

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2002

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Bickley – in the Chair

Councillor J Johnston, M Johnston, Palmer, Pickering, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Mrs Mason, Pasley

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Councillor Mrs Cruse, the former Committee Chairman, Councillor Mrs Bickley, chaired the meeting.

Mr Ron Hazelton, landlord of the Poacher Public House, was in attendance for Minute No. RW470.

RW468 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Palmer – Personal interest in Minute No. RW469 – Application for a grant from Portishead Youth Centre. Reason – Member of Youth Centre Management Committee

Councillor Pickering – Personal interest in Minute No. RW469 – Application for a grant from Portishead Youth Centre. Reason – Member of Youth Centre Management Committee

RW469 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT

Portishead Youth Centre - Funding towards the provision of computer equipment to enable the development of an internet facility for Youth Centre members.

The Committee were generally supportive of this application and commented that an internet facility at the Youth Centre would meet a different need to that provided at the library.

RECOMMENDED that the Youth Centre be awarded a grant of £750 towards the provision of computer equipment to enable the development of an internet facility for Youth Centre members.

RW470

PORTISHEAD PARTNERSHIP – TREE OUTSIDE POACHER PUBLIC HOUSE

Members were informed that the Portishead Partnership had highlighted a problem with the silver maple outside the Poacher Public House which had originally been planted as part of the original joint Portishead Partnership/Town Council High Street enhancement scheme some years ago. Following representations to the Partnership by the landlord of the Poacher Public House, North Somerset Council's arboriculturist had inspected the tree and reported that in his opinion this species was not suitable for this location as it would grow extremely big and its root system could cause problems with underground services. The arboriculturist had recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with an ornamental pear as planted elsewhere in the High Street. It had subsequently been proposed that the Town Council share the cost of the work with North Somerset Council, approximately £40 each.

After receiving additional information and clarification from Mr Hazelton the Committee agreed that the silver maple should be removed and

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council share the cost of the removal of the silver maple and replacement with an ornamental pear with North Somerset Council, approximately £40 each.

RW471

LAKE GROUNDS ISLAND REGENERATION

Councillor M Johnston informed the Committee that he had been looking at ways in which the island on the Lake could be improved. He gave details of coir matting bunds which, when planted with water plants, would enhance the island and improve the habitat for wildlife. An initial estimate of £3,150 for the bunds and £6,100 for installation had been obtained but this was subject to further clarification because a query had arisen about the construction of the bed of the Lake.

The Committee were generally supportive of the idea to enhance the island and agreed that partnership funding should be sought from North Somerset Council area fund.

Councillor M Johnston was asked to obtain further information and, if possible, additional quotations, and to endeavour to report to the 10th July meeting of the Town Council.

RW472

TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

The Clerk reported on the effectiveness of the Town Council's communication policy and highlighted particular areas of concern.

Web Site – The Clerk reported that the site had received over 4,000 visitors since its inception and many favourable comments had been received. The site did, however, require updating. Councillors, in particular, were asked to ensure that their own biographical entry was up-to-date.

RECOMMENDED that

- the content of the web-site be reviewed and updated
- the web-site address be included in the Portishead Paper advertisement and on Town Council headed note-paper

Hot Mail Facility – The Clerk reminded members that the hot-mail facility had originally been set-up as a mechanism for members of the public to easily contact Councillors and the Town Council via e-mail direct from the web-site. However, the system depended on messages being retrieved at least once every 30 days and it appeared that this had not been happening. The Clerk questioned if the facility should be retained.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed the opinion that the hot-mail facility should be retained as a mechanism for the general public to communicate with the Council and

RECOMMENDED that councillors be encouraged to use the facility and a further review of the system be carried out in 6 months time.

Notice Boards – Members expressed the opinion that, in the long-term, additional notice boards would be required in the new developments but acknowledged that servicing arrangements would need to be addressed. It was further

RECOMMENDED that replacement notice boards be provided for North Weston Village Hall and Redcliffe Bay Post Office in the current financial year and the Clerk obtain quotations and report back to the Committee in due course.

Newsletter – The Clerk informed members that the bi-monthly Town Council newsletter in the Portishead Paper was well received by residents. However, difficulties were being experienced in producing the editorial because of Councillor Pasley's increased work commitments and the necessity of producing the editorial as late as possible to keep it topical. Members were asked if they could assist by producing short articles for inclusion in the newsletter. A question was also raised as to whether alternatives to the Portishead Paper should be considered. Councillor Walters suggested that a schedule of print deadlines be drawn up to show where items of a routine nature could be published and highlight those editions where additional articles were required. He further offered to liaise with Councillor Pasley and the Clerk and to marshal other councillors into providing editorial when required.

RECOMMENDED that

- The Town Council continue to publish the newsletter in the Portishead Paper as not all properties in Portishead receive the alternative "free" papers.

- Councillor Walters offer to assist Councillor Pasley and the Clerk be welcomed.
- Councillors be encouraged to submit articles to Councillor Pasley and the Clerk for inclusion in the newsletter.

RW473 FOLK HALL – DAMP IN REYNOLDS ROOM

The Committee were informed that the recent building survey in connection with the works to relocate the disabled toilet had highlighted a problem with damp in the Reynolds Room. Mr Vestey, the Town Council building surveyor, had subsequently investigated the problem and members were circulated with a copy of his report which included various suggestions for remedial action.

After an inspection by Councillors J Johnston, Palmer and Walters the Committee concluded that the work should be carried out as soon as possible and agreed that it would be beneficial if the works were carried out at the same time as the works to relocate the disabled toilet.

RECOMMENDED that

- Mr Vestey be asked to provide a costed schedule of works for consideration.
- When agreed, the works to the Reynolds Room be included with the contract for the works to relocate the disabled toilet. (*Note – this will be an additional cost to be met from the Hall Maintenance budget*).
- Consideration be given to the installation of an opening window in the Reynolds Room and ventilation grills in the bottom of doors.
- The fire-escape mild steel fixing bolts be replaced with stainless steel bolts.

RW474 SKATEBOARD FACILITY

Further to Minute No. RW461 the Clerk now reported on the 4 quotations received for the skateboard facility. Members were also reminded that play equipment is considered as proprietary equipment and it could be considered on its individual merits (style, build quality) rather than price, in accordance with the provision of Financial Regulation 10.1(v).

Members were also reminded that one of the main factors for the choice of equipment was its noise rating as the proposed site at Merlin Park was in a residential area. Accordingly, each company had been asked to submit details of sound tests with their quotations and a separate analysis of the two quietest was circulated. It was noted that the quietest equipment was Rhino-Top supplied by Playground Services.

Members further noted that quotations for the equipment as specified ranged from £5,350 to £10,723.50, with supplementary quotations being submitted by two suppliers for additional appropriate equipment.

After receiving clarification on a number of points from the Clerk it was

RECOMMENDED that

The contract for the supply of skateboard equipment for the proposed Merlin Park skatepark be awarded to Playground Services and their quotation reference CD/RR/012 dated May 2002 in the sum of £13,870.50, be accepted, subject to planning permission and agreement from residents.

This contract is awarded in accordance with the provisions of the Town Council Financial Regulations 10.1(v).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm