Letter dated 20 December 2008 from Andrew Horler of Weston Super Mare Town Council inviting members of the public to view the planning applications for the replacement Pier at Weston Super Mare.
- Letter dated 29 December 2008 from Phil Hall, Director of Finance and Resources, North Somerset Council, requesting contributions to the development of North Somerset Council's budget for the next 3 financial years.
- Consultation Paper: Communities in Control: Real people, real power: Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. Available to read in the Town Council Offices.
- Copy of Streetscene from North Somerset Council December 2008 – January 2009.
- The new website for Portishead and North Weston Town Council is now up and running. The website address is the same as the old one: www.portishead.gov.uk. Please do take a look at the website and let us have any comments or additional information that you would like to add.

1641 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW AND STAFF WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS – CONFIDENTIAL – EXEMPT ITEMS.

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 items of business

on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of except information as defined in Part 1.

1642 REPORT OF THE BANKING WORKING PARTY ON BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The confidential report of the banking working party was presented to the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the current banking arrangements remain with NatWest Plc, subject to NatWest Plc continuing to offer the terms set out in the matrix already produced to the meeting.
2. That banking reviews take place at least once every 12 months in order to ensure that competitive terms and conditions are offered.
3. That if NatWest Plc alter the terms then a further banking review is undertaken.
4. The deposit with NSC shall remain on the same terms and should be reviewed by the RFO every 12 months.

1643 APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Council consult with a recruitment agency in relation to the appointment of a new clerk and responsible financial officer
2. That the Clerk approach Abatec Limited to request their assistance in the recruitment of a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.
3. That the sum of £7,500 be allocated to the costs of recruitment for a new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

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

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