

**MEETING OF PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE  
24 JUNE 2009 7.30PM**

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

Councillors Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Parker\*, Pasley, Mrs Lord.  
McMurray, Miers, Walker, Walters,

(\*Councillor Parker joined the meeting at 7.40pm)

Mr M Dolton - Town Clerk  
Mrs R Tranter - Deputy Town Clerk

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Mrs Knight, Mrs Mason, Mrs Way

*Clerk's Note: With the agreement of the Committee the Chairman amended the order of business from the circulated agenda to facilitate the needs of an individual member*

**RW 850      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Pasley and McMurray 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.

Councillor Walker

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW859 (a) (Play Area Equipment)  
Reason – vicinity of play area to residence
- Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. RW859 (b) (Boundary Hedge Cutting)  
Reason – vicinity of hedge to residence, request for action from the member himself, member of public could reasonably think interest in the matter so significant as to prejudice judgement.

**RW 851      TRINITY HALL LEASE**

The Committee received the Clerk's written report to members and he then provided a further verbal update.

It had been a high priority for the recently appointed Clerk as soon as he commenced in the post. There had been considerable pressure from other parties towards other officers of this Council to progress the matter. The Clerk had now discussed progress with those other parties, and he was now finalising the recently circulated Heads Of Terms document with the working party and the Council's solicitor. Subject to finalising this document, the clerk anticipates reporting

further to this committee as soon as possible with a view to seeking approval to proceed to formal lease.

The Clerk also commented that pressure was being applied by other parties in respect of stage payments and the need to make a payment to the Diocese. The Clerk advised members that he felt that as at present no legal or binding document was in place providing protection of lease to this Council, and that his understanding that the transfer of the land to the Diocese was still not complete, to make any payment would be inappropriate, high risk and would have considerable implication for members should there be any difficulty in securing the lease. This opinion had been confirmed and supported by the Council's solicitor.

Members discussed the need for this matter to proceed as soon as possible, accepting the constraints that would clearly be imposed by legal procedural issues, and sought and received assurance from the clerk that he would ensure that this Council was seen to be acting in a prompt and diligent manner.

RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk be instructed to continue progressing the matter in a timely and diligent manner, and report back to this committee when progress to formal lease is advised.

**RW 852      NORTH WESTON HALL / CEMETARY CAR PARK**

Councillor McMurray distributed further copies of the proposals for the car park development. He then updated those present of the expectation that the matter will go for decision before the North Area Planning Committee of North Somerset Council in approximately five weeks time.

Members discussed the proposals, thanking Councillor McMurray for the effort and time he had dedicated to this project, and expressing the thought that members could now start to consider how the project may be developed in future if the planning application is successful. Other members felt that there should be caution with such an approach, ensuring that no commitment was entered into or fees incurred prior to any planning application result.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council accept and note the report from Councillor McMurray. Councillor McMurray to make tentative enquiries in relation to taking the project forward in the future, but no commitments to be entered into, or fees incurred, in such activity. Councillor McMurray to report further at the August meeting of this Committee.

**RW 853      TOWN COUNCIL OPEN DAY**

Councillor Pasley addressed those present on his request for members to consider holding a Town Council Open Day. Whilst it is

acknowledged that there is a public session time at meetings of the Council this is often, through pressing time constraints, somewhat restrictive.

The proposal involves deciding on a central venue within the town, on a Saturday morning between 10.00am and 12 midday during late September or October of this year. Each Ward to be provided with a table at which the elected members of those wards would be present, and inviting members of the public to attend as a 'drop in' session.

Members discussed the proposal, expressing views that included supporting the idea but having reservations about the level of involvement from the public that would be achieved.

RECOMMENDED that

Councillor Pasley, in liaison with the Clerk, ascertains availability of suitable venues during September and October, and then liaises with all members to gauge availability for any potential dates. Councillor Pasley to then report further to the Recreation & Works Committee

#### **RW 854      CULTURAL EVENTS AT LAKE GROUNDS**

Councillor Pasley distributed leaflets and a poster addressed the meeting on forthcoming musical and entertainment events that are to be held at the Lake Grounds. Whilst generally supporting the idea, and welcoming the activity in this town, expressed his disappointment that the Town Council had not been consulted or involved in the planning of the events. It is understood that a three day event is due to be held at that venue during the summer of 2010. Councillor Pasley felt that the formation of a working party to consider future involvement and activity by this Council may be appropriate.

In discussion, there was a similar expression of disappointment from members that there appeared to have been a lack of consultation from North Somerset Council in these matters. Other members advised caution on this approach, as there had been approaches on other similar matters from the North Somerset Council in the past which had met with minimal response from members of this Council.

