

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Cruse* – in the Chair

M Cruse*, Hazelton*, Howells*, Mrs Knight*, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason*, McMurray, Miers*, Parker*, Miss Stanley, Walters, Mrs Way*

*Also in attendance at site visit Minute No. RW749

Mrs P Rendle* – Clerk of the Council

Mr Louis Hauser – NSC Waste Management Contracts Officer – in attendance for site visit only Minute No. RW749

Mr R Shields, NSC Transport Policy Officer – in attendance for Minute No. RW751 only

APOLOGIES

Councillor Pasley

RW749

SITE VISIT – PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, CO-OP CAR PARK, WYNDHAM WAY

Further to Minute No. RW726, and prior to the commencement of the formal Committee Meeting, some members of the Committee met Mr Louis Hauser, NSC Waste Management Contracts Officer, at the Co-op car park public conveniences. Mr Hauser provided an update on the new waste management contract and members were pleased to note that the toilets were generally cleaner and in a better condition than they had been at the previous site visit in March 2007.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hauser for attending the site meeting.

The meeting reconvened at the Folk Hall.

RW750

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW753 – Portishead Skatepark Project
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

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

Councillors Mrs Knight and McMurray 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.

RW751

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL 2008 REVIEW OF SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES

Further to Minute No. RW748(b) the Chairman introduced Mr Shields, NSC Transport Policy Officer, and invited him to explain the review process.

Mr Shields gave a detailed explanation of the history of local authority involvement with bus services and outlined the reasons for providing a subsidy for certain routes that would not otherwise be operated by commercial companies. Mr Shields also provided members with additional information in respect of those subsidised services whose contracts were due to expire in March 2008.

Whilst members generally accepted the reasons for the supported services, concerns were expressed about the apparent inefficient use of Ashlands S106 funding, particularly on the 695 service operated by EuroTaxis which required a high level of subsidy. Mr Shields acknowledged this but confirmed that as this funding was provided in accordance with a legal agreement it had to be used to provide a service for the Ashlands. However, officers were intending to look at this in more detail in the coming months to see if a better use could be made of the vehicles and the funding.

On a further point of clarification, Mr Shields confirmed that the Council no longer had any control over the level of bus fares as these were set by the commercial operators.

Mr Shields also answered questions relating to sources of funding for supported bus services, support for private mini-bus operator services and timing of evening services to Cribbs Causeway.

The Chairman thanked Mr Shields for attending the meeting and for providing this very interesting and useful information.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council encourage North Somerset Council to use the S106 funding more efficiently to fulfil the aim of encouraging the use of public transport.

RW752

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, CO-OP CAR PARK, WYNDHAM WAY

Members were generally pleased to find the toilets clean and in an acceptable condition. However, confusion was expressed about the opening times of the conveniences as they were closed when members arrived for the site visit at 7pm when it was understood that they should remain open until 8pm.

RECOMMENDED that

1. North Somerset Council be asked to –
 - Arrange for the public conveniences to be steam-cleaned.

- Re-site the recycling bins
 - Remove the graffiti from the outside walls
2. Mr Hauser be asked to meet the Committee for a site visit to the Lake Grounds public conveniences in 6 months time.

RW753 PORTISHEAD SKATEPARK PROJECT

(a) Portishead Skatepark Project Group - Update

Further to Minute No. RW741 the Committee received a verbal update report from Councillor Miss Stanley, on behalf of Portishead Skatepark Project Group.

Arising from the report it was noted that –

- Various activities had been organised to raise the profile of the group ie Skatifest, bag-packing at Waitrose.
- Investigation into a site still continuing; both Kilkenny Fields and the Lake Grounds are being pursued.
- Meetings have been held with Skatepark designers.
- The park would not just be for skateboards but for all wheeled activities ie in-line skates, BMX bikes, scooters.

Some members expressed their support for a site at Kilkenny Field. Others suggested that a site closer to the Windmill Public House would be preferable. The Group were also urged to check legal covenants on the use of this land.

The report was noted.

(b) Response from NSC Environmental Health Officer (Minute No. RW741 refers)

The response was noted.

RW754 DIGITAL UPGRADE OF TOWN CENTRE CCTV SYSTEM

Further to Minute No. RW732 members were informed that it would cost in the region of £5,000 (£1,000 per camera) to upgrade the Town Centre CCTV System to a digital system. This amount was in proportion to that requested from Clevedon and Nailsea Town Councils.

Members were also informed that the CCTV Manager had confirmed that the control room had capacity for additional cameras and, subject to a detailed site survey, it would be possible to install a CCTV camera in the Avon Way/West Hill area at an anticipated cost of £20,000.

RECOMMENDED that

1. Portishead & North Weston Town Council agree to contribute £5,000 towards the digital upgrade of the Town Centre CCTV System. To be met from the general reserve in the current financial year.
2. North Somerset Council be asked to obtain a quotation for one or two CCTV cameras in the Avon Way/West Hill area. Funding for this to be considered during the 2008/2009 budget process.

The CCTV Manager to be asked to meet on site with the South & North Weston Ward and West Ward Councillors to consider the location of the cameras.

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