

## **RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

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

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, Gething, Howells, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, A McMurray, Terry, Walters, Miss Way

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillor Pasley

#### **RW716 SITE VISIT – ST PETER’S ROAD/JUNCTION WITH HIGH STREET**

Some members met at the junction of St Peter’s Road/High Street to consider concerns that had been raised about pedestrian safety in the area, particularly during school travel times.

The meeting reconvened at the Folk Hall

#### **RW717 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillors Gething, Johnston, Terry and Walters 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.

#### **RW718 PRESENTATION BY PORTISHEAD SKATEPARK PROJECT**

Further to Minute No. 1421 Councillor J S Clark provided members with a more detailed analysis of the results of the consultation process and updated them on the results of meetings with North Somerset Council recreation and leisure officers who had been very supportive of the project. He also confirmed that a meeting to discuss planning issues was due to take place with senior planning officers on 1<sup>st</sup> March and a meeting was also being arranged with environmental health officers to discuss other relevant matters, including noise.

Whilst members generally supported the view held by the majority of respondents to the consultation that the best site for the skatepark was in the vicinity of the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre, concerns were expressed about the impact on the adjacent public realm and development sites. Councillor J S Clark confirmed that he had notified the relevant developers of the proposals and that it was the Project Group’s intention to submit an application for

outline planning permission shortly. Councillor J S Clark also confirmed that the Group were looking at a “Skate Plaza” type of development, as opposed to individual ramps. Budget costings were currently being obtained. Some members also expressed the view that any planning application would need to be supported by an environmental impact statement for which there could be a cost implication.

The Committee then viewed a promotional video which had been made by the group of their visit to Bristol Sk8 indoor skatepark.

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Town Council welcome and support the work carried out so far by Portishead Skatepark Project.
2. The Town Council approve, in principle, the choice of a site adjacent to the Parish Wharf Leisure Centre complex as the location of the proposed skatepark.
3. The Town Council is minded to submit the planning application on behalf of the Portishead Skatepark Project and will also agree to consider funding towards the cost of providing any supporting documentation in due course.

## **RW719 ST PETER’S ROAD/JUNCTION WITH HIGH STREET**

The Committee continued their discussion about pedestrian safety at the junction of St Peter’s Road/High Street.

Councillor A McMurray informed the Committee that he had received numerous complaints from worried parents concerned about their children’s safety at this junction during morning and afternoon school travel times. The following problems were highlighted in particular –

- Poor visibility caused by parked vehicles and the hoarding around Knights Tyres.
- Road narrowing caused by parked vehicles.
- Narrow pavement past the farm.
- Street lamp positioned on narrow pavement.
- Drivers performing “quick” left turns from the High Street into St Peter’s Road at the mini-roundabout.
- No priority system for pedestrians.

Photographs highlighting the problems were circulated.

Some members also questioned if the road markings and signage at this junction were correct as there seemed to be an anomaly with the law and also whether the third stage safety audit had been completed following the installation of the mini-roundabout.

RECOMMENDED that Portishead and North Weston Town Council –

1. Request North Somerset Council to review this location with the aim of improving road safety for parents and children alike enabling a safe route to and from school.
2. Notify Gordano School Governors of the problems of pedestrian safety that have been highlighted at the junction of St Peter's Road/High Street and request that they review the School Travel Plan in light of the concerns raised by parents and residents.
3. Request a copy of the third stage safety audit from North Somerset Council.

**RW720 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) INITIATIVE – AVON WAY CONSULTATION**

The Committee were informed that North Somerset Council were proposing to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the Avon Way play area.

Councillor A McMurray reported that he had spoken to local residents and users of the existing play area who had confirmed that the area was extremely well used as it was. Their view was that there was no need for an additional enclosed area within the existing enclosed area; instead, new equipment should be provided for small children, new dual purpose goals and basket-ball hoops installed and the existing equipment repaired and re-painted.

Members generally supported this view and

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council welcome North Somerset Council's intention to invest in the Avon Way Play Area. However, based on the views of local residents and users of the play area, the Town Council request that instead of installing the MUGA as proposed, North Somerset Council carry out the following –

- Install a “bespoke” MUGA to incorporate new goals and basket-ball hoops, as requested by the residents and play area users. This “bespoke” MUGA should utilise the total area of the current tarmac.
- The current tarmac pitch area be maintained.
- The high “netting” be replaced
- The existing play equipment be repaired and re-painted.
- New play equipment for small children and seating be provided.

**RW721 FOLK HALL MAIN HALL FLOOR REFURBISHMENT**

The Committee received three quotations for the refurbishment of the Main Hall Floor.

RECOMMENDED that the quotation of Company B, in the sum of £2,130, be accepted.

The Clerk confirmed that Company B had previously carried out this work for the Council and the quotation allowed for the work to be carried out during the Easter holiday.

**RW722 INSTALLATION OF INCORRECTLY COLOURED BUS SHELTERS AT HARBOUR ROAD AND VILLAGE QUARTER**

Members were informed that despite North Somerset Council being provided with the agreed specification for bus shelters in Portishead, the four new shelters at Harbour Road and Village Quarter were the wrong colour and in two cases, the wrong design. Both the Clerk and Councillor Terry had raised this with North Somerset Council but had been informed that they were unable to justify the expenditure to correct the mistake.

Members considered that this was wholly unacceptable as the incorrectly coloured shelters did nothing to help integrate the new developments with the rest of the town and only served to emphasise that they were in a distinctly different area. This was against the stated aim of the Town Council who had strived to ensure that the new developments blended seamlessly and cohesively with the established town. Furthermore the Town Council had encouraged others to comply with the agreed street furniture specification for the Town and members felt it incomprehensible that North Somerset Council had not complied with their own Supplementary Planning Guidance.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council express its deep concerns about this matter to the Chief Executive of North Somerset Council and he be informed –

- That the Town Council insist that the shelters be re-coloured to the correct specification, irrespective of whether the Town Council assume responsibility for them in the future.
- Of the existence of Supplementary Planning Guidance for Portishead which stipulates the colour for all street furniture.
- That it is essential for the social well-being of the town that the new developments and amenities within them are integrated seamlessly and cohesively with the established town.
- That the Town Council are bitterly disappointed at the blasé attitude taken by North Somerset Council in this matter.

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