

**MEETING OF PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE
28 APRIL 2010 7.30PM**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – Chairman of Committee

Councillors Cameron, Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, McMurray*, Miers, Miss Stanley, and Walters.

(*Councillor McMurray joined the meeting at 7.38pm)

Mr M Dolton - Town Clerk

APOLOGIES Councillors Pasley and Mrs Way.

RW 939 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McMurray 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. RW942 (Youth Centre)
Reason – Town Council representatives on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillors Mrs Mason and Miers :-

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW947 (Redcliffe Bay Hall – Kitchen and Fire Doors)
Reason - Town Council representatives on the Redcliffe Bay Hall management committee.

Councillor Mrs Lord :-

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW944 (Proposed Bandstand, Lake Grounds)
Reason – Proximity of residence to the Lake Grounds.

RW 940 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public or press present.

RW 941 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL : PLAYBUILDER PROJECT :2010/11

The officers from the Playbuilder project had again sent their apologies and stated that due to staffing difficulties, and delay in the project progress, they were unable to attend.

The Chairman of Committee, Councillor Mrs Cruse, expressed her dissatisfaction that this had again occurred, now for the third occasion.

Other members echoed those sentiments, and commented that the work at the Merlin Park play area was still ongoing, appeared to be slow in its progress, and was supposed to have been completed by 31st March 2010.

Members also commented that the purpose of the current planned visits by the Playbuilder team from North Somerset to address this Council was to discuss the plans for the current financial year for the Lake Grounds play area. The Town Council had been continuing to hold £30,000 in an earmarked reserve for equipment to be added to that play area, and with the time scales that were now apparent the progress on that provision was most unsatisfactory and preventing progress on an important provision to the residents of the town.

Members agreed that a letter should be sent to North Somerset Council expressing the dissatisfaction of the Town Council with the slow progress at the Merlin Park play area, and extreme dissatisfaction at the delay in the Playbuilder team addressing members of this Council and moving forward plans for the development of the Lake Grounds play area.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council write to North Somerset Council expressing the dissatisfaction of the Town Council with the slow progress at the Merlin Park play area, and extreme dissatisfaction at the delay in the Playbuilder team addressing members of this Council and moving forward plans for the development of the Lake Grounds play area. This Council has maintained funding provision to support improved facilities at the Lake Grounds site, and wishes to implement that provision without further delay.

RW 942 PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE - UPDATE

Clerk's Note : Due to the personal Interest declared by Councillor Mrs Cruse, Councillor Walters took the Chair for this item.

Councillor Mrs Lord informed members that since the update provided at the meeting of the full Town Council on 14th April 2010, no further meetings with North Somerset Council had taken place. However, there were now three meetings arranged, the first for officers to meet to clarify potential responsibilities and financial figures, and the following

two for members to discuss possible measures and agreements to resolve the future leasing arrangements of the centre.

Councillor Mrs Cruse, on behalf of the management committee of the centre, updated members with the current status and detail of the work that had been conducted to date. Whilst North Somerset Council had communicated to the management committee that they are not willing to proceed further with the development project until the future lease arrangements are clarified, it had been agreed that the management committee could proceed to planning permission stage in the meantime.

Councillor Mrs Cruse, in answer to questions, also confirmed that the Youth Centre management committee are now actively seeking to establish themselves as a legal entity by becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the update on progress relating to the future leasing arrangements of the Portishead Youth Centre, and await further reports.

RW 943 ALLOTMENT PROVISION - UPDATE

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Mrs Cruse updated members on the current status of this project. The Clerk still awaited response from North Somerset Council in relation to their views on the leasing of a plot of land owned by that Council for allotment provision.

Councillor Mrs Cruse then explained to members that, together with the Clerk, she had visited a further plot of land situated in Clevedon Road which would be for potential purchase. Members were shown plans of the nature and location of the land. Last week, together with the Clerk, she had met officers from North Somerset Council Planning and Highways departments to discuss planning details on access to the site, and provision of a car park and shed facilities. The results of the discussions with the North Somerset officers were positive.

In answer to questions, it was confirmed that should the Town Council be successful in acquiring the site, it would meet the high demand and waiting list for allotment provision.

Members discussed issues of confidentiality in relation to the professional valuation that had been obtained. The Clerk advised that the professional valuation can remain confidential to members within the scope of the Local Government Act as is it clearly of commercial sensitivity.

It was agreed that any professional advice required in the attempts to acquire the land should be by Wards Solicitors in relation to legal matters, and Brookes Powell Architects in relation to architectural and planning application matters.

Members agreed by majority vote (10 for, 1 abstention) that the matter should be progressed to attempt to acquire the land, and that the recommendation to the next meeting of the Town Council should be :-

RECOMMENDED that.

Portishead and North Weston Town Council authorise the Clerk, jointly with The Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, to make a formal offer 'subject to contract and subject to obtaining planning permission' to the vendor of the plot of land available for sale at Clevedon Road, Portishead with a view to further provision of allotments. The Clerk and Chairman of Recreation of Works Committee are authorised to offer up to the amount stated in the recent professional valuation report.

If an offer up to that amount is indicated to be successful, those authorised as above are further authorised to engage the services of an architect and apply for planning permission to create a new access to the site, a car park provision, and a wooden shed structure, as indicated acceptable by North Somerset. The Clerk is to also engage the services of a solicitor to act on the Council's behalf to conduct the legal conveyance of the land.

The costs of instructing of an architect, obtaining planning permission, and instructing solicitors, is not to exceed £5,000 without further referral to members.

All costs, including the purchase of the land and the other expenses as above, to come from the 'Environmental / Cultural / Heritage / Allotment' earmarked reserve fund.

RW 944 PROPOSED BANDSTAND : LAKEGROUNDS

Members had received the circulated written report of Councillor Hazelton.

Councillor Hazelton further explained that the Portishead Tourism Group had now identified three potential sites for the provision, and would be intending to seek advice on the construction materials and views of the land owners.

It was not intended at this stage that the Group would be seeking any substantial funding from the Town Council, but the purpose of this agenda item was to seek support and approval of members to assist in progressing the project to fruition.

Members discussed the matter, with several members commenting that bearing in mind Councillor Hazelton's indications on funding the amount stated in the written report of £5,000, was considered too high and unnecessary and a lesser amount should be made available. It was

agreed that £500 was a more appropriate figure. Members were then asked by the Chairman of the Committee to consider each of the three elements of the written recommendation in turn, and it was agreed by majority vote on each element that the Committee would recommend to the Town Council as follows :-

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council

- (i) Encourage and assist in the provision of this bandstand on the Lake Ground to mark the centenary of the area,
- (ii) Form a working party of three councillors to liaise with the Portishead Tourism Group and facilitate this construction and report to the Council via the Recreation and Works Committee on how this might be achieved : specifically to include proposed location and estimated cost and funding ; the views of North Somerset Council as landlord ; and to investigate the work needed and cost of applying for planning permission.
- (iii) Initially to allocate a budget of £500 from the Cultural Environmental Historic and Allotment reserve for this work.

RW 945 OFFICE PHOTOCOPYER

Members had received the written circulated report of the Clerk which outlined the need to replace the photocopier equipment in the Town Council office.

The Clerk summarised the nature and amounts of the three quotes obtained and reasoned the selection made and therefore the recommended company for provision.

In answer to questions by members, the Clerk informed the meeting that the research work that had been conducted into the requirements of the equipment, and the liaison with the firms involved in providing the quotations, had been carried out by the Administration Assistant, supervised by the Deputy Clerk, and that the Clerk was confident that the new equipment would meet the demands of the office for the foreseeable future. Members expressed their gratitude to the staff members who had provided such a thorough consideration of the matter and resulted in the information provided.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council approve the purchase of new photocopier equipment for the office, to a maximum of £3,500.

RW946 FOOTBALL CLUB FIELD : REPAIR TO FENCE

Members had received the written circulated report of the Clerk, which outlined the need to conduct repairs to the high chain link fence at the Bristol Road football club site, to prevent footballs encroaching onto the property of residents.

The Chairman of the Committee explained that the figure stated within the Clerk's report was at this stage only quoted to provide members with an approximate figure in order that a decision could be made. The Clerk assured members that if they decided to approve the provision, then further quotes would be obtained in accordance with Financial Regulations.

No members wished to discuss the matter.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council approve the repair and refurbishment of the Bristol Road Football Club field high chain link fence, to a maximum of £1,750.00p.

RW947 REDCLIFFE BAY HALL : WORKS : KITCHEN AND FIRE DOORS

Members had received the written circulated report of the Clerk, which outlined the need to refurbish the kitchen at the hall, and replace the fire doors. Members were reminded that budget provision had been allocated in the current financial year. The Clerk then summarised the nature and amounts of the three quotes obtained and reasoned the recommended selection, particularly on the grounds of the contractor's ability to conduct the work without any effect at all on the functioning and revenue income of the hall.

Councillor Mrs Lord informed members that as a result of a visit to the hall and discussions by the Halls management Review Working Party, slight amendments had been made to the specification of the work to be conducted. It was confirmed that this additional provision remained within the amount for which approval was sought.

The meeting was also informed that in accordance with a previous resolution passed by the Council, a management committee would now be established for North Weston Village Hall, with members being appointed to serve on that committee at the Annual meeting of the Town Council on the 5th may 2010.

Members voted by majority to approve the recommendations of the Clerk's report.

One member then commented on the general funding of all the halls owned and operated by this Council, expressing the view that costs should be met from revenue income whenever possible.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council approve the works required to the kitchen and fire doors at Redcliffe Bay Hall to a maximum of £4,600.

RW948 DRAFT PARISH / TOWN CHARTER : CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Members had received the written circulated report by Councillor Walters, prepared at the request of the Chairman of the Committee.

Councillor Walters spoke to the report, explaining that he had considered the full content of the draft and felt that the comments and issues he raised were appropriate and relevant.

Members thanked Councillor Walters for his work in this matter, and agreed that this Council should respond to the consultation of the draft document in the terms expressed by him.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council respond to the consultation on the draft Parish / Town Charter, in terms referred to in the report to members by Councillor Walters dated 27th March 2010.

RW949 NORTH WESTON CEMETERY CAR PARK

Members were informed by Councillor McMurray that the car park provision was now complete and in use. The Clerk informed members that he had now requested payment from North Somerset Council for their portion of the cost, £25,000.00p, towards the project.

Members present unanimously expressed their thanks to the project group from this Council, particularly Councillor McMurray, for their hard work and sustained effort in bringing this project to finalisation.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note that the car park provision at the North Weston Cemetery and village hall is now complete and in use. Members record their gratitude to the project group from this Council, particularly Councillor McMurray, for their hard work and sustained effort in bringing this project to finalisation

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

Members are reminded that there is no meeting of this committee in May 2010, the next scheduled meeting being Wednesday 30th June 2010 at 7.30pm.