

**MEETING OF PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE
30 SEPTEMBER 2009 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Cruse – Chairman of the Committee

Councillors Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Knight, Mrs Mason, Miers, Parker, Pasley, Walters, Mrs Way.

Mr M Dolton - Town Clerk

-Ms Luci Hortop – Marketing & Events Officer, North Somerset Council (To Item RW 880 only).

-Mr Darren Fairchild – Tourism & Events Manager, North Somerset Council (To Item RW880 only).

-Councillor Felicity Baker, Executive member for Internal Organisation, Tourism and Leisure Services, North Somerset Council.

-1 member of the public (Mr D Welsh, Portishead Cricket Club)

APOLOGIES

Councillors Mrs Lord, McMurray

(Clerk's Note : The Chairman amended the order of business from the published agenda to ensure that some items were not time constrained)

RW 878 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Knight, and Pasley 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.

Councillors Mrs Cruse and Hazelton :-

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW882 (Youth Centre)
Reason – Town Council representatives on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Mrs Mason and Mrs Way :-

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW883 (Management of Community Halls) Town Council representatives on the Redcliffe Bay Hall management committee.

RW 879 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The 1 member of the public present, Mr Welsh, did not wish to address the meeting.

RW 880 CULTURAL EVENTS AT THE LAKE GROUNDS

Mr Darren Fairchild and Ms Luci Hortop, North Somerset Council, addressed the meeting in response to the letter sent to North Somerset by the Clerk on behalf of members of Portishead & North Weston Town Council.

Mr Fairchild expressed that The Lake Grounds had been the venue for several events during the summer of 2009, which had met with varied support and feedback. He was pleased that the members of this Council had made the approach to discuss these matters, and wished to work in liaison with members for future events.

In response to questions and comments from members Mr Fairchild stated that there was no set programme for 2010 as yet, and that every effort was being made to promote the Lake Grounds as a viable venue to event promoters, but that the location was competing with sea front venues in Weston-super-Mare which could attract much larger audiences.

Discussion ensued on suitability of certain types of events. It was generally agreed that the 'music at the lake' events had been very well received, and members present felt that open air theatre and classical music events were well suited and in keeping with the venue. The soft nature of the ground restricted the use of heavy equipment, vehicles, and fencing, with events such as a circus not being practical at that location.

It was acknowledged by Mr Fairchild, that the public facilities infrastructure on The Lake Grounds, e.g. public toilets, were not currently of a standard and scale to support large scale events.

The issue of small local groups and organisations being unable to stage events at the venue due to the requirement for a £5 million indemnity insurance was raised by members. In response Mr Fairchild assured the meeting that there are arrangements available for such groups to be added to the North Somerset insurance indemnity policy for a small one off premium.

Members brought to the attention of the representatives from North Somerset, that if assistance with finance was to be sought in future, then North Somerset would need to be aware of the deadline dates and grant / budgeting processes of this Council. Such details had been previously provided on several occasions. Members also reiterated the need for North Somerset to be aware of the potential use of the 'special expenses' element of Council Tax charging when considering future financial requirements for events.

It was agreed that the recently formulated working party of this Council would welcome the opportunity to work with North Somerset Council in preparing a programme of events at The Lake Grounds to mark the Centenary during 2010.

RECOMMENDED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the intentions of North Somerset Council in relation to future events at The Lake Grounds. Members of the 'Cultural Events Working Party' of this Council look forward to further consultation from North Somerset Council in relation to North Somerset's programme of events to mark the centenary of The Lake Grounds in 2010.

RW 881 URGENT REPAIRS – MERLIN PARK SKATEBOARD FACILITY

Members received the report of the Clerk which outlined why urgent repairs had become necessary to the facility. Whilst it was not an immediate safety issue, any delay in conducting the necessary repairs would undoubtedly result in the facility having to be closed on safety grounds.

Councillor Mrs Cruse also made the meeting aware of recent, relatively extensive, graffiti that had been applied to the ramps on the facility. This matter had been reported to the police who had recorded the crime. A suggestion had been made by the PCSO that there was potential to seek to have the complete facility decorated by 'urban art', which would have the effect of covering the unlawful graffiti, and may lead to some 'ownership effect' by local youths.

Following discussion by members it was agreed that this suggestion should be pursued.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council

- (i) Authorise the Clerk to arrange the required repairs to the skateboard facility to a maximum cost of £2000.
- (ii) The Clerk to liaise with the local police to seek to arrange for the facility to be decorated with 'urban art' to a maximum cost of £100 to cover fees and materials.

RW 882 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.

Members were provided with copies of the minutes of a meeting of the Youth Centre Management Committee held on the 22nd September 2009. Councillor Mrs Cruse then summarised the main points of that meeting, which included:

- North Somerset Council are able to proceed to Phase 2 of the redevelopment, with an anticipated start date of June 2010.
- The main funding for the project is available, with some funds spread over the next 2 years.
- Wilmot Dixon will be the design and build contractors of the redevelopment.
- As per the letter from Mr Phil Hall, North Somerset Council (3 July 2009 – circulated to members in July), the main issue is the future management and maintenance responsibility of the Youth Centre building. North Somerset Council wish to cease the responsibility and want either the Youth Centre Management Committee, or the Town Council, to take over.
- The Youth Centre Management Committee wish the lease arrangements to remain as they are at present.

In discussion members felt that they would be unable to make any decision on the issues involved, until accurate running cost figures were available. Councillor Hazelton informed the meeting that he was in the process of ascertaining these, but still awaited definitive figures from North Somerset Council to ensure members were fully informed.

The original lease letting the land from this Council to North Somerset does not expire until the year 2064, and does not include an escape clause. As discussed at previous meetings of this committee, the lease conditions place responsibility for maintenance of the building with North Somerset Council.

Members agreed that the matter will be subject of further discussion, but in the meantime North Somerset Council should be reminded of their obligations under the terms of the lease.

RECOMMENDED that.

Portishead and North Weston Town Council communicate to North Somerset Council, that they expect North Somerset Council to comply with the terms of the lease dated 10th June 1966.

RW 883 MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY HALLS

Members received the report of the Clerk. The report outlined the need for a review of the management arrangements for all Community Halls operated by the Town Council. The Clerk had also drawn to the attention of members an unanticipated requirement to make alternative arrangements for the caretaking of the Trinity Community Hall due to the Trinity School no longer being able to provide this.

Members discussed the situation and all agreed that such a review should be conducted, and the Clerk be asked to make interim

arrangements for the caretaking at Trinity Community Hall until the outcome of the review was known.

Members agreed that the existence of such a review should not cause anxiety to current members of staff, and as requested by the Clerk, he should be authorised to inform staff that no redundancies are anticipated.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) A Project Working Party is formed, comprising of approximately 3 / 4 members and the Clerk as ex-officio.
- (ii) The terms of reference of the Project Working Party to be '*To review the current arrangements for the management of all community halls operated by this Council, and make recommendations for the future management of those halls and report accordingly to the Recreation & Works Committee*'.
- (iii) The Clerk to reassure all current staff that no redundancies are anticipated.
- (iv) The Clerk to implement interim arrangements for the management of the Trinity School Community Hall utilising current staff resources and remaining within current budgeted staffing costs.

RW 884 BUS SHELTERS PROJECT UPDATE

Members received the report of the Deputy Clerk Mrs Tranter, together with an attached detailed schedule of the works in progress on the project.

Members unanimously agreed that they wished to record their thanks to Mrs Tranter for her effort on this project on behalf of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the report of the Deputy Clerk on progress being made on the bus shelter project.

RW 885 RETAIL COMMUNITY AWARDS

A letter from Mrs Tracey Fowler of Portishead to the Chairman of the Council had been circulated to all members.

Mrs Fowler requested that members consider that an annual award be made by the Town Council for 'Retail Customer Service' within the town.

Members discussed the proposal, and agreed that the idea was worthy of further consideration, and would ask Mrs Fowler to submit further detailed proposals to the Recreation and Works Committee, as she had offered to do in her letter.

RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk is to liaise with Mrs Fowler to submit further detailed proposals to the Recreation and Works Committee for an annual 'Retail Customer Service' award.

RW886 NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT – LAKE GROUNDS PLAY AREA - UPDATE

Members received the report of the Clerk. The Clerk had been tasked to clarify the position in relation to the £30,000 earmarked reserve fund which had been agreed in November 2006 for the provision of a climbing net at The Lake Grounds play area.

Contact with North Somerset Council had resulted in ascertaining that the project and provision was still considered to be ongoing. However, the current 'Play Builder' project being implemented by North Somerset utilising national funding, has The Lake Grounds play area on the Phase 2 (April 2010 / 2011) implementation list for upgrading. The Clerk expressed his view that if members wished to proceed with the provision, this should be co-ordinated with North Somerset Council and the 'Play Builder' project to ensure an integrated and appropriate approach.

In discussion members agreed that the provision should continue to be available, and agreed that an integrated approach with North Somerset Council and the Play Builder project was appropriate.

RECOMMENDED that

The earmarked reserve of £30,000 ('major community projects') remain within this Council's reserve funds for the duration of this financial year. Further (subject to any resolution to the contrary during the budget setting process in January 2010), the money remains within the earmarked reserve fund for spending in a coordinated project approach in liaison with North Somerset Council and the Playbuilder project team during the financial year April 2010 to March 2011.

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