

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 22ND AUGUST 2007

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Pasley, Mrs Way, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council
Mr T Moore, NSC Parks Technical Officer, - in attendance for Minute No. RW746 only

APOLOGIES Councillor McMurray

RW745 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW746 – Proposed Upgrade of Lake Grounds Play Area
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

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

Councillor Pasley stated that any views he expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts known. He would be exercising his rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

RW746 PROPOSED UPGRADE OF LAKE GROUNDS PLAY AREA

The Chairman introduced Mr Tony Moore, NSC Parks Technical Officer, and invited him to update the Committee on the proposed upgrade of the Lake Grounds Play Area (Minute No. 1397/RW703 refers).

Mr Moore outlined the history of the project and confirmed that the Phase 1 facilitating works had now been completed. This comprised improving the drainage, extending the fencing to create a larger play area, increasing the number of access points into the play area and the number of pathways through it and refurbishing the pathway between the play area and the lake. Later in the year NSC would be in a position to proceed with Phase 2 of the work, improving the play area for toddlers and young children (up to age 6) on the lower part of the area, which the Town Council had allocated funding towards. Mr Moore indicated that he anticipated this would include replacing existing swings, relocating the ring roundabout, installing a new climbing frame, springies and smaller items around the perimeter, all with a nautical theme. New safety surfacing would also be required.

Mr Moore confirmed that a grant application for funding towards equipment for older children (7-11 year olds), to be sited in the upper area, had been submitted to Yansec.

Mr Moore also informed members that the play industry in general were encouraging a more natural feel to play areas and he hoped to be able to utilise this concept into the Lake Grounds play area by introducing boulders, additional planting, timber seating and picnic tables. This would also enable additional play features to be provided ie chess boards incorporated into the picnic tables, an area for petanque and bank slides.

Further items discussed and comments made –

- The committee did not support the provision of a sand-pit or zip-wire.
- A majority of the committee liked the idea of a space-net
- It was stressed that any contribution made by the Town Council is to be allocated towards the provision of new equipment and not used for relocating or refurbishing existing equipment, including the safety surface (Minute No. 1397/RW703) refers.
- Mr Moore acknowledged that there were still some minor issues to be addressed following the Phase 1 works.
- With regard to the Lake itself, Mr Moore was reminded that volunteers had come forward to assist with the operation of the sluice gate. Mr Moore acknowledged this and also stated that a diverter valve was to be installed which would divert water away from the Lake and onto the beach when necessary.
- Questions were raised about the S106 funding that had been allocated towards the improvement and enhancement of the Lake Grounds.

In bringing the discussion to a close the Chairman thanked Mr Moore for attending the meeting and for arranging for the work to be carried out on the drainage. Members also expressed their appreciation to Mr Moore for ensuring the sluice gate was operated correctly.

RECOMMENDED that

1. Mr Moore be asked to provide a costed schedule of equipment that could be provided from the money available.
2. Mr Edser, Streets and Open Spaces Group Manager, be asked to clarify –
 - (a) the amount of S106 funding available for the Lake Grounds improvement and enhancement;
 - (b) what can be achieved;
 - (c) timescale for carrying out the work.
3. Mr Edser to be invited to discuss this and other Lake Grounds issues with members at the October meeting of the Committee.

RW747

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT – PORTISHEAD TOWN BAND

Further to Minute No. RW735 the committee now reconsidered the application for a grant from Portishead Town Band following the receipt of detailed accounts.

The committee generally supported this application and commended them in particular on the work they carried out with young people.

RECOMMENDED that Portishead Town Band be awarded a grant of £600 in appreciation of the work they carry out with young people.

RW748

LOCAL BUS SERVICES

(a) Extension of Bus Service X25

Further to Minute No. RW736 the committee now received a response from North Somerset Council's Transport Policy Officer to the Town Council's request for the X25 2040 service to be extended to serve the Mall.

The committee noted that the service would cost approximately £10,000 for 2 days a week and that the Transport Policy Officer had agreed to include the proposal in the next review of supported services.

RECOMMENDED that

The response be acknowledged and the Transport Policy Officer be encouraged to support the extension of the service.

(b) 2008 Review of Supported Services

The Committee were informed that North Somerset Council were currently carrying out a review of supported bus services whose contracts were due to expire in March 2008. The review included Service Nos. 660 Portishead to Congresbury, X25 Portishead to Cribbs Causeway (early morning journey Mon-Fri), X58 Clevedon to Bristol (peak hour journey Mon-Fri), 692 Portishead Town Service and 695 Portishead to Bristol (limited stop).

The Committee expressed their disappointment at the level of information that had been supplied by North Somerset Council and

RESOLVED to defer consideration of this matter until the next meeting of the Committee to enable additional information in respect of costs, passenger numbers and service reliability to be obtained. The Transport Policy Officer to also be invited to the meeting.

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