

**MEETING OF PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE
27 JANUARY 2010 7.30PM**

- PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Cruse – Chairman of the Committee
- Councillors Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Parker, Pasley, Walker and Walters.
- Mr M Dolton - Town Clerk
- APOLOGIES** Councillors Cruse, Mrs Knight, McMurray, Miss Stanley and Mrs Way.

RW 908 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Pasley stated that any views he expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts currently known. He would be exercising his rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

Councillors Mrs Cruse and Hazelton :-

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW910 (Youth Centre)
Reason – Town Council representatives on the Youth Club management committee.

RW 909 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public or press present.

RW 910 YOUTH CENTRE

Due to the personal interest declared by Councillor Mrs Cruse, this item of the agenda was chaired by Councillor Howells.

Members had received the report of the Clerk circulated with papers, and a further supplementary tabled report at the meeting.

North Somerset Council had now defined the period during which they are willing to commit to funding the building maintenance of the Youth Centre as four years beyond the end of the development building project defect period. The Clerk had provided some estimated year on year likely revenue costs, but he stressed that he had not received the costing figures from North Somerset Council that he expected to

receive prior to this meeting, and members could only use his estimates as a rough guide.

Councillor Mrs Cruse summarised the position and status of the building development project, and explained why it was, in the opinion of the Centre Management Committee, important that the project progressed as per the time line schedule to avoid considerable loss of income from lettings. She further confirmed that the lease between the management committee and North Somerset Council expires in June 2010, and North Somerset had indicated that they were willing to leave the lease in abeyance until the completion of the building works.

Members then discussed the matter and potential implications for both the Town Council and future provision of youth services within Portishead, at considerable length.

Some members expressed the view that the pressure being placed on this Council by North Somerset to reach a decision was inappropriate and it is unreasonable to expect such a decision without further information, financial details, and commitment from North Somerset on a number of issues relating to youth service provision. Other members expressed the view that unless this Town Council indicated a firm commitment, North Somerset may withdraw funding from the building development project. The issue of whether the element of Section 106 monies proposed for the project would be available beyond the current timeline was also considered.

Members agreed that the proposal, as it stood with the current information available, should not be rejected or accepted at this point.

The Clerk was asked to urge North Somerset Council to provide the financial information he had requested some time ago prior to the meeting of the full Town Council on 10 February 2010, and ask Councillor C Francis-Pester, the North Somerset Council executive member for property, to come and speak to members on a mutually convenient date prior to 10th February 2010 to discuss matters further.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council wish to consider further the proposal by North Somerset Council for the future leasing and other arrangements of the Portishead Youth Centre.

RW 911 ALLOTMENTS – THE FUTURE

The Clerk updated members on the efforts he was making to present options to members in the future relating to the possible acquisition of land, either through purchase or lease, for further allotment provision.

A professional valuation of a plot of land was now taking place, together with enquiries with the planners at North Somerset Council as to suitability of the plots of land being considered. The Clerk was now waiting for various items of information to be forthcoming, and will

report further to members when he is in a position to present meaningful options to members for decision.

RECOMMENDED that.

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the update relating to potential land acquisition for further allotment provision, and await further reports from the Clerk.

RW 912 GRANT APPLICATION

Three grant applications from Gordano Valley Archers, North Somerset MenCap, and the West of England MS Therapy Centre had been received and circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Members considered the three applications in turn, and unanimously agreed to award grants as recommended below.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council award the following grants:-

- (i) Gordano Valley Archers = £500 (Youth Grant Budget)
- (ii) North Somerset Mencap = £300 (Youth Grant Budget)
- (iii) West of England MS Therapy Centre = £250 (General Community Grants budget)

RW 913 EMERGENCY WALL REPAIRS – LEESIDE / DOWNSIDE

Members received the report of the Clerk relating his actions to arrange the demolition of a dangerous wall that was on the boundary of land owned by the Town Council, situated alongside the public footpath between Leaside and Downside, Portishead. Having had the wall demolished it was now necessary to conduct further work to ensure no repetition occurred by removing all the banking from the area, and reinstating the chain link fence on the boundary.

RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk is authorised to have work conducted to level and make good the area at Leaside / Downside public footpath boundary, owned by this Town Council, which is necessary following the demolition of the wall at that location. Such work is authorised to a maximum spend of £1,500.00p without further referral to members.

RW914 REQUESTS FOR GRIT BINS

Members received the report from the Deputy Clerk which detailed requests from residents for the placement of further grit bins within the town area. The schedule attached to the report detailed the suggested locations, together with detail of the residents requesting them.

Members discussed the matter, and agreed that the Clerk should arrange for grit bins to be provided and sited as he felt appropriate from the schedule, subject to agreement of local residents and North Somerset Council.

As a result of a request in the report, it was further suggested that the Clerk, in addition to those to be provided from the schedule of recent requests, should be authorised to provide further grit bins in future up to a value of £600 per financial year without further referral to members.

RECOMMENDED that

- (i) The Clerk is to arrange the provision of grit bins listed on the schedule to the Deputy Clerk's report, as appropriate and in agreement with local residents and North Somerset Council.
- (ii) The Clerk is authorised in future to arrange further Grit Bin placements as he thinks appropriate, to a maximum spend of £600 per financial year without further referral to members.

RW915 NORTH WESTON CEMETERY CAR PARK PROJECT

In the absence of Councillors McMurray and Cruse, the Clerk updated members on the project progress.

It was still hoped to have the building phase of the car park commenced and completed during the month of March 2010. There had been a slight delay from original time frames due to a legal / financial issue over Financial Regulations compliance which had resulted in the building work having to be re-tendered, and the recent discovery that the land drainage results now necessitated the construction of a drain soakaway.

The Clerk informed members that due to the above issues he now felt that the original funding allocation of £30,000 would not now enable project completion.

After discussion members agreed to allocate further funds from general reserves to enable completion of the project.

RECOMMENDED that

Members note the progress being made on the North Weston Cemetery Car Park project, and agree to the allocation of a further £10,000 from general reserves to enable completion of the project.

RW916 CONSULTATION RESPONSE – CABSTAND ZEBRA CROSSINGS

Members had received the consultation papers from North Somerset Council relating to the proposed zebra crossings at the Cabstand / Station Road junction, Portishead.

Members discussed the proposals, agreeing to note them and comment that the Station Road crossing does not align with the footpath that will serve the new Library building.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the proposals by North Somerset Council to install zebra crossings at the junction of Cabstand and Station Road, Portishead, and comment that the Station Road crossing does not align with the footpath that will serve the new Library building.

RW917 CONSULTATION RESPONSE – PROVISION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN PORTISHEAD

Members had received the circulated consultation documents in relation to the future provision of primary education in Portishead.

After brief discussion, members agreed to support the proposed extending of Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School, commenting that the figures provided did not make it clear whether they had included the residents of Portbury who would become Portishead residents after the May 2011 boundary changes, and the residents of Moor Farm area of Sheepway, Portbury, who are closer to Trinity School than Portbury school.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council respond to the consultation document by expressing support the proposed extending of Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School, commenting that the figures provided did not make it clear whether they had included the residents of Portbury who would become Portishead residents after the May 2011 boundary changes, and the residents of Moor Farm area of Sheepway, Portbury, who are closer to Trinity School than Portbury.

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