

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 24th AUGUST 2005

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, Fowles, Gething, Griffiths, Johnston,
Mrs Mason, J McMurray, Miers, Terry, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLGIES Councillor Mrs Lord, A McMurray, Pasley

RW629 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors Gething, Johnston, Terry 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.

RW630 PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Councillor Mrs Cruse introduced Mr Alan Rowe, Youth Leader at Portishead Youth Centre, and invited him to update members on the refurbishment project.

Mr Rowe confirmed that Architects had been appointed and a feasibility study carried out. Three possible options for the refurbishment had emerged –

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| Option 1 | Refurbishment of current building – Cost approximately £700,000 |
| Option 2 | Improvement and expansion of current building – Cost £1.3M |
| Option 3 | Improvement and expansion of current building and addition of a multi-use community/sports hall – Cost £1.9M |

Option 3, which could be built in three separate phases, was preferred. The multi-use community/sports hall could be built first thus enabling the Youth Centre to move into this part of the development whilst phase 2, expansion of current building, and phase 3, refurbishment of existing building, took place. The total build time would be approximately 44 weeks. Mr Rowe acknowledged that raising the £1.9M needed for this option could be difficult but he considered this option would give Portishead the youth facilities needed for the growing Town.

In answering questions from councillors Mr Rowe confirmed that –

- The multi-use community/sports hall would be built on the site of the current outside sports area. Whilst it was regretted that this outdoor space would be lost, it was felt that utilising this space for indoor use would be more beneficial.
- A number of fund-raising options had been looked at. An application for Lottery Funding had not been successful. However, it was understood that a recently published Government Green Paper proposed £40M being made available for community capital projects. Bishop Sainsbury, the Chairman of the Refurbishment Project, who was also Chairman of the National Youth Agency, was looking into this. Mr Rowe expressed the opinion that any bids for funding would stand more chance if a “partnership”, consisting of North Somerset Council, the Town Council and local fundraising, could be formed. Using the services of a commercial fundraiser had not been considered.
- The funding available to-date consisted of S106 funding from the East Portishead development (approximately £300,000 index-linked) and £50,000 from North Somerset Council which had been allocated to pay for architects fees etc. Councillor Mrs Cruse reminded the Committee that the Town Council had also given a commitment to give £1 for every £10 raised by the Youth Centre, excluding the S106 funding, up to a maximum of £100,000.
- Mr Rowe confirmed that other organisations had indicated their support for the project but were unable to commit funding until the project was further advanced. Mr Rowe also acknowledged the support given to the project by many of the towns community groups and businesses.
- North Somerset Council Planning Department had been consulted about the proposals. A meeting was also being arranged shortly with the Director of Development and Environment and the Director of the Children and Young People. Councillor Johnston also suggested that the District Councillors meet with the Directors to press for funding to be allocated to the project from the capital receipt from the recent sale of Portishead Primary School.
- The Youth Centre currently had 450 registered members; the average attendance was 80 on a junior night, 60 on a senior (13+) night. The Youth Centre also provided pre-school activities, supported the mental health service, and worked closely with local schools.

In bringing the discussion to a close, members generally welcomed the proposals for the refurbishment project and expressed their wholehearted support to the Youth Centre and Management Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rowe for attending the meeting.

RW631 PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that a recent review of the Youth Centre Management Committee Constitution had highlighted that the Town Council should have two representatives on the Committee, not one as at present.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor Miss Griffiths be appointed as the additional Town Council representative on the Youth Centre Management Committee

RW632 CABSTAND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This matter was referred to the Committee from the 10th August 2005 meeting of the Town Council.

Whilst the Committee generally acknowledged the frustration felt by many drivers, it was pointed out that the new layout was intended to make the junction more pedestrian friendly. It was also pointed out that further works were being carried out to the controller which, it was hoped, would help alleviate some of the delays.

Councillor Miers also pointed out the difficulties encountered by the partially sighted when crossing the junction as there were no audible signals on the pedestrian crossings.

RECOMMENDED that

Bearing in mind the very strong feelings being expressed by the vast majority of the people of Portishead concerning traffic queuing at the redesigned Cabstand junction and accepting that pedestrian safety has improved considerably, the Town Council asks the Town's six District Councils to call for an independent assessment of the present situation with a view to seeing if minor modifications can be made.

It was further AGREED that

Mr Colin Chandler and Mr Mike Schneider, NSC Highways Engineers, be invited to attend the 7th September meeting of the Town Council.

RW633 BRITISH TELECOM CONSULTATION

Members received details of British Telecoms proposal to remove the payphone box in the High Street (outside the Royal Mail office) and to convert payphones at North Weston and Lake Grounds to cashless payment facilities (pre-paid phone cards).

Whilst some members did not agree with the proposal to convert the payphones at North Weston and Lake Grounds, it was acknowledged that BT encountered problems nationally with theft related vandalism from this type of facility. Members also acknowledged that the increase in mobile phone ownership had led to a significant decline in the number of calls made from public payphones.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council have no objection to British Telecom's proposal to remove the payphone box in the High Street (outside the Royal Mail office) and to convert payphones at North Weston and Lake Grounds to cashless payment facilities (pre-paid phone cards).

**RW634 BRISTOL ROAD PLAYING FIELD – APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE
AUTHORISING DIRECT ACCESS TO THE FIELD**

The Clerk reminded members that some years ago a number of residents of Bristol Road were granted licences authorising direct access from their premises to the Bristol Road Playing Field. A further application from the occupier of no. 6 Bristol Road had now been received.

RECOMMENDED that a licence authorising direct access to Bristol Road Playing Field be granted to Mr Carey, 6 Bristol Road.

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