

RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 30TH JANUARY 2008

- PRESENT** Councillor Walters – in the Chair
- Councillors Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Lord, Miers, Parker, Mrs Way
- Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council
- APOLOGIES** Councillors Cruse, Mrs Cruse, Mrs Knight, Mrs Mason, Pasley

RW762 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Minute No. RW767 – Lake Grounds
Reason – Lives in vicinity of Lake Grounds

RW763 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Committee.

RW764 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT – NSC RANGER SERVICE SUMMER 2008 EVENTS

Further to Minute No. RW763 the Chairman now introduced Ms Luci Hortop, the North Somerset Council Ranger Service administration support officer, and invited her to address the Committee.

Ms Hortop explained that the Ranger Service, in conjunction with the NS Play Forum, had been running Summer Events and Activities throughout the District for 4 years. The Portishead Summer 2008 Family Fun Days would take place weekly at the Lake Grounds, probably on a Thursday, throughout the school summer holiday period (6 weeks) from 11am to 4pm. In addition it was hoped to organise two evening theatre performances, also at the Lake Grounds. The cost of these events was estimated to be £4,200 for the Family Fun Days and £1,500 for the theatre performances.

In answering questions from Councillors, Ms Hortop confirmed that –

- A survey would be undertaken to determine where attendees came from ie local or from outside Portishead.
- The Ranger Service and Play Forum were committed to providing opportunities for people of all backgrounds and it was not their policy to charge for attendance.
- Ms Hortop acknowledged that as the evening theatre performances were targeted at adults as well as children it would be possible to consider some form of charging for this event.

- NSC had provided a financial contribution towards the events and were also supplying “in-kind” support.
- She had only recently taken on responsibility for the Ranger Service administration support and would ensure that any future grant applications were submitted in time for consideration in accordance with the Council’s usual grant application timetable (ie by October each year).

The Chairman thanked Ms Hortop for attending the meeting and providing this useful additional information in support of their application.

RECOMMENDED that

NSC Ranger Service be awarded a grant of £750 towards the Family Fun Days.

The application for a grant towards the evening theatre performances was not supported.

Ms Hortop left the meeting.

RW765 PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE

This matter had been referred to the Committee from the 12th December 2007 meeting of the Town Council (Minute No. 1524 refers).

The Committee received a letter from Bishop Sainsbury, Chairman of the Portishead Youth Centre Redevelopment Committee, requesting a further grant of £50,000 towards the redevelopment project.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Town Council had already agreed a grant of £100,000 towards the project and this was currently being held in the Council’s accounts in an earmarked reserve.

During the ensuing discussion councillors commented that there were many other youth groups in the Town who also needed financial support. The Town Council had given a substantial commitment to the Youth Centre and it was only fair that other youth projects were now considered.

RECOMMENDED that

As the Town Council have already committed £100,000 to this project they are unable to consider another large capital grant at the present time.

RW766 AVON WILDLIFE TRUST – NORTH SOMERSET LEVELS & MOORS PROJECT FUNDING

The Committee received a request for funding towards the North Somerset Levels and Moors Project from Avon Wildlife Trust.

The Committee noted that the project, which has been running for over 10 years, aimed to enhance and conserve the natural heritage of the North Somerset Levels and Moors, an extensive area of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, stretching from the outskirts of Portishead to the north and Weston-super-Mare to the south. A brochure detailing the project was circulated, from which it was noted that the Trust were aiming to raise £42,000 per annum for the next three years to meet the core running costs.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council award a grant of £500 towards the North Somerset Levels and Moors Project in the current 2007/2008 financial year.

The Trust be advised of the Council's grant application timetable and they be invited to apply for a grant for future years at the appropriate time.

RW767 LAKE GROUNDS

(A) S106 Project Plan

Further to Minute No. RW756 the Committee now received a copy of the S106 Projects Plan prepared by the Streets & Open Spaces Environmental Management Area Manager. The Plan detailed recently completed S106 projects and planned projects for various open spaces in Portishead.

