

**MEETING OF PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE
28 OCTOBER 2009 7.30PM**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – Chairman of the Committee

Councillors Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Walters.

Mr M Dolton - Town Clerk

Ms Gail Smith, Ms Sharon Radley, Mr Tony Moore, North Somerset Council Play Builder Project Team.

APOLOGIES Councillors Mrs Way, Councillors McMurray, Parker, and Pasley

RW 887 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Knight stated that any views she expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts currently known. She would be exercising her rights to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

Councillors Mrs Cruse and Hazelton :-

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW890 (Youth Centre)
Reason – Town Council representatives on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Mrs Mason :-

- Personal and Prejudicial interest in Minute No RW894 – Trinity Community Hall Management – Reason – Membership of Church Council of Methodist Church at which this matter has been discussed.

Councillors Mrs Cruse, Cruse, Mrs Lord :-

- Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. RW896 – Twinning Association – Reason – active paid up membership of the organisation.

Councillor Mrs Knight :-

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW889 – Play Builder Project – Reason – member of project committee at North Somerset Council.

RW 888 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public or press present.

RW 889 PLAYBUILDER PROJECT - UPDATE

Ms Gail Smith from the North Somerset Play Builder Project Team then addressed the meeting.

Ms Smith summarised the project stating that it is over a two year period, April 2009 to April 2011, with central government funding of some £1 Million. There are eleven play areas being developed in the first year, one of which is the Merlin Park Play Area owned and operated by North Somerset Council. The Lake Grounds Play Area is within the year two funding (commencing April 2010) and this would be the subject of further discussion and consideration with members of this Council in the New Year.

The project is embarking on considerable and extensive community consultation in an effort to establish community ownership of the areas.

Pictures and plans of the type of equipment that will be installed at Merlin Park were then shown to members. Mr Moore then provided further detail of the equipment and materials to be utilised.

Members then discussed the proposed provision and asked questions of the project team. In response the team agreed to give consideration to renovating the current goalposts, provision of a stepped area from the bank towards the skateboard facility, and the need for long term tree planting in the area. It was confirmed that the North Somerset Council would remain the owners of the area and equipment, and that their maintenance costs would be low due to the nature of the materials being used.

Due to the very tight time frame involved (equipment must be installed and available for use by 31 March 2010), members agreed that any further updates and consultations would be directly to the Ward Councillors.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note that the North Somerset Council Play Builder Project propose to upgrade the Merlin Park Play Area owned by that Council with further new equipment, and welcome further consultation and updates with the Ward Councillors of this Council.

RW 890 YOUTH CENTRE

Due to the personal interest declared by Councillor Mrs Cruse for this item, the Chairmanship of the meeting for the item was passed to Councillor Walters.

Councillor Mrs Cruse summarised the content of a meeting that had taken place the previous evening between representatives from North Somerset Council and the Youth Centre Management Committee.

- A further meeting is scheduled for the 4th November 2009 at which attendees will include representatives from North Somerset Council, the Youth Centre Management Committee, and the developers chosen to conduct the redevelopment work. That meeting will focus on the nature and extent of the redevelopment, the central heating system, and the proposed kitchen refurbishment using a YANSEC grant.
- North Somerset Council have indicated that the current lease (expiring June 2010) is to be extended to cover the redevelopment project, but North Somerset wish to find a conclusion to the responsibility for the premises after that. North Somerset Council will have a commitment to provide youth services (staff etc) in Portishead for the medium term which was said to be a minimum of three years.
- A tripartite meeting will be organised for a future date, the attendees being representatives from this Town Council, North Somerset Council, and the Youth Centre management committee. A pre meeting will be called by Mr Phil Hall of North Somerset Council for agenda setting and knowledge sharing prior to the formal full meeting. It is anticipated that the pre meeting will include the Clerk of this Council, Councillor Mrs Cruse, Mr Phil Hall, and Bishop Roger Sainsbury.

Members discussed the matters reported by Councillor Mrs Cruse, and agreed it be :-

RECOMMENDED that.

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the update and expect that the Clerk as an officer from this Council will be invited to attend a future meeting between North Somerset Council, other members of this Council, and the Youth Centre management committee. The members await further updates to the Recreation and Works Committee.

RW 891 HEAVENS FIELD PLAY AREA – ALTERNATIVE ACCESS

Members received the report of the Clerk in which he had recommended to members that consideration be given to ceasing the current legal activity and possible proceedings relating to a right of way being established over private land to access the play area, and undertaking work to provide such access across land owned by this Council.

A short discussion followed in which members expressed agreement with the recommendation as written, but wished to ensure that the

funds available could be sufficient to meet any costs of any required planning application and permission.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council instruct the Clerk to cease the current legal work being conducted on the existing access to the Heavens Field Play Area, and arrange provision of an alternative access across land owned by this Council to a maximum spend of £3,000.00p, the funds to include the acquisition of planning authority permission if required.

**RW 892 AVON LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (A.L.C.A.) -
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Members received the report of the Clerk which detailed the subscriptions that would be due to A.L.C.A. for the coming year which amounted to a 53% increase, and asked members to decide whether this Council should remain members of that body.

In discussion members agreed that whilst there had been some usage of the benefits of membership, continued membership at the new subscription rates were no longer considered cost effective and value for money use of resources.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council do not renew membership to the Avon Local Councils Association.

RW893 PROVISION OF SIGN – PORTISHEAD IN BLOOM

Members received a written proposal from Councillor Mrs Knight that a sign be provided along Wyndham Way Portishead in partnership with North Somerset Council, on a matched funding basis, to celebrate and display the achievements of Portishead In Bloom during 2009.

Following discussion by members who considered matters such as planning consent and not having an additional sign to the one already there, it was :-

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council, in partnership and joint funding with North Somerset Council, provide a sign, or update the existing sign as necessary, at the entry to Portishead along Wyndham Way to celebrate and display the achievements of the Portishead In Bloom committee and volunteers during 2009. The Clerk being authorized to arrange this provision and spend to a limit of £250 without further referral to members.

RW894 TRINITY COMMUNITY HALL – FUTURE MANAGEMENT – UPDATE

(Councillor Mrs Mason left the meeting for this item only due to her declared personal and prejudicial interest)

The Clerk updated members present on the current situation in relation to the future long term management of the Trinity Community Hall.

Having taken the legal advice authorised at the last meeting of the full Town Council, there was now reassurance that the actions taken were correct and the Council can now discuss all options with the potential landlords.

RECOMMENDED that

Members note the report of the Clerk, and await further updates to the Recreation and Works Committee as appropriate.

RW895 SEVERN ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP

Members received the report of the Clerk. Following the personal visit in July 2009 to this committee by the manager of the Severn Estuary Partnership, the Clerk was tasked to obtain details of membership costs / benefits.

The report detailed these, and members agreed that the small cost of membership (£40.00p) should be trialled for one year, for an assessment to then be made in relation to continued membership.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council join the Severn Estuary Partnership for a one year period, to be reviewed at the end of that year

RW896 TWINNING ASSOCIATION – 20TH ANNIVERSARY

(Councillors Mrs Cruse, Cruse, and Mrs Lord left the meeting at this point due to their declared personal and prejudicial interest in this item)

Due to the absence of the Committee Chairman for this item, the Chairmanship of the meeting was passed to Councillor Walters.

Members received a report from Councillor Mrs Lord, in which she proposed that the Council holds a reception for twinning association visitors from Den Dungen in 2010, which will be the 20th anniversary return visit.

A similar event had been hosted by their equivalent of Town Council during the 2009 visit to Den Dungen.

After discussion members agreed to :-

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council agree in principle to hold a reception to mark the 20th twinning anniversary with Den Dungen during the occasion of their visit in 2010. A working party of members of this Council, and others, will be formed to report further to the Recreation and Works Committee on arrangements and funding requirements to a maximum spend of £1,500.00p. The working party are to ensure that the Chamber of Commerce and other leading local bodies are consulted and invited.

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