

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2003

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Gething, Johnston, Mrs Mason, A
McMurray, Miers, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors J S Clark, Mrs Lord, J McMurray, Pasley

RW520 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal Interest in Minute No.RW526 – Redevelopment of Youth Centre
Reason – Member of Youth Centre Management Committee

Councillor Johnston

- Personal Interest in Minute No.RW526 – Redevelopment of Youth Centre
Reason – Member of Youth Centre Management Committee

Councillor Gething

- Personal Interest in Minute No.RW527 – Boundary Fencing, Station Road
Play Area
Reason – Member of Yansec Board

Declaration by members who serve on both the Town 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 currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

RW521 FOLK HALL – RELOCATION OF DISABLED TOILET AND OTHER WORKS

The Committee were informed that the Building Regulation approval for the project required that a fire alarm system be installed to meet the requirements of the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (as amended). A specification for a basic system had subsequently been drawn up by the Town Council's building surveyor and three quotations obtained, these ranged from £2,200 to £2,784.26. The Clerk confirmed that the cheapest quotation had been checked by an independent Fire Systems engineer in order to verify its compliance with the relevant regulations. Members further noted that the provision of a fire alarm system would be in addition to the main building contract and no financial provision had been made within the allocated budget.

RECOMMENDED that the quotation in the sum of £2,200 be accepted, the cost of which to be met from reserves.

RW522 OFFICE EQUIPMENT – REPLACEMENT PHOTOCOPIER

Members were informed that the office photocopier had become extremely unreliable, breaking down repeatedly and requiring frequent maintenance visits. This was causing considerable disruption, particularly when papers were being prepared for Council meetings. The Clerk confirmed that the machine had exceeded its expected design life of five years and reported that a new machine would cost £3,575. It would also be possible to lease the machine for five years for £94/month.

RECOMMENDED that a replacement photocopier be purchased at a cost of £3,575, to be met from reserves.

RW523 WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL – REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Members were circulated with a letter from the Clerk to Weston-super-Mare Town Council seeking support for their negotiations to acquire Grove House and Grove Park from North Somerset Council. Members noted that negotiations were currently at a stalemate because of a number of issues, but in particular because of NSC's requirement for a Registry Office to be located in Grove House which would mean that the project to restore Grove House would no longer be eligible for lottery funding.

RECOMMENDED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council support Weston-super-Mare Town Council's aspirations to own Grove House and Grove Park, but this must be done on a fair and equitable basis in relation to other Councils.

The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of the Town Council's reply to the Chief Executive at North Somerset Council.

RW524 PORTISHEAD QUAYS – PUBLIC ART

Further to Minute No. RW519 members now received a copy of a letter from Mr Richard Dowding, NSC Strategic Projects Officer, which confirmed that the Portishead Quays public art does not have its own separate maintenance fund, any maintenance required having to be met from the general public open space maintenance funds. This did not apply to the 'Timelines' project however as a sum for future maintenance and care had been retained from the project budget.

During the ensuing discussion members expressed their general concern about the future maintenance of the public art, mentioning in particular –

- That the public art must not be allowed to deteriorate because of its benefit to the town and the interest shown by the townspeople.
- The proposals for the Public Art Trail and the importance of ensuring that the appropriate maintenance and care measures are in place to deal with any problems which may arise.
- The shabby condition of the sail sculpture on Wyndham Way/Quays Avenue roundabout. Information requested about repainting schedule and proposals for future maintenance.

RECOMMENDED that

The Council's concerns be brought to the attention of NSC's Chief Executive and also be referred to the Parish Voice forum at the next North Area Committee.

RW525 LAKE GROUNDS

Maintenance and Other Issues – Update

Further to Minute No. RW509 members now received a copy of a letter from Mr Philip Regan, NSC Seafronts and Events Manager, which outlined the progress made on various maintenance issues which had been raised earlier in the year.

As members considered that a number of the issues required further clarification, particularly with regard to the proposal to designate the Lake Grounds a 'project park' it was

RECOMMENDED that an urgent meeting to discuss the matter further be held with Mrs Vivienne Thompson, NSC Leisure Manager.

Review of Town Council Lake Grounds Consultation Document (May 1996)

RECOMMENDED that this matter be deferred until the New Year.

Councillor Walters also sought members informal views on whether or not the Town Council should pursue a bye-law prohibiting the drinking of alcohol at the Lake Grounds. No particular view was expressed, most members being ambivalent to the suggestion but commenting that such a ban could be difficult to enforce. A time-limited ban was also suggested.

RW526 REDEVELOPMENT OF PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE

This matter was deferred until the Youth Centre Management Committee had considered the matter.

RW527

BOUNDARY FENCING – PLAY AREA, STATION ROAD

The Committee received a written report from Councillor J H Clark highlighting his concerns about the lack of fencing around the grassed play area adjacent to the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre. Councillor Clark pointed out that young children used the grassed area for ball games and complaints had been received from residents of Station Road about balls hitting parked cars. He was also concerned that there was no barrier to stop children running straight into the road.

Councillor Clark confirmed that he had received a quotation to provide a suitable fence of £1,895 and indicated that he proposed to put forward a bid for funding to NSC North Area Committee and Yansec. He asked if the Town Council would also make a contribution of £500.

Whilst members expressed their general support for the proposal, a number of questions were raised about the type of fence proposed.

RECOMMENDED

1. The project be supported in principle.
2. Councillor Johnston and Councillor J H Clark to liaise regarding the style and suitability of fencing and to report back to the 8th October meeting of the Town Council.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm