

**202<sup>nd</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF  
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL  
10 FEBRUARY 2010**

**PRESENT** Councillor Pasley – in the Chair

Councillors Cameron, Cruse, Mrs Cruse, Hazelton, Howells,  
Mrs Knight (Vice Chairman), Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, McMurray,  
Miers, Miss Stanley, Terry, Mrs Way, and Walters.

Mr M Dolton – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Parker and Wright.

There were 12 members of the public and press present at the meeting.

**1760 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs Knight, Pasley and McMurray 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. RW910 (Youth Centre)  
Reason – Town Council representatives on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Terry :-

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW910 (Youth Centre)  
Reason – North Somerset Council representative on the Youth Club management committee.
- Personal Interest in minute No. RW911 (Allotments)  
Reason – member and officer of the Portishead Allotments Association.

Councillors Mrs Cruse, Cruse, Miers, Mrs Way :-

- Personal Interest in Planning Application 09/P/2219F  
Land adjacent to 13 Halliwell Road, Portishead – erection of new detached dwelling with integral garage  
Reason – Acquainted with neighbour opposite the proposed development.

## 1761 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 6 members of the public wishing to address the meeting. The Chairman reminded speakers that the meeting was for Town Council matters only and that any issues concerning North Somerset Council or its members should be addressed at another place.

- (i) Mr Paul Maltby a resident of South Road, Portishead, addressed members in relation to the recent planning application to site a skate park at The Lake Grounds Portishead that had been refused by North Somerset Council. Mr Maltby commented that the majority of residents and this Town Council had supported the application, but the Planning Committee at North Somerset had turned the application down.
- (ii) Mrs Annette Hennessy a resident of Albert Road, Portishead then commented that she felt that the majority of the past year, under the chairmanship of Councillor Pasley, had been positive for the Town Council.

She felt however, that the positive achievements had now turned negative with the recent refusal of planning permission for the skateboard park at The Lake Grounds. She found this to be a sad occurrence, and felt angry at the decision to refuse the application.

Mrs Hennessy urged members to deliberate and vote on the agenda item to be considered later relating to the potential naming of the Chairman as Mayor, by doing what is good for the town and its residents, not personal egos.

The matter of confusion over the enforcement of parking restrictions was then raised by Mrs Hennessy. She stated that she had conducted research into the matter which had shown that whilst the police were not enforcing the restrictions, she had been assured by Mr P Bush of Highways Department that the lines are enforceable. Mrs Hennessy felt it wrong that as a member of the public she had needed to make this effort, when other public bodies should be monitoring and acting on such matters. She also felt that the current assessment of the population of Portishead was being underestimated, with the likely true figure nearer to 28,000, not the 22,000 being referred to.

- (iii) Mrs Jean Lord a resident of Lake Road, Portishead, addressed the meeting on behalf of Mr John H Clarke, also a resident of the town, who was unable to attend the meeting due to an injury. Mrs Lord stated on his behalf that he held concerns about the future of Black Nore Light. He has become aware that the future of the light is now under review. This is the only remaining light of this type on mainland UK and therefore of significant historical interest. He requests that the Town Council takes the lead in establishing the timescale for any decision on decommissioning the light, and preserving it's future.

The Chairman commented that the Town Council holds a heritage working party and that the subject had recently been discussed by that committee. The Chairman asked Mrs Lord to convey to Mr Clarke, an ex councillor of this Council, best wishes for a speedy recovery from his injury.

- (iv) Mr Rob Pearson of WRG Planning spoke in relation to the planning application (10/P/0053/F) by Sainsbury plc. Mr Pearson commented that albeit he was acting as an agent on behalf of Sainsbury plc, he had in fact been a resident of Portishead for the past fifteen years. He pointed out that Sainsbury plc are not represented locally, and the proposed new store would attract some 270 new jobs to the town, one third full time and two thirds part time, and also provide an additional 338 car parking spaces. Recent research had shown that some 45% of residents travel outside of Portishead for regular food shopping, and that more than 600 people had attended the public consultation events, 94% of whom supported the proposals. There had been a good deal of feedback from the public about the need for the provision of a further petrol station in the town, and Mr Pearson indicated that Sainsbury plc would be submitting a further application in the near future for such a provision.
- (v) Mrs Sandy Tebbutt, a resident of Nore Road, Portishead, and Chair of the Portishead In Bloom committee addressed those present.

