

**MINUTES OF THE 131<sup>ST</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF  
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD  
ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2004**

**PRESENT** Councillor Johnston – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse,  
Daws, Gething, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, A McMurray, J  
McMurray, Pasley, Rigby, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Miers, Terry

**1093 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**1094 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Bickley

- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1101 (RW551) – Flower Show Field  
Reason – Member of Portishead Horticultural Society

Councillor J S Clark

- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1101 (RW551) – Flower Show Field  
Reason – Member of Portishead Horticultural Society

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1101 (RW551) – Flower Show Field  
Reason – Member of Portishead Horticultural Society

Councillor Daws

- Personal Interest in Minute No. 1101 (RW551) – Flower Show Field  
Reason – Member of Portishead Horticultural Society

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal Interest in Planning Application 04/P/0273/F – Convert existing garage  
into dining room and construct attached single storey garage at 27 High View.  
Reason – Acquaintance of neighbour
- Personal Interest in Planning Application 03/P/2151/F – Demolition of existing  
timber chalet and erection of two dormer bungalows with basement garages,  
together with widening of existing access at 28 Halliwell Road  
Reason – Acquaintance of neighbour

Councillor Pasley

- Prejudicial interest in Planning Application No. 04/P/0365/F – Erection of external staircase from first floor to patio area with storage area beneath (retrospective) at Eden Cottage, 7 Beach Hill, Portishead.  
Reason – Applicant and owner of property

Councillor Rigby

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 04/P/0365/F – Erection of external staircase from first floor to patio area with storage area beneath (retrospective) at Eden Cottage, 7 Beach Hill, Portishead.  
Reason – Friend of applicant

Councillor Walters

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 04/P/0365/F – Erection of external staircase from first floor to patio area with storage area beneath (retrospective) at Eden Cottage, 7 Beach Hill, Portishead.  
Reason – Friend of applicant
- Personal interest in Minute No. 1101 (RW551) – Flower Show Field  
Reason – Member of Portishead Horticultural Society

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

Councillors Daws, Brown, J H Clark, Gething and Walters 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.

**1095 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 130<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2004 be confirmed as correct.

**1096 POLICE LIAISON**

The Chairman introduced Inspector Patrick McGowan, Avon and Somerset Constabulary North Sector Inspector, and invited him to update members on policing matters affecting the town.

In reiterating the crime figures which had been reported to the February meeting of the Council by PC Chidgey, Inspector McGowan confirmed that the total reported crime in the Portishead sector for the previous 12 months was down by 9.9%.

Inspector McGowan also confirmed that the Portishead Police Station would once again become a 24-hour operational station with effect from April 2004 and would be open for public callers from 10am to 6pm, 6 days per week (Saturday/Sunday opening would be alternated with Nailsea).

In answering questions from councillors Inspector McGowan confirmed that –

- There had been a number of thefts from local building sites, which by their nature were a soft target, but the Police were working closely with site security staff to address the problem.
- Waitrose had suffered a number of security, anti-social behaviour and vandalism problems but they were working with the police and had introduced a number of additional security measures to address these problems.
- CCTV was proving to be very effective and had led to a number of significant arrests. However, CCTV should not be viewed as a panacea to all anti-social behaviour and vandalism problems. Inspector McGowan expressed the opinion that parents needed to take more responsibility for their youngsters.
- Additional patrols would be carried out in the vicinity of the “no left turn” at the bottom of St Mary’s Road, particularly at school opening and closing times.
- It was anticipated that the order banning the drinking of alcohol in certain public places would be introduced by the summer.
- The increased foot patrols in the High Street had been well received by the public.

In bringing the discussion to a close, the Chairman congratulated Inspector McGowan on the improvements made and thanked him for attending the meeting.

**1097 BRISTOL HEALTH SERVICES PLAN – “BUILDING BETTER HEALTH SERVICES” – PROPOSED CHANGES IN LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Chairman introduced Julie Sharma, Chief Executive of North Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT), and invited her to update the Council on local health service provision.

Ms Sharma informed members that the Bristol Health Services Plan was currently out for public consultation and, as over 50% of the population of North Somerset used hospital services in Bristol, the proposals would have a significant impact on health provision for local people. In addition to changes to hospital provision, it was also proposed to develop health services in the local community.

In respect of major hospital provision, Ms Sharma confirmed that the Bristol Royal Infirmary would remain but discussions were on-going with regard to the proposal to combine Southmead and Frenchay hospitals on one site. An initial proposal to develop a new hospital on a new green-field site had recently been ruled out. Combining Southmead and Frenchay would provide a more efficient use of hospital services by bringing specialist services together, but issues such as accessibility needed careful consideration. Major in-patient hospital provision for childrens services would be centralised at the Bristol Childrens Hospital. Bristol General Hospital would be closed. It was anticipated that these changes would be in place by 2011/2012.

With regard to developing local health services, it was proposed to build a new community hospital in south Bristol, possibly at Hengrove Park, and to develop more health services at Clevedon Hospital. These services could include more beds, particularly for the elderly, enhanced x-ray and other diagnostic facilities and orthopaedic treatments. By developing these local services the pressure on the major hospitals would be reduced and approximately 50,000 fewer journeys would be required. It was also anticipated that services at Weston Hospital would be enhanced to enable all North Somerset residents to have an alternative to Bristol hospitals,

where possible. Other proposals included the provision of specialist services by GPs; introduction of clinical teams to provide home treatments; additional NHS dentistry provision and closer working with pharmacists. Ms Sharma stressed, however, that all of these proposals were very dependent on the funding being obtained.

Specific to Portishead, Ms Sharma confirmed that the main priority was the development of the Harbourside General Practice. The PCT were currently negotiating with Crest and others with regard to the provision of a permanent building for the practice, meanwhile they had been given notice to move from their current temporary site near the Leisure Centre as Crest required the site to facilitate dock-side engineering works. Discussions were continuing with Crest and it was hoped that the practice could be relocated, temporarily, to the site allocated for the transport interchange near Waitrose. Ms Sharma anticipated that negotiations for a permanent building would be concluded within three months and the new surgery up and running by 2006.

Members expressed their strong concerns about the delay in providing a permanent building for the Harbourside Practice and criticised the PCT for failing to keep the Council informed. Ms Sharma acknowledged that the delays were regrettable and attributed the problem to lack of finance following the withdrawal of the mental health service from the project and the difficulties of negotiating with a commercial organisation. Ms Sharma undertook to keep the Council better informed in the future and stressed that the PCT were committed to developing the new Harbourside Practice and were actively looking at a number of options.

In answering questions from councillors Ms Sharma confirmed that –

- There are no plans or proposals to build a community hospital in Portishead.
- Proceeds from the disposal of Bristol General Hospital would go towards the development of the Bristol hospital provision.
- Whilst at the moment patients could not choose their own hospital for treatment, the “Choices” initiative being introduced in 2005 would require GPs to offer 5 alternatives. However, emergency admissions would continue to be referred to Southmead.
- A comprehensive transport strategy will be drawn up and will include all aspects of accessing hospital provision – car parking and public transport systems.
- Clevedon Community Hospital currently provides rehabilitation services, particularly for the elderly, x-ray and other diagnostic facilities, minor injury clinic until 10pm and a “tele-medicine” link with Southmead hospital.
- PCT are actively involved with health promotions ie anti-smoking, healthy eating and childhood obesity campaigns.
- It was acknowledged that neither Southmead nor Frenchay were ideal in terms of condition of buildings and poor transport access.

A number of councillors placed on record their appreciation and gratitude for the service they had received from the health service, praising in particular the dedication of GPs, surgeons and nursing staff.

In bringing the discussion to a close, the Chairman thanked Ms Sharma and her colleagues for attending the meeting and for her interesting presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.45pm

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The meeting reconvened at 8.50pm

**1098 MOTION TO COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 17**

**TOWN COUNCIL ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

Councillor J H Clark proposed, Councillor Mrs Bickley seconded, the following motion –

**Motion**

That this Council establishes a working party of not more than four members to review the organisation of the Town Council and report and make recommendations in two months. The review will include a scrutiny of the number and scope of committees and whether these should be changed into formal committees with delegated decision making powers. The review will also examine council meeting arrangements, including seating and amplification during such meetings. The review panel will visit town councils in neighbouring authorities to ascertain whether or not Portishead has adopted best practice in this matter as well as taking evidence from members and staff.

