

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2002

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Bickley – in the Chair

Councillors J S Clark, Mrs Cole, J Johnston, M Johnston, Mrs Mason, Palmer, Pasley, Pickering, Terry

APOLOGIES Councillors Mrs Cruse, Whitfield

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the committee to receive a presentation from Mrs Heather Moldram, District Neighbourhood Watch Manager.

Mrs Moldram explained that the former part-time post of Neighbourhood Watch District Co-ordinator had now been expanded to that of a full-time District Neighbourhood Watch Manager. The post, which was based at Weston-super-Mare Police Station, was funded by the Police, North Somerset Council and contributions from Town and Parish Councils. A small grant had also been given from SRB6 funding.

Mrs Moldram gave members a detailed explanation of her role and outlined the initiatives that had been undertaken during the year, including –

- Training for Community Beat Managers and Watch Co-ordinators
- “Health Check” for Neighbourhood Watch Groups
- Co-editing and issuing Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter
- Organising a Drug Action Workshop jointly with Drug Action Team
- Property marking campaign

It was hoped to expand on these initiatives during the coming year and to investigate the introduction of the DataLink project (safe storage of medical and contact details for easy reference in an emergency) for elderly and medically infirm residents. A number of seminars were also planned.

In answering questions from councillors Mrs Moldram confirmed that Portishead was under the district average with only approximately ¼ of the population being covered by Neighbourhood Watch schemes. It was hoped to address this by media campaigns and promotions jointly with the Police.

Some councillors expressed the view that the Police should fund the post.

Councillor Mrs Bickley thanked Mrs Moldram for her interesting presentation.

Standing Orders were resumed.

RW453 NORTH SOMERSET NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Further to Minute No. RW450 members now considered the request for funding towards the post of District Neighbourhood Watch Manager.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £525, being £0.03 per head of population, be made to the North Somerset Neighbourhood Watch Association towards the employment of the full time District Neighbourhood Watch Manager for the year 2002/2003.

RW454 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

(a) Portishead Community Vehicle Trust

The Committee received a letter from the Chairman of the Portishead Community Vehicle Trust explaining in detail the financial difficulties being faced by the Trust. The Clerk also reported on her discussions with the Chairman of the Trust and confirmed that it had been necessary for the Trust to use their reserve funds to pay the vehicle insurance premium which had almost doubled in the previous twelve months.

The Clerk further confirmed that the Trust were encountering administrative difficulties following the sad death of Mrs Macdonald but the Trustees had pledged to continue the Trust for the immediate future. They were meeting again in four to five months time when it was hoped the situation would be clearer.

RECOMMENDED that the Portishead Community Vehicle Trust be awarded a grant of £1,500 to support their immediate financial needs.

(b) Nailsea & District Community Transport

The Committee were reminded that this item had been referred back to the Committee by the 6th February meeting of the Town Council.

Members again discussed this application in detail, with comparisons being made in particular with the Portishead Community Vehicle Trust (RW453a refers).

RECOMMENDED that Nailsea & District Community Transport be awarded a grant of £200.

(c) Portishead Cricket Club – 150th Anniversary Celebrations

After detailed consideration of the application it was RECOMMENDED that

The Cricket Club be informed that the Council are minded to provide financial support towards the provision of Commemorative Cricket Shirts for the Junior Members, subject to the receipt of additional information (numbers, cost of shirts etc.)

RW455 PUBLIC SEATS

The Committee received a request from the Golden Jubilee Committee for a commemorative seat to be erected at Hillside Road, Redcliffe Bay, in the vicinity of a seat previously erected by the former North Weston Parish Council to commemorate the Queens Silver Jubilee.

RECOMMENDED that a public seat, to include a suitably worded plaque, be erected at Hillside Road, Portishead in commemoration of the Queens Golden Jubilee, to be funded from the 2002/2003 street furniture budget.

The Committee further welcomed the offer of memorial seats to be erected on the coastal footpath and the Lake Grounds.

RW456 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – ‘SOURCE’ AT THE CORE OF NORTH SOMERSET COMMUNITY – A NEW COMMUNITY DATABASE FOR NORTH SOMERSET

The Committee received details of a new, joint North Somerset Community Group Forum, North Somerset Council and 107.7WFM Radio, initiative which would bring together on one website all current sources of information on local community groups.

The aim of the project, to be named ‘Source’, was –

- To provide, for public use, a new easy to access web-based directory of local community groups and their activities with links to NSC services.
- To ensure information is current and quality is maintained.
- To enable North Somerset Council and Town and Parish Councils to communicate and consult effectively with local groups.
- To enable local groups to promote their activities, attract new members, communicate with each other and encourage a sense of community.

The Committee noted that it was hoped that Town and Parish Councils would contribute to the set-up costs of the project and to make an annual contribution towards the on-going running costs. Contributions would be on a pro-rata basis with Portishead’s share for 2002/2003 being £1,250 and £2,000 respectively.

A lengthy discussion ensued with members questioning in particular the need for the database and the excessive costings submitted. Members also considered that a more detailed business plan should have been provided, along with more information about the framework and architecture of the database.

RECOMMENDED that North Somerset Council be informed that the Town Council do not consider there is a need for the database as there are many other sources of similar information. Furthermore, we are unable to justify the excessive costs submitted and consider that a detailed business plan should have been provided, along with more information about the framework and architecture of the database.

RW457 NORTH WESTON ALLOTMENTS

The Committee received a report from the Clerk updating members on recent meetings with allotment holders and proposing that an informal North Weston allotment association be re-established from 1st April 2002. Documents detailing the Draft Constitution and Site Rules were circulated, with members noting in particular that the ownership and all legal responsibility for the site, including public liability insurance, would remain with the Town Council. The Clerk also confirmed that the Town Council would be required to establish an Allotment Committee, consisting of 2 elected members and 5 allotment holders. The timetable for implementation of the new arrangements was noted.

RECOMMENDED that

1. North Weston Allotment Committee be established, following the proposed AGM of allotment holders on 21st May 2002.
2. The remit of the Committee to be in accordance with the Draft Constitution attached to and forming part of these minutes.
3. The Draft Tenancy Agreement (incorporating the Site Rules), attached to and forming part of these minutes, be approved.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm