

## **RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2006**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Miers – in the Chair

Councillors J S Clark, Gething, Howells, Mrs Mason, A McMurray, J McMurray, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

Mr Ian Edser – NSC Streets & Open Spaces Group Manager\*

Mr Mike Brown – NSC Portishead Area Officer\*

\*In attendance for Minute No. RW694

Mrs S Souter, a resident of Beach Road East, Portishead, was also in attendance.

#### **APOLOGIES**

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Mrs Cruse, Johnston and Mrs Lord

#### **RW693**

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J S Clark

- Personal interest in RW696 – Application for a grant from Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team  
Reason – Member of Action Team

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

Councillors Gething and Walters 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.

#### **RW694**

#### **STREETS & OPEN SPACES**

The Chairman introduced Mr Ian Edser, NSC Streets & Open Spaces Group Manager and Mr Mike Brown, NSC Portishead Area Officer, and invited them to discuss various matters of concern with the Committee.

Mr Edser gave an overview of the Streets & Open Spaces main areas of responsibility – waste management, highways management, environmental management and fleet & transport management – and confirmed that Mike Brown was now working out of the Town Council office and was therefore able to maintain close liaison on local issues and matters of concern.

Mr Edser acknowledged that there had been concerns with the general housekeeping of the town this year and confirmed that NSC had taken this up with their grounds maintenance contractor. Discussions had taken place with senior management and procedures put in place to ensure that the problems did not occur again next year.

Mr Edser also confirmed that a copy of the Streets & Open Spaces Directorate Service Standards document, which detailed exactly how the Directorate operated and what they could and could not do, was available in the Town Council office.

Mr Edser and Mr Brown then answered questions from Councillors relating to –

- Public toilets – North Somerset Council’s policy in respect of public toilet standards, charging and providing an attendant. Mr Edser confirmed that NSC were working towards upgrading public toilets in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act and to the standards set by the British Toilet Council. It is not currently NSC’s policy to charge for public toilets. Both Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon currently have attended toilets; Mr Edser expressed the opinion that this was because they were tourist areas and this was an historical provision. It was suggested that the provision of attendants needed to be rationalised across the district. In answer to a question about the provision of public toilets at the Marina Mr Edser confirmed that he was unaware of any proposals to provide public toilets in this location.
- Road sweeping and the problems caused by parked cars. Mr Edser confirmed that the new street cleansing contract which would be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 included provision for two operatives to carry out this service (one to drive the vehicle and another to manually sweep where necessary). In extreme cases it would be possible to make a road a “no parking road” for a short period of time to allow street cleansing to take place. Mr Edser also confirmed that most roads were cleaned every six weeks, but the High Street was cleaned every day. He eventually hoped to publish the street cleansing schedules on the website.
- Litter – Mr Brown confirmed that the Lake Grounds was litter-picked everyday but he was unable to confirm how often litter was removed from the Lake itself, particularly at the shallow end. Because of the problems with the grounds maintenance contract this year he was monitoring the service closely and a change in working practices had already been implemented to ensure a more efficient litter-pick. Mr Edser also reminded councillors that under the provision of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 it was an offence for anybody to drop litter and the Council had the powers to issue fixed penalty notices.

Councillors also took the opportunity to raise specific areas with Mr Edser and Mr Brown. These included –

Wyndham Way – overgrown central reservation  
Worthington’s Walk – borders unkempt

Clevedon Road (from Flower Show Field to Mead Road) – shrubs and nettles growing over the pavement.

Weatherly Drive – generally untidy in vicinity of water-board premises

Nightingale Rise – mown grass not collected

Nore Road (vicinity of golf course) – shrubs etc. growing over the pavement

Nore Road to Cabstand – damaged road surface (hazard to cyclists)

Zig-Zag Path (Hawthorn Close to Somerset Road) – retaining wall breaking up

Avon Way Car Park – untidy area behind recycling bins

Mr Edser confirmed that some of these areas should be included on schedules for regular attention.

On bringing the discussion to a close the Chairman thanked Mr Edser and Mr Brown for attending the meeting and also thanked Mr Brown for his efforts on behalf of the Town.

## **RW695 PROVISION OF SKATEBOARD FACILITIES – EAST PORTISHEAD**

Before commencing the discussion on this item Councillor J S Clark introduced Mrs S Souter to the meeting and explained that her son Jack, aged 9 and daughter Lucy aged 7, had organised a petition asking for skateboard facilities to be provided in the lower part of the town. The petition had been presented to North Somerset Council at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

Councillor J S Clark informed the meeting that there was clearly a demand for additional skateboard facilities. He had carried out a preliminary investigation into possible sites and also spoken to young people at the Youth Centre and had come to the conclusion that there were two potential sites – land near the Leisure Centre at the head of the dock (Pill Park) and land adjacent to the new Village Quarter Primary School and multi-use games area (MUGA). In addition, there was the possibility that a mini-park (grind rail and set of steps) could be established on the play area adjacent to Parish Wharf Leisure Centre, near the climbing boulder. Councillor Clark confirmed that in order to progress matters a meeting had been arranged with relevant North Somerset Council officers for September.

An indicative layout plan and costings were circulated, along with details of possible sources of funding. Members noted that it would cost approximately £14,500 to provide the mini-park and £100,000 for a comprehensive facility.

The Committee generally expressed their support for this initiative but some members expressed concern about the feasibility of being able to progress the project on land that the Council did not own or control.

**RECOMMENDED** that

1. Portishead and North Weston Town Council make every endeavour to establish a skateboard park in the East Portishead area.
2. (a) A Working Party be established to manage this project.

- (b) The Working Party's first endeavour must be to identify a site and having done that to prepare a consultation plan.
  - (c) The Working Party consider the feasibility of a mini-park on the play area adjacent to the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre.
  - (d) The Working Party should consist of 2 Town Councillors, 2 members of the public and 2 interested teenagers and have powers to include others should the need arise.
3. The sum of £75,000 be included in the 2007/2008 precept to part-fund this project.

**RW696**

**APPLICATION FOR A GRANT – PORTISHEAD COMMUNITY SAFETY LOCAL ACTION TEAM**

The Committee received an application for a grant of £400 for administration costs and seed-corn activity from Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team.

Whilst members generally supported the request for funding towards the administration costs concerns were expressed about the lack of information in respect of the request for funding towards seed-corn activity.

**RECOMMENDED** that

Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team be awarded a grant of £100 towards administration costs and be advised to submit an application for funding towards specific projects when further information is available.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm