

**MINUTES OF THE 108TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2002**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Cruse – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cole, Mrs Haysom, J Johnston, Mrs Mason, Palmer, Pasley, Pickering, Terry, Walters, Whitfield

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council
Chief Superintendent John Snell – Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Inspector Mike Prior – Avon & Somerset Constabulary
PC Dave Vincent – Community Beat Manager, Avon & Somerset Constabulary

APOLOGIES Councillor Brine, Daws, M Johnston

Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the public to address the Council.

District Councillor Greenham brought a number of traffic management issues to members attention –

- Church Road South and Church Road North – In referring to Agenda Item 5 Motion to Council in Accordance with Standing Order No. 17, Councillor Greenham pointed out that as Roath Road was already one way he did not consider that it was necessary to also make both Church Road South and Church Road North one way. He suggested that only Church Road North be made one way, from Slade Road towards the High Street, thus making a circular route up Roath Road and down Church Road North.
- Woodhill Road – Councillor Greenham pointed out the difficulties for cars travelling along Woodhill Road due to the number of cars parked on both sides of the Road. He asked that members consider including Woodhill Road in their recommendations in the forthcoming traffic management review.
- Lower St Mary's Road – Councillor Greenham expressed concern that a review of Lower St Mary's Road had not been included in the traffic proposals for the new St Joseph's School. He highlighted difficulties still being faced by local residents, particularly during school dropping off and picking up times, and asked the Town Council to take this into account when they were consulted on the St Joseph's School traffic proposals.

Mr Ron Hazelton, representing Portishead Chamber of Trade, brought to members attention recent serious incidents of vandalism in the High Street. He expressed concern about the effect these frequent incidents were having on the High Street and raised a number of specific questions relating to policing locally.

At the invitation of the Chairman, PC Vincent and Chief Superintendent Snell replied to the points raised by Mr Hazelton.

PC Vincent confirmed that two people had been arrested for the most recent incidents and were currently on Police bail. Chief Superintendent Snell informed members that a big recruitment drive was currently taking place and the training centre was working to capacity. Unfortunately, however, this was countered by the high number of Police officers leaving the service.

Chief Superintendent Snell also confirmed that the Police Station was open to personal callers Monday to Sunday 11am – 3pm and messages could also be left via e-mail or voice mail. He acknowledged that during times of staff shortages the Police Station had to be closed and he was looking at ways of addressing this.

Standing Orders were resumed.

885 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Whitfield

- Personal Interest in Planning Application No. 02/P/0640/F. Reason – Applicant friend of family.
- Personal Interest in Planning Application No. 02/P/0460/RM. Reason – Owns business premises nearby.

886 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 107th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 6th March 2002 be confirmed as correct, subject to Minute No. 879 Declarations of Interest being clarified as follows –

Councillor Brown

- Personal Interest in Planning Application No. 02/P/0316/F. Reason – Neighbour

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW453 – North Somerset Neighbourhood Watch Association. Reason – Neighbourhood Watch Member
- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW457 – North Weston Allotments. Reason – Husband Allotment Tenant

Councillor J Johnston

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW453 – North Somerset Neighbourhood Watch Association. Reason – Neighbourhood Watch Member

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW453 – North Somerset Neighbourhood Watch Association. Reason – Neighbourhood Watch Member

Councillor Pickering

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW453 – North Somerset Neighbourhood Watch Association. Reason – Neighbourhood Watch Member

Councillor Walters

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW453 – North Somerset Neighbourhood Watch Association. Reason – Neighbourhood Watch Member
- Significant Personal Interest in Minute No. RW457 – North Weston Allotments. Reason – Allotment Tenant (Councillor Walters left the meeting prior to consideration of this item).

887 POLICE LIAISON

Standing Orders were suspended to allow members to discuss policing issues with Chief Superintendent John Snell, Inspector Mike Prior and PC Dave Vincent.

Inspector Prior provided members with a breakdown of the crime figures for the 11 months April 2001 to February 2002, compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. The figures showed that the total recorded crime for the Portishead area had increased from 607 in 2000/2001 to 898 in 2001/2002, the majority of which could be attributable to a steep rise in burglary. These figures were comparable with other areas in the North Somerset sector which showed that for every 1,000 population, or every 1,000 households for burglaries, there were 61 recorded crimes.

Superintendent Snell acknowledged that he did not have the resources to deal with the current crime situation which he considered could get worse because of the huge increase in drug related crime in the Bristol area.

Discussion ensued with a number of comments being made and questions raised; including –

- Whether resources could be redeployed if required.
- Response to 999 emergency calls
- Gap between number of actual crimes and reported crimes
- Length of time to train new recruits
- Vandalism being experienced by local schools
- Public expectations of police service

The Chairman thanked Chief Superintendent Snell, Inspector Prior and PC Vincent for attending the meeting.

Standing Orders were resumed.

888 MOTION TO COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 17

Councillor Walters proposed, Councillor Terry seconded, the following motion –

Motion

That consideration be given to the making of Church Road South and Church Road North, both in Portishead, each one way, one being from the High Street up and the other being down to the High Street and that the Executive Member of North Somerset Council be asked to direct his Highway Department to review this matter.

During the ensuing discussion general support was expressed for the motion but some members considered that only Church Road North should be made one way, others considered that there were other areas of priority in the Town.

Upon being put to the vote the motion as recorded above was carried. It was therefore **RESOLVED**

That consideration be given to the making of Church Road South and Church Road North, both in Portishead, each one way, one being from the High Street up and the other being down to the High Street and that the Executive Member of North Somerset Council be asked to direct his Highway Department to review this matter.

889 NEW AUDIT REGIME

Members received a report which detailed the requirements of the audit regime which would apply for financial years ending on or after 31st March 2002.

The main features of the new regime were –

- Greater emphasis on self governance and internal audit
- Requirement to appoint an independent internal auditor
- External audit to consist of a “desk based” review of an Annual Return which will need to be completed by the Responsible Financial Officer and approved by the Council.
- Publication of Supporting Statement to the Accounts optional

Members noted that they would be required to appoint an independent internal auditor and that local advice and clarification on the requirement for indemnity insurance was awaited. After receiving confirmation from the Clerk that the information published in the Supporting Statement to the Accounts would still be available in the Town Council records it was

RESOLVED

That publication of the Supporting Statement to the Accounts be discontinued.

890 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of March 2002 be **APPROVED**.

891 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor J Johnston, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 6th April 2002.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be **APPROVED**, subject to the following –

02/P/0491/F HANOVER HOUSE, FRIARY ROAD, PORTISHEAD

One 5.5mtr slimline stub tower on raised steel grillage, 3 No. GSM antenna and associated ground based equipment cabin.

Add to recommendation –

Recommend APPROVAL, subject to local residents not experiencing any undue noise nuisance.

02/P/0499/F OAK LODGE, KINGSWAY, PORTISHEAD

Two 6 bedroom houses

Add to final sentence of recommendation – The proposed major excavation might also destabilise the hillside and be detrimental to the house *and garden* above.

Recommend REFUSAL.

02/P/0598/F LAND ADJACENT TO NORWOOD LODGE NURSING HOME, NORE ROAD, PORTISHEAD

Erection of three storey house and detached garage with ancillary accommodation over.

Amend recommendation to –

Recommend REFUSAL for the following reasons –

- Concern that the size of the development could, in the future, lead to the property being changed to multiple occupancy.
- Adverse impact on the property below.
- Increase in traffic exiting onto Nore Road.

The report of the meeting held on 6th March is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

892 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 20th March 2002.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be APPROVED.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 20th March 2002 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

893 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Death of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother – Message of condolence forwarded and Union Flag flown at half mast for nine day period of public mourning.
BT Payphone – Removed from Folk Hall forecourt.

High Street CCTV System – To be put out to competitive tender.

Correspondence – Letters thanking the Council for grants awarded received from Mencap Summer Playschemes, Community Safety Action Team, Neighbourhood Watch Association and Portishead in Bloom.

New St Joseph's School Traffic Management Measures – Revised scheme expected shortly.

Portishead Neighbourhood Watch Panel – Taking over responsibility for former Residents Association Notice Boards.

Town Council Play Areas – Annual insurance inspection carried out.

Portishead Camera Club Millennium Project – Slide catalogue being finalised.

Bristol Road Playing Field – Lease in abeyance.

The following items were circulated for information –

Gordano Councils Transport Group – Report of Meeting 4.3.02

Letter from Town Council's representative on NSC Standards Committee – in reply to the Town Council's enquiry (Minute No. 873)

North Somerset Council Highways Services Newsletter – February 2002

Queens Golden Jubilee Committee – Report of Meeting held 26.2.02 & 26.3.02

Port Marine Public Art Management Steering Group – Report of Meeting – 19.2.02

Portishead Partnership – Report of Meeting 4.3.02

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm

..... Chairman

15th May 2002