

## **RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, McMurray, Mrs Mason, Miers, Parker, Miss Stanley, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Mrs Lord, Pasley, Wright

#### **RW731 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW732 – Town Centre CCTV System  
Reason – Member of Chamber of Trade when CCTV originally installed

Councillor Hazelton

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW732 – Town Centre CCTV System  
Reason – Member of Chamber of Trade when CCTV originally installed

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

Councillors McMurray and Mrs Knight 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.

#### **RW732 TOWN CENTRE CCTV SYSTEM**

The Committee were informed that North Somerset Council were in the process of upgrading the district CCTV System to a digital system. This would have the advantage of being more efficient, provide clearer pictures and aid the use of other technology ie automatic number plate recognition. A request for the Town Council to consider contributing towards this initiative, which was expected to cost in the region of £5,000 for the Portishead upgrade, had been received.

Whilst a majority of councillors considered that the system should be upgraded and maybe expanded, a few councillors expressed doubts as to whether the system was still of benefit to the Town.

**RECOMMENDED that**

1. The Town Council recognise that there is benefit in retaining and upgrading the system.
2. The Chairman of the Committee and Clerk investigate –
  - (a) the contributions made to the initiative by the other Town Councils;
  - (b) if it would be possible to expand the Portishead system to include other areas in the Town, particularly West Hill.

**RW733**

**ST PETER'S ROAD/JUNCTION WITH HIGH STREET**

Further to Minute Nos. RW716 and RW719, the Committee now received North Somerset Council's response to the Town Council's representations about this junction. In addition, Councillor McMurray reported on a meeting held at the site with North Somerset Council's Safe Routes to Schools Officer.

Arising from that meeting it was noted that the highways department had been requested to consider what improvements could be made, including installing barriers around the corners to guide pedestrians to a safer crossing point. It was further noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage safety audit and a pedestrian survey would be carried out during peak school hours.

In response to comments made about the hazard caused by the advertising hoardings around Knights Tyres, Councillor McMurray confirmed that the retrospective planning application for the hoardings had been called in to be heard by the North Area Planning Committee. The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had already submitted comments on the planning application. *(These comments are reproduced below for information purposes).*

RECOMMENDED that

1. The report of the meeting with the Safe Routes to Schools Officer be noted.
2. The Town Council defer consideration of this matter until further information is available from the highways department.

*Clerk's Note – The Town Council response to Planning Application 07/P/1241/ADV (retrospective) Display of a non-illuminated sign at 160-162 High Street, Portishead (Knights Tyre and Exhaust Centre) – is as follows:*

*The signs as existing have been at this site for less than two years and not 15 years as stated in the application. There were previous signs but these were less bulky.*

*Object to the planning application on the following grounds –*

- *The signs affect the visibility of vehicles emerging from St Peter's Road at this busy roundabout on the High Street; and*
- *The signs are visually obtrusive.*

**RW734 NORTH SOMERSET PLAY STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Further to Minute No. 1446, the Committee now received North Somerset Council's reply to the Town Council's response to the consultation.

Members noted that the Play Development Manager had welcomed the Town Council's support and commitment to children's play and was looking forward to working with the Town Council in the future.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council note the response and ask to be kept informed of any proposals for the development of local play facilities.

**RW735 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT**

The Committee received an application for a grant from Portishead Town Band.

Whilst a majority of members expressed support for this application, concerns were expressed that only an income and expenditure account had been submitted.

RECOMMENDED that consideration of the application be deferred until such time as more detailed accounts, including a balance sheet, has been received.

**RW736 GORDANO SCHOOL LIAISON – UPDATE**

Members were reminded that during meetings held with pupils from Gordano School during 2006 it had been agreed to investigate whether it would be possible to provide a late night bus service to/from The Mall on Friday and Saturday evenings. Councillor Howells now reported that whilst it was not feasible to provide a private regular bus, it may be possible to extend the current 8.40pm X25 Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon service to Portishead and The Mall, and return. It was understood that it would cost approximately £9,800 per year to provide this service. It was pointed out that this would be of benefit to residents of Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon, as well as Portishead.

Members generally supported the extension of this service and

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Town Council ask North Somerset Council to consider adding this service to its list of subsidised routes, at its next review of subsidised bus routes.
2. The Clerk write to Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon Town Councils seeking their support for the proposal.

RW737

## COUNCILLORS USE OF MEMBERS ROOM

Councillor Walters informed the Committee that he considered the existing protocol for the use of the Members Room was no longer satisfactory and that it should be widened to allow it to be used by Councillors at all reasonable times without charge. He considered that the room should be used for purposes or meetings at which the majority of those present were members of the Town Council and the use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate or be conducive to the discharge of functions of the Town Council.

During the ensuing discussion other members raised questions with regard to the general lettings policy of the Council, particularly in respect of which groups did not currently pay a hiring fee. The Chairman confirmed that the Committee would have the opportunity to consider this in detail shortly as the periodic review of hiring charges and lettings policy was due to be carried out.

Councillor Walters also commented that as there was an element of confusion about the hire of rooms there needed to be a clear distinction between party political meetings and meetings of councillors discussing Town Council matters. Furthermore, the Council needed to consider whether councillors, Town or District, should be charged for holding surgeries.

RECOMMENDED that

The Members Room is available for the use by Portishead and North Weston Town Councillors at all reasonable times without charge.

Informally, when the Folk Hall is otherwise open, and without pre-booking, and if the room is not otherwise in use, after consulting the Clerk.

Formally, by booking the room through the usual Folk Hall booking system.

The room may be used for purposes or meetings at which the majority of those present are members of the Town Council *and the use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of functions of the Town Council.*

If the Members Room is not available then any other vacant room can be used in its place.

Improper use of the Room would be a breach of the Council adopted Code of Conduct paragraph 5(b) from where the words in italics above are taken.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm