

**PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2009**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Hazelton, Howell, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Parker, Walker,
Walters

Mr Peter Barnett - Appointed to Clerk's position
Mrs Tranter – Deputy Clerk

APOLOGIES Councillors Cameron, Cruse, Mrs Knight, McMurray, Miers, Mrs Way

RW 835 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

RW 836 UPGRADING OF BUS SHELTERS

The Chairman gave an update on the recent survey of the High Street bus shelters which had been undertaken by herself, the Deputy Clerk and two officers from North Somerset Council. A report of the work scheduled was tabled at the Committee meeting. Members noted that the bus shelters in the High Street were to be the first batch of shelters to be upgraded in the town, at no cost to the Town Council.

Some concerns were raised by members that work to be scheduled on resurfacing the High Street would cause disruption in the area. North Somerset Council should ensure that both the resurfacing and installation of shelters would take place together to ensure that disruption was kept to a minimum.

RECOMMENDED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council

1. Welcomes the upgrading of the bus shelters and stops in Portishead High Street area.
2. The Clerk write to North Somerset Council to ask if -
 - There is any flexibility on the type of roof on the shelters proposed, pointing out the problems experienced with existing flat roofs.
 - In addition if the shelters to be installed for Clear Channel (Adshel) could also be manufactured in Portishead Blue.
 - Both the resurfacing of the High Street, already scheduled, and the installation of bus shelters could take place simultaneously to ensure that disruption in the High Street area is kept to a minimum.
3. Take on the maintenance and cleaning of the additional shelters proposed.

RW 837 HEAVEN'S FIELD PLAY AREA – ACCESS

Members discussed the possible lost of the access to the Heaven's Field Play area across the existing driveway to The Retreat which is shortly to go to auction. This access is used by the Town Council's grass cutting contractors and other users of the play area, particularly disabled and mums/dads with buggies. Advice was given by the new Town Clerk that in the first instance a statutory declaration should be served on the auctioneers so that prospective purchasers of the site would be aware of the Town Council's interest in the land.

RECOMMENDED that the Chairman send a letter immediately to the auctioneers, as the auction of The Retreat is to take place on 4th March 2009. The letter will register the Town Council's interest in the access way across the driveway of The Retreat. The Deputy Clerk will investigate further the process involved in progressing the right of access.

RW 838 FOLK HALL PIANO MAINTENANCE

The Committee discussed the quotations available for major works to the existing Bechstein piano in the Folk Hall. It was noted that the quality of the piano is excellent and that it was built in 1893. Members discussed the various options available including –

- Purchasing a reconditioned piano of lesser quality.
- Acquiring another piano possibly available in the town.
- Access to another piano whilst work is being carried out.

RECOMMENDED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council accept the quotation of £1,875 from the company who currently tune the piano as they are familiar with the piano and know the instrument well.

RW 839 NORTH SOMERSET FARMERS MARKET – PORTISHEAD

Members noted that the contents of the letter from the North Somerset Farmers Market Ltd advising the Town Council that a co-operative had now been formed and representatives of the four market towns are being sought. Two nominations had been received from Portishead for one available place on the board. Members of the co-operative would be voting at their next meeting and the successful person will be a co-opted member who would bring invaluable information from the council to the co-operative and also to the smooth running of the markets throughout North Somerset.

RECOMMEND that Portishead and North Weston Town Council reply to the letter –

The Town Council wish North Somerset Farmers every success and support anything that continues to make Portishead High Street a viable and vibrant place for traders and customers.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.