

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH JULY 2007

PRESENT

Councillor Walters – in the Chair

Councillors Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, McMurray, Mason, Pasley, Miss Stanley, Terry, Walker

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES

Councillors M Cruse, Mrs R Cruse, Miers, Mrs Way

RW737

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW741 - Portishead Skatepark Project
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW742 - Redcliffe Bay Hall
Reason – Member of Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee

Councillor Pasley

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW741 - Portishead Skatepark Project
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

Councillor Miss Stanley

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW741 - Portishead Skatepark Project
Reason – Member of Skatepark Project Group

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

Councillors Mrs Knight, McMurray, Pasley and Terry 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.

RW738

SLADE ROAD OPEN SPACE

Councillor Mrs Knight brought to attention of the Committee the poor state of the Slade Road Open Space. She outlined the history of the site and expressed concern that now the remaining piece of play equipment was to be removed (Minute No. RW739 refers) the site would deteriorate even further.

Councillor Mrs Knight acknowledged that the site was not suitable for a children's play area due to its secluded location but considered that the site could be preserved and maintained as an open space conservation area. She suggested that Portishead in Bloom be approached to see if they would agree to take on this responsibility. Other groups and organisations ie Avon Wildlife Trust could also be approached for assistance. On a point of clarification, it was confirmed that the Town Council would continue to fund the grass cutting and grounds maintenance of the site.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead in Bloom be approached to see if they would be interested in developing the Slade Road open space as a conservation area.

RW739 TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS – UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the Annual Inspections of Play Areas (Operational and Engineering) had been completed.

Arising from the inspections it was noted that arrangements had been made for the following works to be carried out –

- Heavens Field Swings – frames to be painted and new cradle seat required
- Mead Road Gate – self-closure to be adjusted and hinge to be realigned
- Mead Road Swing – new fixing to crossbar required
- Underwood Road Swing – new swing seat required
- Slade Road Slide – to be removed and area made good

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Clerk's report be noted.
2. The actions of the Clerk in placing orders for the remedial work highlighted in the Inspection reports be endorsed.

RW740 PROPOSAL FOR A FARMER'S MARKET

The Committee were informed that the Town Council had received an approach from the organisation behind the Clevedon & Weston Farmer's Market for support for a proposal to establish a Farmer's Market in Portishead.

Whilst members were generally supportive of the idea, questions were raised about where the market could be located. Councillor Hazelton confirmed that the Chamber of Trade would also support the establishment of a Farmer's Market if it could be located at the southern (Poacher) end of the High Street.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council support, in principle, the establishment of a Farmer's Market in Portishead.

RW741**PORTISHEAD SKATEPARK PROJECT – UPDATE**

The Committee received an update report from Portishead Skatepark Project Group.

Arising from the report it was noted that North Somerset Council's Environmental Health Officer had advised against siting the Skatepark on the site near the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre because of noise nuisance concerns. Consequently, the Group were now pursuing sites at the Lake Grounds (behind the boating house) and Bristol Road Playing Field. E-mails from North Somerset Council's Streets and Opens Spaces Group Manager and Portishead Football Club, outlining their respective positions with regard to these locations, were circulated.

Whilst some members expressed their support for the Project, questions were raised and concerns expressed about the advice given by the Environmental Health Officer. Members also commented that –

- The Lake Grounds is a sensitive area which needs to be preserved. It is not an appropriate location for a Skatepark.
- Further investigation should be made into the site off Nore Road, adjacent to the Windmill Public House.
- Bristol Road Playing Field is too far out of town. A Skatepark here could cause problems for the Football Club.
- The site near the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre is the ideal location and the Environmental Health Officer should be challenged.
- If the Skatepark is situated at either the Leisure Centre or the Lake Grounds accompanying siblings can take part in other activities.
- The Skatepark could be designed and landscaped so as to minimise any noise nuisance.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Town Council notes the efforts of the Portishead Skatepark Project Group to provide a Skatepark within the Town.
2. The Town Council recognise that the preferred location is the site adjacent to the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre and wish to question North Somerset Council Environmental Health Officers why this option has been ruled out.

RW742**REDCLIFFE BAY HALL**

The Clerk reported that due to the loss of a major regular hirer at the Redcliffe Bay Hall it had been agreed that the Town Council would fund the Hall staff salaries until the cash-flow situation improved.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The action taken by the Chairman, Chairman of the Recreation & Works Committee and Clerk in arranging for the salaries relating to the Redcliffe Bay Hall to be funded by the Town Council until the cash-flow situation improves, be endorsed.
2. The situation continues to be monitored.

RW743 FOLK HALL

(A) Review of Hiring Charges

Members received a comprehensive report detailing the administration of the Folk Hall and its running costs.

Members noted that hiring charges had not been reviewed since April 2005 and

RECOMMENDED that hiring charges be increased in accordance with the schedule attached to and forming part of these minutes with effect from 1st September 2007.

(B) Terms and Conditions of Hire and Fire Risk Assessment

Members received a report informing them that recent changes in legislation meant that the Terms and Conditions of Hire of the Folk Hall, Redcliffe Bay Hall and North Weston Village Hall required updating. In addition, The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 also required the Council to prepare Fire Risk Assessments and Documentation for the three halls. The Clerk confirmed that work on the documents was underway and further reports would be made to the Committee in due course.

RECOMMENDED

The report be noted.

ADDITIONAL ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA

RW744 TRANSFER OF PARKING SERVICES (TOPS) IN NORTH SOMERSET – CONSULTATION

Councillor Walters informed the Committee that notification of this consultation had been received too late to be included on the Agenda for the meeting. In addition, the response date was before the next meeting of the Council. It was therefore AGREED that members submit any comments to the Clerk by 1st August 2007 to enable the Chairman and Clerk to submit a response on behalf of the Council. The Clerk was asked to circulate members who were not at the meeting with details of the consultation.

During the ensuing discussion some members expressed their support for the proposal to transfer parking services from the police to local councils, but commented that –

- Parking attendants should be introduced simultaneously throughout the District. We should not have to wait until funding is available from the Weston-super-Mare CPZ before parking attendants are introduced elsewhere.
- What are the plans for CPZ's in Portishead? Location(s)? Timescale?
- The commercial viability of the High Street must be taken into account when considering a CPZ for Portishead.

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

**REVIEW OF FOLK HALL HIRING CHARGES WITH EFFECT FROM
1ST SEPTEMBER 2007**

FACILITY	CURRENT	RECOMMENDED
Main Hall – up to 6pm 6pm until 10pm 10pm until midnight	£7.50 per hour £11.00 per hour £15.00 per hour	£8.50 per hour £12.50 per hour £17.00 per hour
Fedden & Reynolds Rooms (Members Room when charged)	£3.00 per hour 2 hr min.charge	£3.50 per hour 2hr min.charge
Eve Wigan Room	£5.50 per hour	No change. To be reviewed when office relocation proposals completed.
Light use of kitchen (tea/coffee only)	No charge	No charge
Full use of kitchen	£20.00 per session	£25 per session
Commercial Rate (Hall)	£20.00 per hour	£25 per hour