After considering the plan in detail the Committee asked the Clerk to clarify the following matters with the Environmental Management Area Manager –

Completed Projects

- Refurbishment of the old putting green hut – What was the £4,000 spent on and why is it now used by Portishead Running Club?
- Replacement of tee mats – Where?
- Lake Grounds play area – Provision of herringbone pattern piped drainage system to improve drainage to raised part of play area – The Committee question how efficient this work has been as the area is still very wet.

Planned Projects

- East Wood to Approach Golf – Fauna and flora survey to facilitate development of management plan and Green Flag Award application – The Committee asked to be provided with more information about this.
- Lake Grounds Play Area – Provision of play equipment to lower play area (Yansec grant application) – If the grant application is unsuccessful what are the alternative plans to replace the safety surface as it is in a very bad condition.

RECOMMENDED that

The Environmental Management Area Manager be thanked for submitting the S106 Project Plan and be asked to clarify the five items detailed above.

(B) Children’s Play Area Draft Proposals – Equipment for Older Children

The Committee now considered the suggestions for play equipment to be provided in the upper play area for older children which had been submitted by the Parks Manager.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the previous Council had earmarked £30,000 towards this project and this was currently held in the Council’s accounts in an earmarked reserve.

The Committee considered all the options that had been put forward and unanimously

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council agree to contribute £30,000 towards the provision of a Uranus look-out net (Option 3 – total budget cost £37,000) to be sited in the upper part of the Lake Grounds play area.

RW768

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL (VARIOUS SITES) (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) (VARIATION NO. 3) ORDER 200*

The Committee were informed that North Somerset Council had given notice that they proposed to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulations to amend and vary certain provisions of the 2005 Off Street Parking Places Order. The Committee noted that three Portishead car parks – Nore Road (Windmill PH), Roath Road and Parish Wharf Leisure Centre – were included in the draft proposals. It was also noted that NSC had confirmed that whilst they were not proposing to introduce charges for parking, it was intended to impose penalties for various parking infringements – including irresponsible parking, trading, parking/sleeping overnight and overstaying.

The Committee were generally unhappy with the proposed Order and commented that –

- Some Roath Road residents park in the Roath Road car park overnight as they have nowhere else to park. Would a resident’s permit scheme be introduced?
- Additional traffic wardens would have to be employed to enforce the Order negating any penalty charges that might be collected and increasing the council tax.
- Parking would migrate from the car parks to nearby streets.
- It is wrong to introduce these penalty charges as part of a proposal to increase car parking charges in Weston-super-Mare.
- This is the first step towards introducing car parking charges in Portishead.

RECOMMENDED that

The Town Council object to the proposals to include Roath Road, Nore Road and Parish Wharf Leisure Centre car parks in the Order.

The Town Council request that a comprehensive review of the public parking available in Portishead be carried out, not this piecemeal approach, and would wish to see the results of this review before any legal changes are made.

The Town Council point out that there are excessive demands on car parking in Portishead because of the increased population. Portishead has been let down by the planning system as insufficient parking spaces have been provided with the new developments, which has exacerbated the situation.

RW769 PROPOSED FARMERS MARKET

Further to Minute No. RW740 the Committee now received an update report from the Farmers Market working party.

Arising from the report it was noted that negotiations to hold the market at the Waitrose Piazza were well advanced. Persimmon, the landowner, had not raised any objections to the proposal but had asked for a letter of support for the initiative from the Town Council. Letters of support had also been submitted by Waitrose and the surrounding retailers.

The Committee also noted that a co-operative society was in the process of being established for all four Farmers Markets in North Somerset and the Town Council would be invited to nominate a non-executive director to the board.

Whilst the dates of the Farmer's Markets were still to be confirmed, it was hoped that the first market would take place on Saturday 8th March 2008.

RECOMMENDED that

The Clerk be authorised to submit a letter to Persimmon supporting the location of the Waitrose Piazza, for the following reasons –

- This location would assist with the Town Council's stated aim of wishing to link the old and new parts of the Town.
- It is a different site from the Friday market and would therefore prevent confusion.
- The site is visible from the road, has easy access and nearby car parking.
- There is an on-site power supply.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm