

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2005

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Cruse

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, Fowles, Johnston, Mrs Lord,
Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES

Councillors Miers, A McMurray, J McMurray, Pasley

RW646 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal interest in RW651 Portishead Youth Centre – Update
Reason – Member of Management Committee and Development Group

Councillor Fowles

- Personal interest in RW647 Portishead Tourism Group – Tourism Signs
Reason – Member of Portishead Tourism Group

Councillor Johnston

- Personal interest in RW651 Portishead Youth Centre – Update
Reason – Member of Management Committee and Development Group

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in RW651 Portishead Youth Centre – Update
Reason – Member of Youth Centre Fundraising Group

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

Councillors 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 known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

RW647 PORTISHEAD TOURISM GROUP – TOURISM SIGNS

Councillor Fowles informed the Committee that the Portishead Tourism Group had again been looking at the provision of Brown Tourism signs for the Town. The proposals originally put forward by the Town Council and Portishead Partnership in 2004 had been taken into consideration and, following discussions with NSC Highways Engineer and the Blue Skies Group, a list of

twelve signs had been agreed in principle. These would be based on the key attractions –

Marina
Esplanade
Lake Grounds
Leisure Centre
Open Air Pool
Picnic Grounds
Golf Course
Battery Point

The objective was to refurbish as many existing signs as possible and to provide new signs only when necessary. Costings were currently being obtained; a further report and a possible request for a financial contribution would be made to the Recreation & Works Committee in due course. Councillor Fowles stressed that public houses and other commercial outlets would not be included in this phase of the project. Furthermore, if they were to be included in later phases, strict criteria had to be met in respect of historic relevance and siting. Commercial outlets would also be required to pay for signs themselves.

The Committee generally supported the proposals and

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council continue to support the Tourist sign project. Any requests for funding to be allocated from the environmental enhancement budget.

Councillor Fowles was also asked to request that the Tourism Group look into the possibility of providing a Town Map information board, possibly in the precinct.

RW648

PROVISION OF DOG BINS FOR EASTWOOD

The Committee received a request for funding for two dog bins for Eastwood from the NSC Trees and Countryside Officer. The request was in response to the Town Council's offer to provide the bins in 2002 and further proposed during consideration of the Eastwood Management Plan earlier this year.

During the ensuing discussion it was considered that three bins would be more appropriate, to be sited at (in order of priority) –

- Entrance to Eastwood in Pier Road
- The steps by the Royal Hotel
- Entrance to Eastwood in Woodlands Road (nr sharp bend)

RESOLVED that the Town Council make a contribution towards the capital cost of providing the dog bins to a maximum of £100 per bin.

RW649

PORTISHEAD HIGH STREET – ZEBRA CROSSINGS

Members were informed that two requests for comments on the provision of pedestrian crossing facilities at the southern end of the High Street had been received.

Proposed crossing near St Peter’s Lodge – This request had come from the NSC New Works team and originated from a need identified in the St Peters Primary School Travel Plan.

Whilst the Committee were generally supportive of this request, concerns were expressed on the effect of car parking for visitors to St Peter’s Lodge.

RECOMMENDED that the provision of a pedestrian crossing facility near St Peter’s Lodge be supported.

Request for a pedestrian crossing outside the Folk Hall – This request had been forwarded from NSC Highways department following representations from a member of the public.

Whilst the Committee sympathised with the member of the public they did not consider that a pedestrian crossing outside the Folk Hall was warranted as heavy traffic, making crossing from the car park difficult at certain times, was intermittent. They also considered that the zig-zag lines associated with such a crossing facility would give rise to a problem for dropping off and unloading outside the Folk Hall.

RECOMMENDED that the provision of a pedestrian crossing facility outside the Folk Hall not be supported.

It was further RECOMMENDED that the Town Council strongly support the provision of a pedestrian crossing facility on Combe Road, between Lloyds and HSBC Banks.

RW650

STREET FURNITURE

The Chairman brought the following matters to the attention of the Committee –

Litter Bins – Concerns had been raised about the lack of litter bins at the new McDonalds Restaurant on Wyndham Way. Whilst North Somerset Council had installed four new standard NSC black litter bins near the facility, it was considered that bins to match those installed in the High Street, which were Portishead Blue and carried the Town Council logo, should be provided, in accordance with the High Street Supplementary Design Guidance. The Clerk confirmed that she had been unable to ascertain whether or not S106 funding was available to provide the bins.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council would wish to see blue litter bins, with the Town Council logo, installed and ask the Clerk to continue to seek S106 funding. Any difficulties to be reported to the District Councillors.

Public Seats – The Clerk reported that following the recent article in the North Somerset Times a number of enquiries about providing seats in memory of loved ones had been received from members of the public. One of these was currently being progressed and it was expected that a new seat would be installed on the coastal footpath in the vicinity of the Yacht and Sailing Club shortly.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council welcome this initiative.

Bus Shelters – The Chairman informed members that she had received a complaint about the untidy appearance of the polycarbonate glazing in some of the bus shelters in the Town. The Clerk confirmed that this was an unfortunate characteristic of polycarbonate glazing; it was inherently difficult to remove graffiti and other materials (glue, paint) and was easily scratched. Members were also reminded that the Council had taken the decision to use polycarbonate glazing some years ago as glass panels were being continually broken. Members conceded that polycarbonate was probably the most sensible form of glazing for the bus shelters.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council embark on a rolling programme of replacing damaged polycarbonate panels.

The Clerk also confirmed that a meeting with North Somerset Council officers was being held shortly to consider the installation of two, possibly three, bus shelters in the vicinity of Quays Avenue, the shelters being funded by S106 agreement with the Home Office.

RW651

PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT – UPDATE

The Chairman circulated a copy of the finalised floor plans and elevations and informed members that the Youth Centre intended to submit their planning application on Friday 25th November. It was anticipated that the application would be considered by the Town Council planning committee at their next meeting on Saturday 3rd December 2005.

The meeting noted that discussions were currently taking place with North Somerset Council in respect of extending the site boundary to include a small area of redundant highways land on the corner of Harbour Road/Station Road. This would enable a more efficient parking layout to be configured. Notes of the meeting held with the neighbours and other interested parties on 1st November 2005 were noted.

RW652

NORTH WESTON VILLAGE HALL – UPDATE

The Chairman informed the Committee that a further meeting to discuss the problem with the floor was being held with the Architect and Builder on Friday 25th November. A surveyor had been appointed to check the floor level and his report indicated that the floor levels varied above and below datum from -19mm to +17mm in places. It was not possible to open the hall to the public until this problem had been resolved.

Problems had also been encountered with vandalism to the external doors and other minor anti-social behaviour. It had therefore been suggested that consideration be given to installing an appropriate side entrance gate to the fire-exit at a cost of £490 and a gate across the main entrance porch at a cost of £1,410. Whilst members generally supported this action, concerns were expressed about the design of the gate to the entrance porch.

RECOMMENDED that

1. A fire escape gate be fitted to the side entrance at a cost of £490.
2. Further details about the design of the gate to the entrance porch be obtained and a further report be made to the 7th December meeting of the Town Council.

Proposed Pedestrian Crossing – Site notices had now been posted. It was understood that North Somerset Council had received a few objections to the proposed crossing

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm