

## **RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2005**

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

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J H Clark, J S Clark, Fowles, Gething,  
Johnston, Mrs Lord, J McMurray, Pasley, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Mrs Mason, Miers, A McMurray

#### **RW604 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillors J H Clark, Gething, Johnston 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 currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

#### **RW605 SLADE ROAD PLAY AREA**

The Chairman reminded members that this play area now only contained a slide which was approaching the end of its useful life. In view of the uncertainty about the future use of the adjoining former Portishead Primary School site and the cost of employing a qualified person to carry out the routine play area and equipment inspections, she questioned whether the slide should be removed now and the area maintained as open space.

Some members considered that consultation should take place with nearby residents before removing the slide.

**RECOMMENDED** that immediate neighbours be notified that in view of the redevelopment of the site and the high cost of site inspection and maintenance the Town Council will be removing the slide within the next few months.

The ward councillors offered to circulate the notices to the relevant residents.

#### **RW606 PROVISION OF A GRIT BIN IN MARCONI ROAD**

The Committee received a request for a replacement grit bin to be located in Marconi Road.

Members were very supportive of this request and

RECOMMENDED that a grit bin be provided as requested.

**RW607 PARISH WHARF & SLIPWAY**

The Committee were informed that North Somerset Council were considering issues in relation to the new slipway and had asked if the Town Council would wish to manage and administer this facility.

The Chairman pointed out that this could potentially be quite an onerous task. Whilst the Clerk currently administered the allocation of spaces for winter boat storage on the Parish Wharf, this only happened once a year, unlike the probable 7-day use of the slipway.

During the ensuing discussion members expressed their general support for the provision of a slipway but commented that the Town Council did not have the resources to manage and administer the facility. Concerns were also expressed about health and safety issues, particularly if the slipway was freely available 24hrs/day. Some members also suggested that free use of the slipway should be restricted to Portishead residents only.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council consider that the use of the slipway should be free of charge as was the old Parish Wharf and slipway. The Town Council is unable to undertake any part of the management or administration of the slipway and suggest that this should be undertaken by the Harbourmaster.

**RW608 REVIEW OF FOLK HALL HIRING CHARGES AND CONDITIONS**

**(a) Folk Hall Hiring Charges**

Members were reminded that in setting the budget and precept requirement for 2005/2006 the Town Council had agreed that hiring charges for accommodation at the Folk Hall be reviewed with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005.

RECOMMENDED that hiring charges be set as follows with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 –

	<b>New Charge</b>
Main Hall – to 6pm	£7.50 per hour
6pm to 10pm	£11.00 per hour
10pm to midnight	£15.00 per hour
Reynolds and Fedden Rooms	£3.00 per hour (2hr min)
Eve Wigan Room	£5.50 per hour
Commercial Rate	£20 per hour
Use of kitchen (light)	No charge
Use of kitchen (full catering)	£20 per session

**(b) Non-Refundable Deposit**

The Clerk reported that there had been an unprecedented increase in the number of long-term bookings being cancelled at relatively short notice resulting in loss of income from other potential bookings and abortive administration. The Committee were asked to consider amending the Terms and Conditions of Hire to allow for a non-refundable deposit to be requested before these long-term bookings were confirmed.

Whilst generally supporting the principle of requesting a non-refundable deposit, members suggested that this only be applied to block bookings of 4 or more hires. It was further suggested that instead of a flat £10 charge the deposit should be a % of the total hire charge.

RECOMMENDED that

Terms and Conditions of Hire be amended to include the following –

Provisional bookings will be held for seven days and will be confirmed on receipt of a signed official booking form *and a non-refundable deposit of 10%*.

(The words in *italics* to be deleted when not required).

(Clerk's note – Following the committee meeting the Chairman of the Council and Committee Chairman again looked at the figures involved with the Clerk and Office Assistant and now strongly recommend that the non-refundable deposit be amended to £20, not 10%).

**(c) No Smoking Policy**

In view of the change in public attitude towards smoking in public places the committee were asked to consider introducing a No Smoking policy in line with other similar public buildings.

The Committee were generally supportive of this request. It is therefore

RECOMMENDED that

Terms and Conditions of Hire be amended to include the following –

Smoking is not allowed in any part of the Folk Hall building.

Councillor Walters voted against this recommendation and asked that this be recorded.

## **RW609 CABSTAND IMPROVEMENT WORKS**

Further to Minute No. 1203 of the 12<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the Town Council, members now received a copy of a letter from the NSC Highways Engineer replying to the Town Council's letter raising concerns about certain aspects of the Cabstand improvement works.

Arising from the letter it was noted that the decision not to paint the street furniture "Portishead Blue" had been made by NSC's planning officer and urban design consultant. The Clerk reported that this was contrary to the guidance contained in the Portishead Town 2000 High Street Design document which had been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 1998.

Whilst the majority of members considered that the design guidance should be adhered to and the street furniture be painted blue, others commented that the railings could remain black.

The Chairman reported that she would be attending a site meeting to finalise the landscaping proposals and other details on 8<sup>th</sup> March and she would ensure that the committee's comments were reported. The Clerk and Councillor Miers, representing Portishead in Bloom, would also be attending the site meeting.

RECOMMENDED that

- The Town Council would prefer the Cabstand area street furniture to be painted "Portishead Blue – RAL5013".
- North Somerset Council be reminded (i) of the existence of the Portishead Town 2000 High Street Design Supplementary Planning Guidance document and (ii) that the adopted colour for street furniture for Portishead High Street is blue, RAL5013.

## **RW610 NORTH WESTON VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had arranged to rent a garage for storage purposes for the duration of the building works and a removal van had been hired to clear the remaining items from the site on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

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