Mrs Tebbutt updated the meeting with the activities of the Portishead In Bloom committee and helpers during the past two months. The severe weather conditions had obviously curtailed activities to an extent, but a committee meeting went ahead in December, a working party had conducted work at the Millenium Garden, the Victorian evening had proved to be very successful, a litter pick group had been active in December, and more recently in January the Britain in Bloom route for 2010 had been surveyed, and meetings had taken place with other organisations about establishing a nuttery in the town, and members had attended a Britain in Bloom seminar in York. In all over 70 hours voluntary work had been conducted in December, and over 115 hours in January.

Future projects and events include the planting of a bed at the open air swimming pool to commemorate the anniversary of the Lions Club, a conifer and heather bed will be established on the West Hill triangle, and a bed will be planted and dedicated to the memory of the late Joan Fowles.

Mrs Tebbutt made a final comment about the substantial and growing problem of litter in the town area.

- (vi) Mr Kenneth Smith, a resident of 57 Down Road, Portishead addressed members about the recently announced primary school re organisation in Portishead. Mr Smith referred to the decision to close Saint Barnabus School in 2009, and now the announcement of the intention

to extend Trinity School to cater for the excess demand. Mr Smith expressed dissatisfaction with North Somerset Council.

#### **1762 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the 201st Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 13 January 2010 were presented to the meeting.

Councillor Walters proposed that the minutes be approved subject to an amendment be made at page 1039 Line 3 by deleting the words 'from the estate of the late Miss Gale'.

Members unanimously agreed with the proposal, it was therefore

#### ***RESOLVED that***

The Minutes of the 201st Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 13 January 2010 be amended at Page 1039 Line 3 Delete 'from the estate of the late Miss Gale', and are otherwise confirmed as correct and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **1763 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION / CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2010**

Members considered the report of the Clerk.

#### ***RESOLVED that***

The schedule of payments and bank reconciliation / cash statement for the month of January 2010 be approved.

The schedule is attached to and forms part of these minutes

#### **1764 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 3 ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2009**

Members received the report of the Clerk.

No members wished to discuss the report, and again commented on their appreciation of the work conducted by the Clerk to produce the information.

#### ***RESOLVED that***

The Quarterly Financial Report for Quarter 3, ending 31 December 2009, be approved.

## 1765 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Members received the report of the Clerk.

Councillor Cruse proposed that the recommendations of the Clerk be approved in principle, as he felt that the formation of such a committee was a positive step for members. He then put forward a motion for consideration :-

‘That Portishead and North Weston Town Council resolve to extend the role of the Staffing Committee by adding to its remit the financial matters of the Council. The Committee will be renamed ‘The Staffing and Finance Committee’. The Committee would comprise seven members and be established with effect from the 2010 Annual Town Council meeting.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to submit the necessary reports to members at the March and April meetings of the Town Council to make the necessary amendments to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.’

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hazelton.

Members discussed the proposal, and, whilst there was a general consensus that the formation of a committee to consider financial issues was necessary and appropriate, various views were expressed about the formation and aligning of the new committee. Some members felt that it should be a stand alone committee whilst others felt that it’s alignment to the existing Staffing Committee was appropriate.

Members then voted on the proposal from Councillor Cruse, with ten members voting for the proposal, and three against. Two members abstaining.

It was therefore

### ***RESOLVED that***

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council extend the role of the Staffing Committee by adding to its remit the financial matters of the Council. The Committee will be renamed ‘The Staffing and Finance Committee’. The Committee will comprise seven members and be established with effect from the 2010 Annual Town Council meeting.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to submit reports to members at the March and April meetings of the Town Council to make the necessary amendments to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

## 1766 INTERNAL AUDIT – REVIEW, AND APPOINTMENT FOR END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2009 / 2010

Members received the report of the Clerk.

No members wished to discuss the report.

**RESOLVED that**

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council:-

- (i) Having reviewed the internal audit arrangements of this Council, consider that those arrangements are appropriate, in that they are conducted by a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, and able to provide an objective view as to the needs of the Council. The internal audit process is effective and impactful.
- (ii) That Mr Martin Staines is appointed to conduct the Internal Audit of the financial controls and procedures of this Council, for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

**1767 MOTION TO COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO.9**

Councillor Mrs Knight had provided written notice in accordance with Standing Order number 9, proposing the following motion to members :-

‘That with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010, the Portishead and North Weston Town Council designate the Chairman of the Town Council as ‘Town Mayor’, and the Vice Chairman of the Council as ‘Deputy Town Mayor’.’

Councillor Mrs Knight spoke to the motion, commenting that as the fastest growing coastal town in the region, and becoming the second largest town in North Somerset, the adoption of such a title would reflect the growing status of the town. She further added that there were no known cost implications in the proposals.

Members discussed the proposal at some length. Some members felt that the idea of a Town Mayor was valid, but it should be an honorary title, not connected with the elected members. The Clerk commented that the Local Government Act stated that a Town Council could decide that its Chairman and Vice Chairman adopt the ‘Style’ i.e. name, of Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively, but there is no provision to appoint an honorary role.

Some members felt that the historic title of the Chairman and Vice Chairman should remain unchanged and such a change in title was unnecessary, whilst others thought that the proposal had merit and was worthy of further consideration, but that members should have the opportunity to consult electors within their Wards prior to any decision on the matter.

It was then proposed by Councillor Terry, and seconded by Councillor McMurray, that the motion be amended to add words:-

‘The decision on the proposal that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010, the Portishead and North Weston Town Council designate the Chairman of the Town Council as ‘Town Mayor’, and the Vice Chairman of the Council as

'Deputy Town Mayor' be deferred for two months to the April meeting of the Town Council, to enable members to consider and consult with residents'.

Members voted on the amendment, thirteen for, one against, one abstention, and the amendment was therefore carried.

***RESOLVED that***

'The decision on the proposal that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010, the Portishead and North Weston Town Council designate the Chairman of the Town Council as 'Town Mayor', and the Vice Chairman of the Council as 'Deputy Town Mayor' be deferred for two months to the April meeting of the Town Council, to enable members to consider and consult further'.

**1768 RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the Recreation and Works Committee held on 27 January 2010.

Members then considered:-

- Item RW 916 (Consultation Response – Cabstand Zebra Crossings)

Members agreed unanimously that the recommendation of the committee's report be amended to read '.....and comment that the Station Road crossing should align.....', not 'does not align' as in the report.

- Item RW 917 (Consultation Response – Provision of Primary Education in Portishead)

Members agreed unanimously that the recommendation should be amended to include a simplified request asking where the figures provided in the report had been sourced.

- Item RW 915 (North Weston Cemetery Car Park Project)

Councillor McMurray had provided a tabled written update report which informed members that subject to the signing of the licence agreement to enable access onto the land for the contractors, and an agreement of access for village hall use from the company 'Dignity' who will operate the cemetery with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, it is now hoped that the construction work on site can be conducted during March 2010.

With permission of the Chairman, Ms Mandy Bishop an officer of North Somerset Council then addressed members, stating that she had held discussions with representatives from 'Dignity' earlier that day, and they had agreed verbally to ongoing access to the new car park for users of the hall. Due to the time constraints of the lease signing off there would not be sufficient time to get confirmation of this in writing, but members were reassured that 'Dignity' would have no known issues with access.

Members unanimously thanked the members of the project team in their constant efforts to date to bring the project to fruition, and thanked Ms Bishop for her attendance at the meeting.

The recommendation of the Recreation and Works committee report required no amendment on this item.

- Item RW 910 (Youth Centre)

Members had received a letter from Councillor C Francis-Pester, the executive member responsible for assets at North Somerset Council. In the letter Councillor Francis-Pester had invited members of the Town Council to nominate representatives to join a working group to consider proposals and outcomes for the future leasing arrangements of the Youth Centre building.

After short discussion members agreed unanimously that the recommendation of the Recreation and Works Committee report should stand, and that the Clerk and two nominated members of the Town Council, should meet with North Somerset Council representatives to discuss these matters further and report back to the Recreation and Works Committee in future.

It was unanimously agreed that Councillors Mrs Lord and Walters are to represent the Town Council together with the Clerk.

***RESOLVED that***

The report of the Recreation and Works committee meeting held on 27 January 2010 is approved subject to the following amendments :-

- (i) RW 916 (Consultation Response – Cabstand Zebra Crossings)

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council note the proposals by North Somerset Council to install zebra crossings at the junction of Cabstand and Station Road, Portishead, and comment that the Station Road crossing should align with the footpath that will serve the new Library building.

- (ii) RW 917 (Consultation Response – Provision of Primary Education in Portishead)

The Portishead and North Weston Town Council respond to the consultation document by expressing support of the proposed extending of Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School. The Council request that the source of the figures provided be communicated to them.

- (iii) RW 910 (Youth Centre)

Portishead and North Weston Town Council wish to consider further the proposal by North Somerset Council for the future leasing and other arrangements of the Portishead Youth Centre. The Clerk and Councillors Mrs Lord and Walters are to meet with North Somerset Council representatives to discuss these matters further and report back to the Recreation and Works Committee.

It is recorded that, in so approving the report of the committee as amended above, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, Portishead and North Weston Town Council approves the expenditure of the following grants which, in their opinion, is in the interests of the area and will benefit the residents of the Town in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. :-

- (i) Gordano Valley Archers = £500 (Youth Grant Budget)
- (ii) North Somerset Mencap = £300 (Youth Grant Budget)
- (iii) West of England MS Therapy Centre = £250 (General Community Grants budget)

The report of the Recreation and Works Committee meeting held on 27 January 2010 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

## **1769 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Howells presented the report of the Planning Committee held on 03 February 2010, summarising the applications and recommendations.

- Members discussed application No. 10/P/0053/F (Sainsbury, off Serbert Way, Portishead – erection of food store)

Some members expressed the view that the proposed development would be positive for the town, with increased employment opportunity, increased choice for residents, and likely to attract more people to either visit Portishead, or remain in the town, for shopping purposes.

Other members held the view that the proposals would harm other businesses already established within the town, particularly the smaller retailers in the High Street area, and that there are sufficient food supermarket outlets already.

Members then voted on the recommendation before them from the Planning Committee that no objection be raised to the proposed development.

Six members voted for the recommendation, five against, with four abstentions. The recommendation of the Planning Committee therefore stands.

Councillors Cruse, Mrs Knight, Miss Stanley and Terry asked that their abstention from voting was noted in the minutes.

- Members then discussed the recommendation of the Planning Committee relating to 'Delegated Powers For Planning Committee'.

The recommendation of the Committee was that full delegated powers were given to them to decide comments on all planning applications, a 'call in' procedure be adopted, and the Clerk to make the necessary recommendations to amend Standing Orders of the Council accordingly.

Some members expressed their unease at the recommendations, stating that they felt that by referring recommendations relating to planning applications to the full Council for approval, gave members a better opportunity to consider matters as appropriate.

Others expressed the view that there was adequate provision for members and the public to make any representations they so wished at Planning Committee, and that the proposed 'call in' process would ensure that any matters considered to have a potential high impact on the town, or considered controversial, would still be referred to the full Council for consideration.

A vote was taken in which nine members were for the recommendation as it stood, four against, and two members abstained.

The recommendation of the Planning Committee therefore stood.

***RESOLVED that***

The report of the Planning Committee held on 03 February 2010 be approved.

The report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 03 February 2010 is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

**1770 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

- **Correspondence Received :-**

- A letter has been received from the Portishead Police expressing their gratitude for recent grant awards

- A letter has also been received from Portishead Police updating members on the purchase, usage, and training relating to the Speed Gun, to be purchased as a result of grant funds from this Council.

- Letter circulated to households relating to police firearms training during February in the Merlin Park and Hillside Road areas.

- **Publications and Reports** – The following items have been received and are available in the Town Council Office –

Portishead In Bloom – Press Release

CCTV Log Book for December 2009

ALCA Newsletter – January 2010

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman .....

10<sup>th</sup> March 2010