

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 26th JANUARY 2005

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair
Councillors Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, Gething, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, A McMurray, Miers, Walters

APOLOGIES Councillors Miss Griffiths, J McMurray, Pasley
Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

RW598 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

RW599 FORMER ALBERT ROAD DEPOT – PROPOSED RELOCATION OF FORMER FIRE STATION BUILDING

This item was referred back to the Committee for consideration of The Way Forward following the submission of the planning application for the site – Minute No. 1154 and Planning Application Nos. 04/P/3331/F and 04/P/3332/F refer.

The Committee confirmed that they were happy with the new position of the former fire station building and noted that the Gordano Society had expressed an interest in being involved with the development and running of a Heritage Centre facility. The Committee also commented that the building could initially be used by the developer as a Sales Office and equipped internally to provide toilets, power, water and drainage for future use.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council continue to negotiate to acquire the former fire station building, with full services, in the position shown on the current plan.

RW600 TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP – CLEVEDON ROAD, NORTH WESTON

Further to Minute No. RW597 Councillor Gething now provided further details of the proposed “Check your Speed” and 30mph roundel signage scheme. The Committee noted that the cost would be £754.88, to include the

disposal of the redundant North Weston sign. One member of the Committee considered that this cost was excessive.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council approve the proposed signage scheme for Clevedon Road and agree to meet the cost of £754.88.

RW601 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – PROPOSED SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

This matter was referred to the Committee following consideration of the 2005/2006 Budget and Precept Requirement (Minute No. 1200 refers).

The Committee now received details of a typical Service Level Agreement (the agreement with Clevedon Town Council being used as an example), a breakdown of the CAB's budget for the 3 years to be covered by the Agreement and details of the North Somerset Grant attributed to Portishead.

Whilst the Committee noted that the figure of 15% had been used to determine the Portishead portion of the North Somerset Grant, some members queried how this % had been arrived at and commented that some of the figures given did not equate to 15%.

The Committee also considered that the Town Council should charge the Citizens Advice Bureau rent for their accommodation, to be offset by an increased grant to cover the cost. This would make the Town Council's grant equitable with the grants given by both Clevedon and Nailsea Town Council's.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Clerk and Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee negotiate a 3-year Service Level Agreement with the Citizens Advice Bureau, similar to the Bureau's Agreement with Clevedon Town Council and including the cost of rent from 2006/07.
2. Further information be obtained in respect of the portion of the North Somerset Grant attributed to Portishead.

RW602 TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS

Routine Inspections

The Chairman reported that an update to the British Standard for Playground Equipment, BS EN 1176, and recent guidance from the Town Council's insurance company now required that the routine inspection of the Council's play areas be carried out by a "suitably qualified" person. The Committee noted that the Town Council's play area maintenance contractor now offered this service at a cost of £10 per site per week and £50 per site for a fully documented annual inspection.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The routine inspection of the Town Council play areas be carried out by GB Sport and Leisure at an annual cost of £570 per play area.
2. The Town Council caretaker to continue his outside duties in the play areas and the Town Council car park.

Mead Road

Councillor A McMurray reported that the grassed area at Mead Road Play Area had been badly damaged by a car using it as a “race-track” and asked the Committee to consider installing a gated barrier.

The Chairman reported on the indicative costings that had been obtained for a suitable barrier, consisting of a lockable double leaf vehicle gate and adjacent self-closing pedestrian gate.

RECOMMENDED that the Clerk be authorised to arrange for the work to be carried out at a cost not to exceed £1,000.

RW603

NORTH WESTON VILLAGE HALL

The Committee received a verbal update from Councillor A McMurray. It was noted that a full report on the contract details would be made to the 9th February meeting of the Town Council.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm