

**MEETING OF PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE
22 JULY 2009 7.30PM**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Parker, Pasley, Walters,

Mr M Dolton - Town Clerk

Mr J Mullard (Guest - Severn Estuary Partnership – Item 5 only)

APOLOGIES Councillors Mrs Stanley, McMurray, Mrs Way

Clerk's Note: The Chairman amended the order of business from the circulated agenda due to the late arrival of the guest speaker Mr Mullard)

RW 860 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Pasley 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.

Councillors Mrs Mason and Hazelton

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW865 (Honours Board)
Reason – individual suggestion / previous involvement

Councillors Mrs Cruse and Hazelton

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW866 (Youth Centre)
Reason – Town Council representatives on the Youth Club management committee.

RW 861 PROPERTY – LEGAL MATTERS

The Committee received the written report of the Clerk.

The Chairman then updated members on a meeting that had been held between Mr Jonathan Wilson of Wards Solicitors, the Clerk, and herself on 15 July 2009.

- (i) Registration Of Land / Property

Due to the length of the lease of the Merlin Park skateboard facility there was a need to register the lease at the Land Registry. There had

also been previous agreement and resolution by the Town Council (RW 830) that other land and property owned by the Council (The Folk Hall, North Weston Village Hall, Underwood Road Play area, Portishead Football Club land and Mead Road Play area) should be registered with the Land Registry.

Mr Wilson would now be finalising this process of registration.

(ii) Trinity Community Hall Lease

Further to the report to members at the last meeting of the Recreation & Works Committee (24 June 2009), the Clerk had now received comments from all members of the Working Party on the latest 'Heads of Terms' document. This document was also discussed with the solicitor Mr Wilson at the 15 July meeting.

There are a number of issues to be agreed and finalised on the Heads of Terms document, and Mr Wilson will assist the Clerk in this process.

There remained a number of building 'snagging' issues to be cleared and finalised, particularly the status of the floor and under-floor heating.

The Clerk asked members to consider that to ensure diligent and appropriate progress in this matter, Mr Wilson now be instructed to progress the lease to completion.

Councillor Walters suggested an addition to the recommendations in the report, authorising the Clerk to engage the services of an appropriately qualified building surveyor to advise on the condition of the building prior to the lease being signed.

RECOMMENDED that

- (a) Portishead and North Weston Town Council resolve to note the report of the Clerk in respect of action taken to ensure the registering of the Council's lease of the Merlin Park skateboard facility and other Council property and land with the Land Registry.
- (b) Portishead and North Weston Town Council resolve that the Clerk be authorised to engage an appropriately qualified building surveyor to advise on the Trinity Hall and possible building 'snags' prior to the signing of the legal documentation, the cost not to exceed £2,500, being 1% of the building cost, without further reference to the Council.
- (c) Portishead and North Weston Town Council resolve that, subject to amendment to, and finalisation of, the Trinity Community Hall Heads Of Terms document, Wards Solicitors of Bristol now be instructed to proceed with the lease of the Hall to completion. The Clerk to report to members at a future Recreation and Works Committee on the condition of the Hall (from the professional report obtained at (b) above) and lease terms when the lease is ready for signature and prior to funds being transferred to the

landlord. At that point the lease is to be available for all members to inspect, but need not be circulated in full.

RW 862 TOWN COUNCIL OPEN DAY

Councillor Pasley reminded members that the Town Council open day had been arranged for Saturday 31 October 2009, at The Somerset Hall, with the public visiting between 10am and 12 midday.

Publicity and further arrangements will be finalised nearer the event.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the date of 31 October 2009 as now arranged for the Town Council Open day.

At this point Mr Jonathan Mullard arrived at the meeting, and was invited to speak to members about the following item.

RW 863 SEVERN ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

Mr Mullard gave a verbal summary to members as the manager of the Severn Estuary Partnership. He explained that he had been appointed in February this year, and he was now formulating a new business and strategic plan to take the organisation forward.

He explained the partnership is not a statutory body, with a main goal of sustainable management of the estuary. Their core funding is provided by the various principal local authorities bordering the estuary together with a number of statutory bodies. A core role in achieving their goal is to ensure good communication between all interested parties, as 'partners', and Mr Mullard wishes to have a much higher level of direct community representation through Parish and Town Councils.

Members discussed various aspects and issues with Mr Mullard, including the need for good data and information to be disseminated on development (accepting the Partnership remained neutral on development proposals), the need to be realistic about the practicalities of trying to involve so many organisations and bodies in the scheme, and the need for the Partnership to recognise the high leisure use of the estuary by residents of and visitors to Portishead.

Mr Mullard invited members to consider the proposal that the Town Council became a member of the Partnership, giving an approximate cost of £40.00p per annum, and distributed brochure information relating to a forum taking place in Gloucester Guildhall on the 11 September 2009.

Mr Mullard left the meeting.

Members discussed the presentation by Mr Mullard, and then

RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk communicate with Mr Mullard and establish the exact cost of membership, and then report further to the Recreation and Works Committee in order that a recommendation relating to membership of the Partnership could then be considered based on a cost benefit analysis.

RW 864 DOG BINS IN PORTISHEAD

The committee received the written report of the Clerk which detailed costs of purchase, installation and emptying.

Further discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting of this committee in order to provide an opportunity for members to consider the number, if any, of dog bins that they would wish to be provided within their ward areas.

RECOMMENDED that.

Members consider what provision of dog bins by the Portishead and North Weston Town Council they would seek within their Ward, and report to the next meeting of the Recreation and Works Committee.

RW 865 HONOURS BOARD

Councillor Hazelton informed members that at a recent meeting of the Heritage Group, it was agreed that a suggestion be put forward for the provision of an Honours Board to display the past Chairmen of this Council.

Councillor Mrs Mason stated that she had proposed to provide such a board during her year as Chairman, however the implementation had not been finalised due to staffing issues. She felt it appropriate that such a provision could have been funded in whole or part from her Chairman's allowance.

The Clerk informed members that initial enquiries had shown that such provision would cost in the region of £300 - £400 per board, and without yet having planned any detail, it was likely that two boards would be required if members wished to display the historic Chairmen detail from the formation of the Council in 1974.

Discussion took place during which it was agreed that such a board / boards should be provided and the detail should commence at 1974.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council resolve to provide an honours board (s) to the wall in the main area of The Folk Hall to display all Chairmen of the Council since 1974. The Clerk to arrange such provision in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of

the Council and complying with the Council's Financial Regulations in relation to quotations, to a spend limit of £750.00p.

RW 866 YOUTH CENTRE

A letter dated 3 July 2009 written to Councillor Mrs Cruse from Mr Phil Hall, Director of Finance and Resources, North Somerset Council, had been circulated to members.

The letter outlined the current stance of North Somerset Council in relation to the funding and future progress of the Youth Centre development project. Detail was provided in the letter in relation to the sources of funding that North Somerset would be able to draw upon, and suggested further meetings with the Management Committee of the Youth Centre. The letter also stated that whilst North Somerset were willing to be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the development, once that project is completed they wish to relinquish the legal interest in the operation of the Youth Centre to either the Management Committee or the Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Cruse reminded members of the background to the project, with £100,000 remaining within the earmarked reserves of this Council to assist with funding. Since the unsuccessful bid to obtain funding from the 'My Place' finance incentive in 2008/2009, the scope and nature of the project was being reviewed.

Councillor Mrs Cruse informed members that the Management Committee had requested meetings with appropriate officers and members of North Somerset to take place in August and September.

Councillor Hazelton was ascertaining the accurate costs of the operation of the Youth Centre over a historic period.

Members discussed the issues raised by the information provided and the view was expressed by some that North Somerset Council still had a statutory duty to provide youth services and they appeared to be attempting to renege on that duty. Further general discussion ensued which included considerations of the nature of the proposed development provision and the accessibility to certain groups within the relevant age span.

It was agreed that this item would be considered further at the next meeting of the Recreation and Works Committee.

RECOMMENDED that

Members of the Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the current status of the Youth Centre Development Project, and further updates be provided to the Council via the Recreation and Works Committee as further information becomes available.

RW 867 PLAY BUILDER PROJECT

Members received the written report of the Clerk.

North Somerset Council have a 'Play Builder' project board, which includes Councillor Mrs Knight. The Play-builder project fund is for 22 refurbished or new play areas across North Somerset.

These have to be led by Children, Young People and Community consultation. They are to enable the local communities to take ownership of the sites and to encourage the use of natural play where ever possible. Merlin Park Portishead has been identified as a 'Year 1' (2009 / 2010) site, owned by North Somerset Council, and maintenance costs will be borne by them.

The project manager will wish, as the project detail develops, to consult with this Council on various issues in relation to the proposed provision at Merlin Park.

RECOMMENDED that

Members of Portishead & North Weston Town Council note the report, and that the clerk continue to liaise with the play-builder project team, updating members as appropriate.

RW 868 CULTURAL EVENTS AT THE LAKE GROUNDS

Councillor Pasley informed members that the letters the Council had resolved to send to North Somerset Council in relation to this matter had now been sent by the Clerk and to date no response had been received.

There were no new matters to bring before members at this time.

RECOMMENDED that

Members of the Portishead and North Weston Town Council note that the letters as resolved (RW 854) had now been sent. Members will be updated when any further developments are worthy of attention.

RW 869 UNDERWOOD ROAD PLAY AREA – HEDGE CUTTING

This item was deferred from the previous meeting of this committee. The majority of members present had not had the opportunity to visit the site to form an opinion for their decision making.

It was agreed that the decision on this item be further deferred to the next meeting, and that the meeting of this committee to be held on Wednesday 26 August 2009 be initially convened at 7.00pm at the Underwood Road Play Area.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council defer decision of the cutting of the hedge at Underwood Road Play Area until members had visited the site to view the hedge which borders the adjoining field at the rear of the houses. The next meeting of the recreation and Works Committee to be held on Wednesday 26 August 2009 to be initially convened at 7.00pm at the Underwood Road Play Area.

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