

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 26TH JULY 2006

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, Howells, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, A McMurray, J McMurray, Miers, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES There were no apologies for absence

RW685 UNDERWOOD ROAD PLAY AREA SITE VISIT

Councillors Mrs Cruse, Bickley, J S Clark, Howells, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers and the Clerk met at Underwood Road Play Area. Members walked the site and expressed the general opinion that whilst the area was in good condition overall there were a few matters that should be attended to – clearer identification of the entrance gate, re-attaching the litter bin to the railings and maintenance and cleaning of the seat. It was also suggested that as there were currently only two swings at the play area, and these were coming to the end of their life, the play area should be considered for refurbishment in 2007/08

The meeting reconvened at the Mead Road Play Area.

RW686 MEAD ROAD PLAY AREA SITE VISIT

Members were generally happy with the condition of the Mead Road Play Area, the only matters highlighted for attention being clearer identification of the entrance gate and removal of graffiti. It was also suggested that a new basket-ball hoop be fitted on the existing pole.

The meeting reconvened at the Folk Hall.

RW687 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal interest in RW688 Portishead Youth Centre Redevelopment
Reason – Member of Management Committee

Councillor J S Clark

- Personal interest in RW688 Portishead Youth Centre Redevelopment
Reason – Member of Management Committee

Councillor M Johnston

- Personal interest in RW688 Portishead Youth Centre Redevelopment
Reason – Member of Management Committee

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in RW688 Portishead Youth Centre Redevelopment
Reason – Member of Youth Centre Fund Raising Committee

Councillor Miers

- Personal interest in RW688 Portishead Youth Centre Redevelopment
Reason – Patron of Youth Centre Fund Raising Appeal (in capacity as Chairman of the Town Council)

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

Councillors Johnston 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 known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

RW688

PORTISHED YOUTH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

Further to Minute No. RW651, Councillor Mrs Cruse introduced Bishop Roger Sainsbury, Chairman of the Youth Centre Redevelopment Committee, and Alan Rowe, Youth Leader, to the Committee and invited them to update members on the redevelopment project.

Mr Rowe confirmed that planning permission had now been obtained and that the management committee had opted to proceed with the complete refurbishment of the premises (Option 3 of the feasibility study discussed at the 24th August 2005 meeting of the RW Committee – Minute No. RW630 refers), at a cost of approximately £1.9M. It was proposed that the work would be carried out in phases –

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|---|---------------|
| Preliminary Works – Upgrade the existing hall | Cost £50,820 |
| Stage 1 – New build (entrance, parking, café, social area, kitchen, admin) | Cost £580,000 |
| Stage 2 – Upgrade of existing and new build (special needs, art, music, radio, computers) | Cost £310,000 |
| Stage 3 – New community sports hall | Cost £800,000 |

It was intended to proceed with the preliminary works during September and, provided the funding was confirmed, to proceed with Stage 1 during the 2007/2008 financial year. Ideally Stages 2 and 3 would follow but this was very much dependent on support from other major funders – Children in Need, Lottery, Sports Council etc. Mr Rowe also confirmed that it was necessary to

upgrade the existing hall (preliminary works) prior to any other work being carried out to enable the club to continue to operate during the refurbishment.

Bishop Sainsbury confirmed that the Redevelopment Committee would like to use £25,000 of the Town Council's already confirmed grant of £50,000 towards the preliminary works and the remainder towards the Stage 1 works. Councillor Mrs Cruse also reminded members that the Town Council had previously indicated that they would support the refurbishment project, in principle, to a maximum of £100,000 (subject to conditions) and therefore the Town Council's contribution towards the Stage 1 works could be a maximum of £75,000.

Members were provided with a breakdown of the costings of the preliminary works but were concerned that the architect had recommended that it would be quicker if a price was negotiated with one contractor rather than go through a competitive tendering process. The Clerk confirmed that when the Council intended to enter into a contract in excess of £5,000 Financial Regulations required that a competitive tendering process be applied. Further, as the Council would be providing substantial funding to the project the Council had a statutory duty to ensure that the funding was appropriately managed.

Bishop Sainsbury also confirmed that it was currently unclear as to who was going to sign the building contract and he was hoping to meet with the NSC Chief Executive shortly to discuss this and other key issues.

In bringing the discussion to a close several Councillors reiterated their support for the project but expressed the view that the Town Council would be unable to consider the matter further until the contract details were clearer. However, to confirm the Town Council's support for the project it was

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council will release £25,000 of the agreed grant of £50,000 towards the preliminary works if it is confirmed that North Somerset Council will sign the contract.

Councillor Mrs Cruse thanked Bishop Sainsbury and Mr Rowe for attending the meeting.

RW689

NORTH WESTON ZEBRA CROSSING

Further to Minute No. RW651 Councillor A McMurray informed members that the Executive Member for Strategic Planning & Transport had been unable to confirm the location for the pedestrian crossing as it was considered that the pavement was too narrow. However, at a subsequent site meeting on Friday 21st July the Executive Member had indicated that the location could be looked at again, but there may be an additional cost involved. Councillor McMurray expressed his frustration that the original location had been agreed by a Highway Engineer and therefore the Town Council should not be expected to pay for the mistake made by North Somerset Council.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Town Council advise the Executive Member for Strategic Planning & Transport of the background and local and Town Council decisions and agreements.
2. A small number of objectors should not result in the blocking of the Zebra Crossing as planned.
3. The Town Council advise NSC New Works Manager that they will not pay for the cost of a mistake made by his department.
4. All Portishead's District Councillors insist that North Somerset Council resolve this issue.

RW690

PURCHASING GOODS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL USING A PERSONAL CREDIT CARD & RECLAIM OF VAT

The Clerk/RFO reported that due to increasing use of the internet to acquire certain goods and services, ie security system updates, HM Revenue & Customs had issued a new ruling regarding the acquisition of goods using a personal credit card and reclaiming VAT on those purchases. Guidance on the statutory control element of the ruling had also been issued by NALC.

The Clerk/RFO confirmed that, despite extensive enquiries, it had not been possible to obtain a credit card in the Council's name as suggested by the auditor in 2004/2005. She was, however, willing to use her own personal credit card if duly authorised to do so by the Council in accordance with the new ruling.

Members were also asked to endorse the recent emergency action taken by the Clerk/RFO in purchasing new light fittings for the bar area of the main hall with her credit card.

RECOMMENDED that

1. In view of the updated ruling from HM Revenue & Customs the Clerk/RFO be authorised to use her personal credit card on behalf of the Council in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.2(a) in the following circumstances –
 - Internet purchase – ie internet security packages and updates and items which are more economic to obtain via this method.
 - Emergency supplies/repairs
2. The action taken by the Clerk in purchasing new light fittings on her credit card be endorsed.

RW691 TELEPHONE BOXES IN PORTISHEAD

Councillor Walters informed the Committee that he had recently received a number of complaints about anti-social behaviour focussing on the telephone boxes in West Hill and Woodhill Road. He had asked the Local Action Team if they would like to consider the matter and when their views were known he would report back to the Committee.

RW692 UNDERWOOD ROAD AND MEAD ROAD PLAY AREAS

The Committee continued their discussion about the Underwood Road and Mead Road Play Areas.

RECOMMENDED that

Underwood Road

1. The entrance gate to the play area be painted in order to clearly identify its position (*Clerk's note – Councillor Johnston offered to carry out this work*).
2. The litter bin be re-attached to the railings.
3. The seat be cleaned and, if possible, new ends fitted.
4. The play area be considered for refurbishment in 2007/08

Mead Road

1. The entrance gate to the play area be painted in order to clearly identify its position (*Clerk's note – Councillor Johnston offered to carry out this work*).
2. Graffiti be removed from the climbing frame and slide.
3. A new basket-ball hoop be fitted on the existing pole.

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