

## **RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2002**

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillor Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, M Johnston, Mrs Mason, Palmer,  
Pickering, Walters, Whitfield

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillor J Johnston

#### **RW484 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW489  
Reason – Member of Portishead Partnership

Councillor M Johnston

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW490  
Reason – Chairman of North Weston Village Hall Management Committee

Councillor Pickering

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW489  
Reason – Member of Portishead Partnership

Councillor Walters

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW489  
Reason – Member of Portishead Partnership

#### **RW485 PORTISHEAD TOWN BAND**

Councillor Mrs Cruse introduced Mr Dave Hollister, Portishead Town Band Musical Director, to the Committee.

Mr Hollister informed members that he had asked to address the Committee for two reasons. Firstly, he wished to give members an overview of the Band's recent successful lottery application and secondly, to discuss the Band's proposal that a bandstand be built at the Lake Grounds.

Mr Hollister outlined the activities and aims of the Band and the way these would be expanded and developed following their lottery grant of £37,500. As well as being able to provide new instruments and expanding the bands repertoire it was also intended to raise the Band's profile and widen their civic and community role.

Mr Hollister went on to explain that that the Band currently played during the summer months on sea front bandstands in Minehead, Weston and Clevedon and in Castle Park in Bristol and would welcome the opportunity to be able to do the same in their home town. He considered that a bandstand at the Lake Grounds would further enhance the area and provide a focal point for other outdoor entertainment. Preliminary discussions with North Somerset Council's Recreation Manager and Sea Front Manager had been encouraging and he hoped that the Town Council would also support the Band in this venture.

During the ensuing discussion members expressed their general support for the idea of a bandstand on the Lake Grounds but commented that a number of factors would need careful consideration – including possible anti-social behaviour, logistical arrangements and location.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support the venture and encourage the Town Band to continue their investigations and discussions with North Somerset Council.

The Clerk was also asked to bring this matter to the attention of the Portishead Partnership.

#### **RW486 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

- (a) North Somerset Mencap Playscheme for the Under 8's – 2003 Summer Play Scheme

RECOMMENDED that North Somerset Mencap Playscheme for the Under 8's be awarded a grant of £200 towards the 2003 Summer Playscheme.

- (b) North Somerset Mencap Playscheme for 8-18 yr olds – 2003 Summer Playscheme

RECOMMENDED that North Somerset Mencap Playscheme for 8-18 yr olds be awarded a grant of £300 towards the 2003 Summer Playscheme

- (c) Gordano Valley Church – Cludo/Challengers Summer Holiday Club 2003

RECOMMENDED that Gordano Valley Church be awarded a grant of £500 towards the Cludo/Challengers Summer Holiday Club 2003, the grant to be used specifically towards the coach trip to Ashton Court. The Council would also ask the Gordano Valley Church to consider asking parents of children wishing to go on the coach trip to make a donation towards the costs.

**RW487**

**LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACT REVIEW**

The Committee were informed that North Somerset Council were currently reviewing the service number X58 as part of the annual review of supported bus services whose contracts were due to expire in March 2003.

Members noted that the service, which operated between Clevedon and Bristol via Portishead, only operated on Monday to Fridays at peak hours (one to Bristol in the morning, two back to Clevedon in the evening). Members further noted that the Transport Policy Officer had reported that the X58 was a very well used service.

During the ensuing discussion members expressed their general support for the retention of the service but questioned why a well used service required a local authority subsidy. Members also considered that the service should be improved and extended to cover different times of the day.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council support the retention of the present service but question why such a well used service requires a local authority subsidy. The Council also consider that the subsidy could be better applied to enable the service to be extended to cover different times of the day.

**RW488**

**PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE A BADGE OF OFFICE FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S CONSORT**

Councillor Pickering informed the Committee that it had been brought to his notice that some neighbouring towns gave status to their Chairman's Consort by providing a badge of office. The badge also helped the Consort to be recognised when attending functions as a representative of the Town. He suggested that the Town Council should also provide a suitable badge of office.

The Clerk reported that the Town Council's supplier of Civic Regalia had indicated that a badge similar to that of the Vice-Chairman would cost in the region of £500.

Whilst some members generally supported Councillor Pickering's proposal, it was considered that a cost of £500 was excessive.

RECOMMENDED that

1. In principle, the Town Council agree to consider providing a suitable badge of office for the Chairman's Consort.
2. The Clerk investigate alternative suppliers with a view to obtaining a more modest cost.

**RW489**

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL/PORTISHEAD PARTNERSHIP –  
PROVISION OF TOURIST SIGNS**

The Committee were informed that North Somerset Council, in conjunction with Portishead Partnership, had carried out a review of tourist signs within Portishead. The review had concluded that certain tourist signs required upgrading and new signs should be introduced. Members noted that the review included the signs for Nore Road/Down Road junction previously requested by the Town Council (Minute No. RW476 refers).

Members were given full details of the proposals and were also asked to consider making a financial contribution towards the project.

A number of amendments to North Somerset Council's proposals were suggested. A full schedule of the recommended proposals is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Town Council support the upgrading of certain existing tourist signs and the installation of new signs as detailed on the attached schedule.
2. In principle, the Town Council are minded to provide some financial support for the project and North Somerset Council are asked to report back to the Town Council when funding from other sources has been obtained.

Councillor Walters voted against this recommendation and asked that this be recorded.

**RW490**

**NORTH WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

Councillor M Johnston, as Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, informed the Committee that North Weston Village Hall required extensive refurbishment work to the toilet and kitchen facilities and the installation of a disabled toilet. He provided members with a preliminary sketch drawing showing how new facilities could be incorporated at a budget costing of £5,000. Members were concerned however that the proposals only envisaged one joint unisex/disabled toilet.

A number of questions arose during the ensuing discussion, particularly regarding the number of toilets that would be required to comply with both building regulations and the public entertainment licence. The Clerk also reminded members that the Disability Discrimination Act required all service providers to make physical adjustments to their premises by October 2004. Serious consideration therefore needed to be given to the provision of disabled facilities as it would be unlawful to treat a disabled person less favourably.

Members also considered that perhaps it would be better to consider the complete replacement of the Hall, rather than to make ad-hoc alterations.

RECOMMENDED that

1. To enable the Council to consider the matter further, Councillor M Johnston obtain further information, particularly with regard to the toilets facilities required to comply with building regulations and the public entertainment licence.
2. Due to the level of expenditure that would be required to carry out the necessary improvements, the Town Council may wish to consider replacing the Hall as a more appropriate way to proceed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm