

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 29TH MARCH 2006

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors J S Clark*, Fowles, Gething, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, A McMurray, Miers

*Left the meeting at 8.30pm during consideration of Minute No. 673

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors Mrs Bickley, J McMurray, Pasley, Rigby, Walters

The Committee observed a minutes silence in memory of Councillor Nick Brown who had recently died.

RW667 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fowles

- Personal interest in RW668 Application for a grant from Portishead Tourism Group
Reason – Member of Portishead Tourism Group

Councillor Johnston

- Personal interest in RW671 Severnside Siren Trust
Reason – North Somerset Council representative on Severnside Siren Trust

Councillor Miers

- Personal interest in RW668 Application for a grant from Portishead Tourism Group
Reason – Member of Portishead Tourism Group (Portishead in Bloom representative)

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

Councillors Gething and Johnston 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.

RW668 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT – PORTISHEAD TOURISM GROUP

Further to Minute No. RW665 the Committee now received an application for a grant towards the provision of Brown Tourist Signs from Portishead Tourism Group.

Comments were made and clarification sought on a number of points –

- The Black Horse Public House and the Royal Hotel would be making financial contributions towards the project.
- A sign should be provided in the vicinity of the High Street and Slade Road/Combe Road area to assist visitors arriving in the town on the bus.
- The Leisure Centre should be included on the Sail Roundabout sign.
- The Clevedon Rd/Bristol Rd sign should be in the vicinity of the Sheepway Roundabout (not Sail Roundabout as indicated on the schedule).

RECOMMENDED that Portishead Tourism Group be awarded a grant of £1,500 towards the Brown Tourist Signs project.

RW669 BUS SHELTERS

The Committee received a report and results of a comprehensive survey on the condition of the Town Council bus shelters which had been prepared by Councillor Mrs Bickley. The report was presented by Councillor Mrs Mason in Councillor Mrs Bickley's absence.

The report and survey highlighted a number of issues –

- Many shelters were defaced with graffiti, had flaking paint, and dirty roofs.
- There were no information panels or route numbers on the bus-stop signs; two shelters did not have signs.
- The shelter outside Portishead AFC had a panel missing; there were damaged panels in the shelters outside Gordano School and opposite Merlin Park.
- The bus stop concrete post outside Highdown School had not been removed despite being condemned as unsafe some years ago.

The Committee generally welcomed the report and considered in detail the actions that needed to be taken. Councillor Mrs Cruse also provided members with details of a specialist company, OCS Refurbishment Solutions (Cleaning and Support Services), who may be able to assist with the removal of graffiti.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council –

1. Will work with North Somerset Council and First Bus to achieve a high standard of shelters and information.
2. Review the bus-shelter cleaning contract to include regular cleaning of roof and paintwork and removal of notices and graffiti.
3. Arrange for a one-off cleaning of all roofs in the early summer and removal of defaced wording. OCS be asked for their advice on the removal of graffiti and refurbishment of the panels in the shelters opposite Cost Cutters and outside Highdown School.

4. Replace missing/damaged panels in shelters outside PAFC, Gordano School and opposite Merlin Park as this year's panel renewal programme.
5. Repaint the shelter outside Hallidays and the one in North Weston.
6. Urge North Somerset Council to liaise with First Bus over the removal of the dangerous concrete post outside Highdown School.
7. Notify First Bus of sites where the bus stop sign is missing/damaged and request that all signs list the services that use that stop.
8. Investigate the provision of information panels, including checking whose responsibility it is for updating timetables and notices.
9. Carry out an annual survey every September/October to budget for maintenance in the following year.

RW670 TOWN COUNCIL 2006/2007 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

The Clerk reported that despite inviting quotations for the 2006/2007 grass cutting and grounds maintenance contract from three contractors only two had been returned. The lowest tender received was from the company who had carried out the contract for the Council in the previous year

RECOMMENDED that the quotation of £2,568 for the 2006/2007 grass cutting and grounds maintenance contract be accepted.

RW671 SEVERNSIDE SIREN TRUST

Councillor Mrs Cruse informed members that she was aware that a number of local residents were very confused and concerned about the operation of the Siren System. Residents in the Redcliffe Bay and west ward areas in particular had complained that they could not hear the siren even though they made a point of listening for it when it was tested at 3pm on the 3rd day of the month.

Councillor Johnston, speaking as the North Somerset Council representative on the Trust, confirmed that a new siren was to be installed in the area shortly; it was not yet clear whether this would be in the vicinity of Weatherly Drive (water-board land) or Down Farm.

Councillor Johnston offered to prepare a report on the operation of the Siren System for a future meeting of the Recreation and Works Committee.

RW672 LAKE GROUNDS PLAY AREA

The Committee received a report from Councillor Gething outlining his concerns and detailing the general shortcomings of the children's play area at the Lake Grounds. He reported that North Somerset Council had committed £40,000 for play provision in the area and it was anticipated that this would be allocated towards upgrading of the Lake Grounds play area during 2006/2007. Anticipated improvements included –

- Installing drainage in and around the play area to prevent water logging and attendant build up of mud and slime on play surfaces.
- Replace play surfacing.
- Make area and equipment more accessible for disabled.
- Relocate large swings to top of mound to provide separation of equipment for different age groups.
- Installing more equipment for younger age range in space cleared of swings (this could include using the bank for slides and climbing ramps)
- Extending fenced area to include raised area between café and boathouse to provide safe, dog-free area for picnics, informal ball games etc.
- Provide play equipment for older age group (over 8's)
- Provide exercise/fitness trail for adults.

It was understood that the infrastructure improvements (drainage, surfacing, increasing size of play area) would cost in the region of £40,000. Councillor Gething expressed the opinion that North Somerset Council should be encouraged to devote their resources to solving the infrastructure problems and the Town Council should work with them to fund the provision of new equipment for all ages as thought appropriate year to year. This view was supported by a number of councillors, some of whom expressed the opinion that pressure should be put on the district councillors to ensure that the funding was allocated. Other councillors stated that the Town Council must be a full partner in this project.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council –

1. Welcomes and supports North Somerset Councils intention to invest in the Lake Grounds play area.
2. Encourage the District Council to invest their funds initially in resolving present problems with the play area and expanding the fenced area thereby facilitating future enhancements.
3. Will, in due course, consider committing funds to purchase equipment as part of an agreed programme of enhancements.

RW673

PORTISHEAD FOOTBALL CLUB – PROPOSED LEASE OF LAND AT BRISTOL ROAD TO PORTISHEAD FOOTBALL CLUB

In view of the length of time taken to reach agreement on the Heads of Terms members were asked to reaffirm their decision to lease the Bristol Road Playing Field to Portishead Football Club on the terms agreed at the 10th December 2003 meeting of the Town Council (Minute Nos. 1063 and 1076 refer).

The Clerk confirmed that there were no changes to the lease terms as originally proposed by the Town Council. Some members of the Committee also suggested that in view of the length of time taken to agree the Heads of Terms the lease should be back-dated to September 2004. This would mean that the

first two years of the agreement, where a 100% discounted rent would be applied, had passed. The rent due at September 2006, Year 3 of the agreement, would therefore be £250 (£2,500 discounted by 90%) After receiving clarification on other points it was -

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Town Council confirms its agreement to lease the Bristol Road Playing Field to the Portishead Football Club on the terms laid down in the Heads of Terms agreement dated 13th January 2004.
2. The lease be dated to commence on 1st September 2004.
3. Provided the lease is finalised by 30th June 2006, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk be authorised to seal the lease on behalf of the Council in accordance with Standing Order No. 22.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm