

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH OCTOBER 2006

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J H Clark, J S Clark, Gething*, Howells, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Pasley, Walters

* Councillor Gething left the meeting after Minute RW703

Mrs R Tranter – Assistant Clerk

There were also two members of the public present, Mr W Black and Mrs C Stockham

APOLOGIES Councillors A McMurray, J McMurray

RW702 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pasley

- Personal interest Minute RW703 Lake Grounds Play Area
Reason – lives close to the Lake Grounds

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest Minute RW703 Lake Grounds Play Area
Reason – lives close to the Lake Grounds

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

Councillors J H Clark, Gething, Johnston, 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.

RW703 LAKE GROUNDS PLAY AREA

Councillor Gething addressed the Committee and circulated a plan showing the proposed improvements to the Lake Grounds Play Area to be carried out by North Somerset Council as part of their new play policy. North Somerset Council's play policy seeks to provide each major town in the district with a major play facility with smaller satellite facilities in local areas. The Lake Grounds has been selected as the major play facility in Portishead. An amount of £40,000 had been earmarked for some work to be initiated. The main proposals are to -

- Extend the fencing to create an area for older children (upper area);
- Improve drainage;
- New pathways within the site (DDA compliant);

- Move the existing swings into the area created by more fencing, and provide additional swings.
- It is also proposed to widen the path around the lake outside the play area but this will be funded from a separate budget.

The Town Council is being asked to fund the addition of a sandpit and sand-play equipment at the cost of £28,000 in the existing play area.

Councillor Gething advised the Committee that a grant has been submitted to YANSEC for the sum of £25,000. It is proposed that this grant be aimed at providing at least one piece of teenage equipment which would be sited in the “upper area”.

A lengthy debate followed with members raising their concerns and giving opinions on the scheme. Some alternative sites were proposed which several members thought would be more appropriate than the Lake Grounds. The Chairman suggested that a site meeting would be useful for familiarizing members with the exact locations of the proposals before the next Town Council Meeting. It was therefore agreed that members would meet at the Lake Grounds on Sunday, 5 November at 11.00am.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Town Council supports in principle North Somerset Council’s proposal to spend £40,000 in the environs of the play area at the Lake Grounds.
2. The Town Council will allocate £30,000 of the funds set aside for community projects in this year’s budget to fund the provision of a sandpit and sand-play equipment in the lower play area.
3. The Town Council will request £25,000 grant aid from YANSEC for providing teenager equipment in the upper area.
4. Gordano School pupils will be consulted at the forthcoming meeting on the provision of equipment.
5. A press article will be prepared for The Times and Mercury outlining the proposals and seeking comment and suggestions from a wide range of local people.

RW704

BRACKENWOOD WOODLAND WALK

Councillor Clark presented his report on the Brackenwood Woodland Walk and informed the Committee of the history of this pocket of land. The issue of access to the pathway since Bloor Homes had started developing the garden centre site and possible other access ways available to the woodland walk were also discussed.

RECOMMENDED that

Mr Maycock, the existing leaseholder, is invited to address the Town Council in order that the Council learn the precise terms he has in mind.

RW705

CEMETERY

Members noted the update report which had been circulated for information following a meeting held on 5 October 2006 at the Folk Hall.

RECOMMENDED that

The report be accepted.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the Assistant Clerk for attending and taking the minutes and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.