Councillor Howells informed the meeting of the historical significance of the year 2010 being the centenary of the official founding and opening of the area.

Councillor Walters reminded members that there is no provision in the current financial year budget for financing such activities.

RECOMMENDED that

- (i) The Clerk write on behalf of Portishead and North Weston Town Council to the officer and executive member responsible for Leisure Services at North Somerset Council, expressing the support of this Council for such events and disappointment at the apparent lack of consultation.

- (ii) A Working Party is formed, comprising of Councillors Pasley, Walker, Howells, McMurray, with the Clerk (ex officio) to consider future involvement and activity of this Council in relation to such events. The working party to meet just prior to future meetings of the Recreation & Works committee to facilitate attendance of other interested members.

**RW 855 WASTE BINS / DOG BINS IN PORTISHEAD**

This matter had been brought to the attention of the Chairman by Councillor Mrs Knight who had presented her apologies. Maps had been provided which showed the locations of the dog bins currently provided within the boundaries of this Council, and the proposed location of new bins to be provided in the new build Marina area. Statistics were also presented detailing the numbers of dog bins provided within and by other surrounding Parish Councils.

Members discussed the possibility of this Council providing further dog bins in areas of need. There was consensus that such a proposal was worthy of consideration, but that members would need to be sure about the long term cost implications. Whilst the actual provision and erection of the bins would not be thought to be cost prohibitive, it is likely that North Somerset Council would require an ongoing cost, rising over the years, for the emptying of them.

RECOMMENDED that

- (i) The Clerk establish the cost implications of the provision and ongoing maintenance per dog bin provided
- (ii) Members to consider the need within their own Wards

And report back to this Committee.

**RW 856 GRANT APPLICATION – TRINITY TODDLERS & TWINS**

A grant application from the Trinity Toddlers & Twins for the sum of £200 towards start up costs was considered by members. The application met the criteria of this Council for such grants, and was supported by those present.

RECOMMENDED that

The grant of £200 towards start up costs for the Trinity Toddlers & Twins be awarded.

**RW 857 TOWN COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES – EMERGENCY USE BY POLICE**

The Deputy Clerk had received a request from the Police to be supplied with the personal email addresses of members for use in the case of emergency and had provided a written report.

Members discussed the matter, some expressing clearly that they did not wish such detail to be provided to the Police, and others stating that they had no objection.

The Clerk, suggested that in any case the point of contact for the police in an emergency should surely be the Clerk, who can then decide what resources / member contact is appropriate. The Clerk offered to provide his personal mobile telephone number to the police for all out of hours contact.

RECOMMENDED that

The Police are not supplied with member's email addresses. Individual members will of course do so if they so wish. The Clerk to respond to the Police and to provide his own personal mobile telephone number as the central contact point for all out of hours emergencies.

## **RW 858 TRINITY SCHOOL GOVERNOR**

An approach had been made to this Council by the headmistress of Trinity Primary School requesting that consideration be given to a member of Council becoming a Governor on the Board of Governors for the school.

The matter was considered and discussed by members present and no member felt able at this time to fulfil this role.

RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk responds to the Headmistress of Trinity Primary School indicating that no member was currently able to fulfil this role.

## **RW 859 UNDERWOOD ROAD PLAY AREA**

### **(a) Additional Play Equipment**

The Deputy Clerk referred to her written report in which she had outlined two options for members in relation to the purchase and installation of additional play equipment at the Underwood Road Play area.

After discussion members decided to opt for Option 'B' of the report :- Baboon Monkey Play Unit including safegrass safety matting surface and ground reinforcing mesh at a cost of £9,943.00 plus VAT.

A sample of the new safegrass safety matting was shown to members, who commented that this would be a good opportunity to assess the new surface for future use, as it was considerably cheaper than other methods.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council accept quotation (B) for the installation of an additional piece of play equipment, Baboon Monkey Play Unit, and safety surface at the Underwood play area for the total cost of £9,943.00 plus VAT.

**(b) Boundary Hedge Cutting**

*(Councillor Walker withdrew from the meeting at this point having previously declared a prejudicial interest. – see RW850 above)*

A request has been received from Councillor Walker who resides at property in Underwood Road backing onto the play area, to cut back the hedge between the play area and adjoining field as it was affecting his property.

Following discussion it was agreed that members would visit the Play Area and familiarize themselves with the site and the matter be discussed at the next meeting of this Committee.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council defer decision of this matter until members had visited the Underwood Road play area to view the hedge which borders the adjoining field at the rear of the houses.

This item to be considered at the July meeting of Recreation & Works Committee.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm