

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

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs Cruse – Chairman of Committee

Councillors Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, McMurray, Miers and Miss Stanley.

Mr M Dolton - Town Clerk

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Parker, Pasley and Walters.

**RW 962 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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 currently known. They would be exercising their rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

**RW 963 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public or press present.

**RW 964 USE OF FOLK HALL CAR PARK : PARENTS : ST PETER'S SCHOOL**

Members had received the circulated letter from a parent governor of St Peter's School Portishead. The letter requested permission for parents of school children to park at the Folk Hall Car Park between 08.20am and 08.50am during school term, in order to convey their children to school in a safe environment.

Members discussed the request, and there was consensus that the request should be approved. There was a concern that the parents should not misuse such permission by then leaving their vehicles at the Car Park whilst they attended to other matters within the town area.

It was unanimously agreed that permission will be granted on a one term trial basis and the situation monitored.

***RECOMMENDED that***

Portishead and North Weston Town Council grant permission to parents of children at St Peter's school to use the Folk Hall car parking facility between 0815am and 09.15am on weekday school term days. This permission is granted for the coming autumn term 2010 on a trial basis, the situation to be monitored.

**RW 965      NICK BROWN MEMORIAL CLOCK : NEW LIBRARY : UPDATE**

Due to the recently announced decision of North Somerset Council to now locate the new library at the retail units in Horatio House, the officer dealing with the relocation project had been reminded of the resolution of this Town Council in March 2007 to provide a memorial clock in memory of Councillor N Brown who died in office in 2006.

Contact had been established with the North Somerset officer, and Councillor Mrs Lord will liaise with him as required in future. Councillor Mrs Mason agreed to consult with Mrs Brown.

***RECOMMENDED that***

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note that Councillor Mrs Lord will liaise with the North Somerset Council officer responsible for the library relocation project in relation to the provision of a memorial clock, and Councillor Mrs Mason will consult with Mrs Brown.

**RW 966      PLAY AREAS : ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION**

Members had received the circulated report of the Deputy Clerk which outlined the minor matters requiring attention resulting from the annual safety inspection of all the Town Council's play areas.

Members noted that the cost of the remedial work required amounted to £130, and the Clerk intended to have this work conducted under Financial Regulations Paragraph 3.2(b) (Clerk's authority).

***RECOMMENDED that.***

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the remedial work to be conducted following the annual safety inspection of the play areas, and that the Clerk will expedite the work.

**RW 967      CABSTAND : BOLLARDS / PLANTERS**

The Clerk reminded members that North Somerset Council (Highways) had requested comments from the Town Council in relation to the appearance and type of bollards to be placed at the Cabstand corner to

prevent commercial vehicles parking on the footpath and immediate area.

The comments previously passed by members to the Clerk had been conveyed to North Somerset Council. However, due to a suggestion which some members had shown agreement with, an approach had been made to North Somerset Council to ask if they would consider placing some planters at the location instead of bollards.

A site visit had taken place by staff of the Town Council and the North Somerset Council Highways officer concerned, and it had been agreed that planters would be appropriate if preferred.

Members briefly discussed this matter, and unanimously agreed that planters would be more aesthetically pleasing and serve the same purpose.

***RECOMMENDED that***

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council convey to North Somerset Council Highways that they would welcome planters being placed, in preference to bollards, by North Somerset at the Cabstand corner at the expense of North Somerset Council.

**RW 968      BENCH : NORE ROAD / BATTERY ROAD**

Members had received the circulated written report of the Deputy Clerk which related to the need to replace a bench at the junction of Nore Road and Battery Road.

There had been requests from residents relating to the provision of this bench.

Following discussion, members agreed that as there were no residents currently wishing to donate a bench, the Town Council should fund this provision.

***RECOMMENDED that***

Portishead and North Weston Town Council replace the bench at the junction of Nore Road and Battery Road Portishead, at an approximate cost of £850.

**RW 969      BATTERY POINT LIGHTHOUSE BELL**

Councillor Mrs Knight, Chairman of the Council, addressed members in relation to an approach that had been made to her by residents for assistance of the Town Council to site the old bell that had been recovered many years ago from the Battery Point lighthouse.

The bell, made of bronze, was currently in possession of the Bristol Port Company. Councillor Mrs Knight had, together with the residents concerned (Mrs C Thomas and Mrs A Hennessy), visited the Port Company and seen the bell. Pictures of the bell were shown to members present.

The Port Company are willing to pass ownership of the bell to this Town Council for the sum of £1 (One Pound), and deliver it to any appropriate selected site within the town. There would need to be a strong suitable base constructed which would need to include substantial security features.

Members discussed the matter, expressing a widely held view that the Town Council should agree to take ownership of the bell, and form a small working group to assist in selecting a suitable site. The working group will then also report back to the committee in future with the recommended site and the costs involved in the placement of the bell.

The Clerk commented that there were sufficient funds available in the Cultural / Heritage / Environmental / Allotment earmarked reserve fund, should members wish to authorise expenditure for this purpose in future.

It was agreed that the working group should comprise of Councillor Mrs Knight, Councillor Mrs Cruse, Councillor McMurray and the Clerk.

***RECOMMENDED that***

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council agree to take ownership of the old Bell recovered from the Battery Point Lighthouse at a cost of £1 (One Pound). A working group comprising of Councillor Mrs Knight, Councillor Mrs Cruse, Councillor McMurray and the Clerk will liaise with the Port Company and residents to recommend a suitable site, cost the implementation of locating the bell at that site, and report further.

**RW 970 LETTER FROM TOWN COUNCIL TO POST OFFICE COUNTERS LTD**

Members were aware that Councillor Pasley had, as requested by the Annual Meeting in May 2010 at which he was Chairman, written to Post Office Counters Ltd expressing the concerns of those present at that meeting of the need for further Post Office provision within the town. The Clerk had circulated to members the initial response of the Post Office which was to the effect that they would consider the matter further.

Since preparation and circulation of the papers for this meeting a further response had been received from Post Office Counters Ltd which was tabled for members.

The latest response made varied comments and justifications which in summary stated that the Post Office would not be considering a further provision at this time.

Members discussed the matter and held the view that the evidence presented by the Post Office within the letter was lacking in substance and required further information.

The author of the latter had invited further discussion on the issue if felt necessary, and it was unanimously agreed that a representative from Post Office Counters Ltd should now be invited to attend the public participation session of a future meeting of the Town Council to discuss the matter further with members and residents.

It was also commented that it would be of assistance if the local press representatives felt able to publicise the matter asking residents for comments, as there was anecdotal evidence that local residents were not utilising the current facilities due to the service levels offered and travelling elsewhere, thereby making any customer statistics evidencing the Post Office's conclusion incorrect.

***RECOMMENDED that***

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council invite a representative from Post Office Counters Ltd to attend the public participation session at a future meeting of this Council to discuss the provision of Post Office facilities within the town. Representatives of the local press are asked to consider publicising the matter inviting the views of residents.

**RW 971      SCHOOLS COMPETITION : LITTER POSTERS**

Councillor Mrs Knight, Chairman of the Council, informed members present of a competition that had been held amongst the children at Trinity School Portishead to design a 'litter' poster. Councillor Mrs Knight, together with Mrs Sandy Tebbutt the Chairman of Portishead In Bloom, had judged the entries and selected a winning poster.

Councillor Mrs Knight showed members the winning entry and a selection of other posters submitted by the children.

Members discussed how the Town Council could assist in the publicising of this effort by the school children, and it was agreed that the following recommendation would be put to the full Council.

***RECOMMENDED that***

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council acknowledge and admire the efforts of the children at Trinity School in making posters about litter. The Chairman of the Council will write an official letter to the participants, and the Chairman will also arrange for several of the

posters to be displayed in the Marina area of the town. Where space permits, the Town Council will display posters on the Council notice boards.

#### **RW 972 CHARITY CLOTHING BIN – ‘PLANET AID’**

Members had received the circulated literature from the Planet Aid organisation which requested that the Council consider the placing of a clothing bin on land it owned. The Clerk commented to members that he felt that the only possibly suitable Council owned land would be at the Football Club car park.

Members discussed the matter. Varied views were expressed, and it was agreed that whilst the Council held a supportive attitude towards charities there was no suitable location for the placing of such a bin.

#### ***RECOMMENDED that***

Portishead and North Weston Town Council are grateful to the Planet Aid organisation for the opportunity to consider the placing of a clothing bin on Council land, but are unable to provide a suitable location.

#### **RW 973 ALLOTMENT LAND ACQUISITION : UPDATE**

Councillor Mrs Cruse updated members that the formal offer as previously agreed and resolved by members had now been accepted by the vendor of the land in Clevedon Road.

In accordance with the conditions of the offer and the authority given by the Council, an architect had been instructed on matters relating to the new access to the land, the erection of a shed, and the provision of a light car parking facility, and he would be progressing the application for planning permission.

The District Valuer had also been instructed and her report was expected within the next two weeks or so. Councillor Mrs Cruse and the Clerk were to meet with the appointed solicitor the next day, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July, to instruct him to progress the purchase.

It was suggested that once the legal, planning permission, and District Valuer matters were finalised, a project report with costing would be prepared and bought back before this committee to enable the preparation of the site for allotment use. Councillor McMurray agreed to the request of Councillor Mrs Cruse which was agreed by others present, that he would assist in the implementation project.

#### ***RECOMMENDED that***

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note that the Council's offer to purchase land for allotment use in Clevedon Road Portishead

had been accepted by the vendor, and the legal, District Valuer's valuation and planning permission elements are being progressed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.