A lengthy discussion ensued with some members expressing their full support for the motion, citing in particular their frustration with the present informal committee system; other members considered that such a review was unnecessary at the present time.

Upon being put to the vote the motion above was carried. It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

That this Council establishes a working party of not more than four members to review the organisation of the Town Council and report and make recommendations in two months. The review will include a scrutiny of the number and scope of committees and whether these should be changed into formal committees with delegated decision making powers. The review will also examine council meeting arrangements, including seating and amplification during such meetings. The review panel will visit town councils in neighbouring authorities to ascertain whether or not Portishead has adopted best practice in this matter as well as taking evidence from members and staff.

It was further RESOLVED that the working party consist of Councillors Daws, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason and Pasley.

**1099 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2004**

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation/Cash Statement for the month of February 2004 be APPROVED.

**1100 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

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

**04/P/0299/F THE BUNGALOW, CLAPTON LANE, PORTISHEAD**

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement bungalow

Members confirmed that they had not observed anybody living on the site and, in supporting the planning committee's comments, RESOLVED not to make any recommendation on this application.

**04/P/0365/F EDEN COTTAGE, 7 BEACH HILL, PORTISHEAD**

Erection of external staircase from first floor to patio area with storage area beneath (retrospective).

Councillor Pasley, having declared a prejudicial interest, and Councillors Rigby and Walters, each having declared a personal interest, left the meeting for the consideration of this application. They took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.

Councillor Mrs Bickley reported that the NSC planning officer had indicated that he was minded to refuse this application. However, some members commented that they had found it difficult to make a decision on the application with the information available and as the applicant was known to all members of the Council it would be difficult to give an unbiased opinion. On being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED not to make any recommendation on this application.

Councillors Pasley, Rigby and Walters rejoined the meeting.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2004 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

**1101 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

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

**RW551 PORTISHEAD CARNIVAL**

As it had not yet been possible to obtain the additional information required, and in view of the timescale, it was RESOLVED that the Chairman, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee and the Clerk be given delegated authority to deal with this matter.

**RW552 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS – REPORT FROM WORKING PARTY**

Amend as follows –

Final paragraph of preamble – delete “other”. Final sentence to read –

Members considered that instead, relevant parties could be co-opted to the working party as required on an ad-hoc basis.

Recommendation – Amend 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point to read –

The request for the Chairman of the Local Action Team to become a formal member of the working party be declined but he and others be invited to attend as and when required.

**RW553 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT – NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL RANGER SERVICE**

RESOLVED that the grant of £1,200 be allocated as follows –

£500 from the Youth Support Budget  
£700 from Contingency

**RW554 FOLK HALL – REQUEST FOR DISABLED PARKING FACILITIES**

Add to recommendation –

The Clerk to investigate the provision of two parking bays on the Folk Hall car park.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2004 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

**1102 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

Curzon Cinema – Town Council’s request to be considered by Clevedon TC on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004.

The Post Office, 114 High Street – relocating to 29 High Street (Dillons) with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004.

NSC Highways – Clapton Lane to be surfaced dressed on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2004.  
Highways Problems – Four complaints received following article in December issue of Portishead Paper. Forwarded to traffic working party for consideration.  
Portishead Lifeboat Trust – Thanks to Council for continued support.  
Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 – Letter forwarded to ODPM in respect of drafting error ref. allowances to co-opted councillors.

The following items were circulated for information –

NSC Highways Services Newsletter – January 2004  
ALCA North Somerset Group Meeting – 12.2.2004  
Portishead Networking Group – 4.2.2004  
Portishead Quays Public Art Steering Group – 20.1.2004  
Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team – 20.1.2004  
Gordano Councils Transport Group – 19.2.2004

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

..... Chairman

7<sup>th</sup> April 2004