

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 23RD APRIL 2008

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

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

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Miss Stanley

Prior to the commencement of the Committee meeting some members of the Council met with the Clerk in the Town Council office in order to familiarise themselves with the accommodation, layout and condition of the floor.

The formal meeting then convened in the Members Room at 7.30pm.

RW783 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW786 Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee
Reason – Member of Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee

Councillor Miers

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW786 Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee
Reason – Member of Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee

Councillor Mrs Way

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW786 Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee
Reason – Member of Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee

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

Councillors McMurray and Pasley stated that any views they expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

RW784 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Dennis O'Neill and Mr David Hodgkiss, representing Portishead Christmas Lights Committee, asked the Committee to consider an application for a grant to enable the Christmas Lights display to be extended to the southern end of the High Street, from Church Road South to the St Peters Road junction. Mr O'Neill estimated that it would cost approximately £4,500 to carry out the work and he was confident that some of this would be raised by various fund-raising events.

In answering questions from Councillors Mr O'Neill and Mr Hodgkiss confirmed that –

- The on-going revenue costs would be absorbed into the established lights scheme.
- The Christmas Lights Committee were keen to extend the lighting scheme to the Waitrose Piazza once development in this area was completed.
- Updating the lighting system in order to comply with Health and Safety and Electrical legislation was carried out on a rolling programme.

The Chairman thanked Mr O'Neill and Mr Hodgkiss for attending the meeting and providing this useful information.

RW785 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT – PORTISHEAD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Extension of Christmas Lighting scheme.

Members of the Committee unanimously expressed their support for this application and

RECOMMENDED that a maximum of £4,000 be allocated towards the extension of the Christmas Lighting scheme.

RW786 REDCLIFFE BAY HALL – REVIEW OF HIRING CHARGES

The Committee were informed that the steady increase in energy charges and the loss of a major booking had forced the Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee to review their expenditure and they had reluctantly decided to ask for approval for an increase in hiring charges, as required by the Hall Management Constitution.

After receiving clarification and additional information from the Clerk it was

RECOMMENDED that the Management Committee's proposed increases be approved and hiring charges for the Redcliffe Bay Hall be set as follows with effect from 1st September 2008 –

Regular Users	£7.00/hr
Casual Users	£12.00/hr
Snooker Club	£1,400pa

RW787 REVIEW OF PROPOSED OFFICE RELOCATION

Members were reminded that at their meeting on 14th February 2007 the Town Council had agreed to relocate the Town Council office to the second floor of the Folk Hall (Minute No. 1420). This was to enable additional office accommodation to be provided and to alleviate the over-stressing of the current office floor. Members were also reminded that additional works were required to the first and second floors in order to comply with the Fire Risk Assessment in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Some of this work was required regardless of whether the office moved.

A copy of the proposed plan of the second floor was circulated and some members took the opportunity to view the space that would be available on the second floor and the current Town Council office.

The Chairman further reported that it had proved difficult to obtain quotations that were within budget.

During the ensuing discussion some members expressed their opposition to the proposal to move the office, suggesting that it was too expensive as no quotations had been obtained that were within budget, inconvenient for members of the public and there was no clear rationale. Other members expressed their support for the proposal and pointed out that requirement for more office accommodation and the benefits of the Clerk having her own office. It was further suggested that the filing cabinets should be relocated within the building and/or alternative methods of filing be investigated.

RECOMMENDED that

The project be suspended and a further report be made to the Recreation & Works Committee in six-months time.

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