

**MINUTES OF THE 136TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 11TH AUGUST 2004**

PRESENT Councillor Daws – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Gething, Miss Griffiths, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, A McMurray, J McMurray, Pasley, Rigby, Terry, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillor J H Clark

1140 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mrs Linda Morrissey, a resident of 50 Bristol Road, raised her concerns about the North Somerset Council Draft Waste Strategy which was currently out for public consultation. She was particularly concerned about the proposed introduction of wheeled bins and pointed out the difficulties that some residents could encounter with storage. She also considered that the bins were unsightly and if stored at the front of properties could be detrimental to the visual amenity of the Town. Mrs Morrissey urged the Council to take her comments into consideration when making their response to the Strategy.

Mr Mike Unsworth, a resident of 19 Blackthorn Drive, drew members attention to a recent press announcement from the Home Office which confirmed that an appeal was to be lodged against North Somerset Council's refusal to grant planning permission for the Asylum Screening Unit at the Vale. Mr Unsworth reminded members of the strength of feeling amongst residents of the Vale that had been demonstrated at both the Town Council meeting in April and the subsequent public meeting on 20th April. He pointed out the poor public transport links to the Town and stated that the provision of a bus shelter on Brampton Way, as proposed by the Home Office, would not solve these problems. He was also concerned that the current offices were not just being used as an administrative centre, as stated by the Home Office, as a number of residents had witnessed events to the contrary. He also questioned what controls could be placed on any future expansion of the service. Mr Unsworth urged the Council to maintain their opposition to the Home Office application and to press for a public inquiry.

In reply, the Chairman confirmed that some North Somerset District Councillors had already made moves in this direction; Councillor Brown added that it would be possible to limit the number of visitors to the screening centre by applying a condition to any planning permission.

Mr Pat O'Shaughnessy, a resident of 47 Conference Avenue, spoke in support of the comments made by Mr Unsworth and urged the Council to consider the longer-term implications should the Home Office appeal succeed, making the point that a successful operation would inevitably lead to an expansion of the service.

Councillor Mrs Bickley, speaking as a member of the public, drew members attention to the difficulties being encountered by residents of roads affected by the Cabstand highway improvement works. She expressed the opinion that North Somerset Council should be asked to carry out an assessment and survey of the alternative routes being used and the impact on the residents of those roads now that the works are in progress. The Clerk was asked to write to North Somerset Council to ask for an assessment and survey to be carried out, preferably in September when traffic flows would historically increase after the summer holiday period.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All councillors present

- Personal interest in Planning Application 04/1893/F Jasmine Cottage, 63 West Hill, Portishead – Demolition of existing wall and replacement on new boundary line with timber fence and new pitched roof to garage.
Reason – acquainted with applicant.

Councillor J S Clark

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1148 (RW576) – Avon Wildlife Trust
Reason – Member of Avon Wildlife Trust

Councillor Daws

- Personal interest in Minute No. 1143 – Proposed Closure of Redcliffe Bay and West Hill Post Offices
Reason – Wife employed by Post Office
- Personal interest in Planning Application 04/P/1929/RG3 Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead – To take down existing 1.5 metre high perimeter fencing and erect new 2.4metre high fencing to whole school perimeter.
Reason – School Governor

Councillor Gething

- Prejudicial interest in Planning Application 04/1893/F Jasmine Cottage, 63 West Hill, Portishead – Demolition of existing wall and replacement on new boundary line with timber fence and new pitched roof to garage.
Reason – Applicant
- Personal interest in Planning Application 04/P/1929/RG3 Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead – To take down existing 1.5 metre high perimeter fencing and erect new 2.4metre high fencing to whole school perimeter.
Reason – School Governor
- Personal interest in Minute No. 1148 (RW576) – Avon Wildlife Trust
Reason – Member of Avon Wildlife Trust

Councillor J McMurray

- Personal interest in Planning Application 04/P/1929/RG3 Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead – To take down existing 1.5 metre high perimeter fencing and erect new 2.4metre high fencing to whole school perimeter.
Reason – School Governor

Councillor Mrs Mason

- Personal interest in Planning Application 04/P/1891/RG3 Highdown Infant School, Down Road, Portishead – Temporary hire of 3-bay Elliot Classroom
Reason – School Governor

Councillor Terry

- Prejudicial interest in Planning Application 04/1893/F Jasmine Cottage, 63 West Hill, Portishead – Demolition of existing wall and replacement on new boundary line with timber fence and new pitched roof to garage.
Reason – Brother affected by development.

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

Councillors Daws, Brown, J H Clark, Gething, Terry 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.

1142 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 135th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 7th July 2004 be confirmed as correct.

1143 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF REDCLIFFE BAY AND WEST HILL POST OFFICES

Members attention was drawn to a report of a meeting held with representatives of the Post Office and Postwatch following the announcement that the Post Offices at Redcliffe Bay and West Hill were to close.

Arising from the report it was noted that the current offices were operating at a loss and the postmasters had volunteered to close. It was also pointed out that the Post Office in the High Street was shortly to move to Dillons where it was intended to provide an enhanced service with longer opening hours. A suggestion that the former Post Office building be reused had been dismissed as the building is now owned by Royal Mail which is a separate company.

During the ensuing discussion members stressed the importance of a Post Office facility being maintained in the West Hill area of the town and expressed surprise that the Post Office considered that one Post Office was sufficient for a town the size of Portishead. The reuse of the former Post Office building in the High Street was also strongly supported.

RESOLVED that the Post Office be informed –

- that the Town Council oppose any reduction in Post Office services in the town;
- of the importance of maintaining a Post Office facility in the West Hill area of the town, perhaps within another already established commercial outlet;
- that it would be “commercial folly” if Portishead, now the 2nd largest town in North Somerset, and still rapidly expanding, had only one Post Office;
- that the Town Council strongly urge them to seriously reconsider the reuse of the former Post Office building in the High Street;
- any closures must be phased and must not go ahead until the new High Street Post Office is open.

1144 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY

Members were informed that the growth of waste in North Somerset was rising faster than the national average and as a result it was necessary to find other ways to deal with the waste created. A draft waste strategy had been produced which aimed to guide the Council’s management of waste services through the short and medium term and to anticipate and plan for longer-term pressures.

The proposed service changes included –

- Active promotion of the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Phased introduction of amount of waste that will be collected.
- Introduction of 140 litre wheeled bins for refuse in September 2005.
- Separate collection of green garden waste, initially sacks from September 2005 then green wheeled bins from September 2007.
- Improvements to the civic amenity sites at Backwell and Weston.
- Increase in range of items that can be recycled.

Whilst members generally welcomed the principles of the strategy and recognised the need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, concerns were expressed about the proposed mandatory introduction of wheeled bins, citing in particular the difficult terrain in parts of the town and the problem with manoeuvring heavy bins. In supporting the comments made by Mrs Morrissey at the beginning of the meeting other members pointed out the unsightly nature of the wheeled bins and expressed concern at the possible detrimental affect on the visual amenity of the town if bins were left at the front of properties or on pavements and the highway.

RESOLVED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council consider that local residents mostly accept the need to reduce, reuse and recycle domestic waste and reduce the tonnage going to landfill but are not convinced that wheeled bins are the only or even the preferred way forward. The Council note that in many parts of Portishead the use of wheeled bins is impractical; accordingly we ask that all alternative solutions are examined and fully costed before a final decision is made.

The Town Council welcome the phased introduction of the strategy and also suggest that comprehensive information on recyclables be sent to every household annually.

1145 PORTISHEAD TOURISM GROUP – SEA BRITAIN FESTIVAL 2005

Members were informed that Portishead Tourism Group were planning to co-ordinate a calendar of events in 2005 to celebrate the nautical heritage of the town as part of the Sea Britain Festival 2005. A Steering Group was being established and the Town Council were invited to nominate a member to represent the Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Miers be nominated to represent the Council on the Portishead Sea Britain Festival 2005 Steering Group.

1146 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2004

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

1147 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 7th August 2004.

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

04/P/1929/RG3 GORDANO SCHOOL, ST MARY'S ROAD

To take down existing 1.5 metre high perimeter fencing and erect new 2.4 metre high fencing to whole school perimeter.

Add to recommendation for APPROVAL –

It would appear that these works are already in progress and an amount of green fencing has already been erected.

04/P/1993/F JASMINE COTTAGE, 63 WEST HILL, PORTISHEAD

Demolition of existing wall and replacement on new boundary line with timber fence and new pitched roof to garage

Having declared prejudicial interests in this application both Councillors Gething and Terry left the meeting for its consideration, took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 7th August 2004 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1148 RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 28th July 2004.

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

RW575 TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS – APPLICATION OF THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995 ON OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS

RESOLVED that the Clerk arrange for the following works to be carried out –

Mead Road Appropriate entrance surfacing
Gate to be painted

Newhaven Road Gate to be painted
Replace missing sign

Underwood Road Appropriate entrance surfacing
Gate to be painted

RW576 AVON WILDLIFE TRUST – PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PRIORS WOOD

RESOLVED that the Avon Wildlife Trust be awarded a grant of £1,000 towards the purchase of Priors Wood. The grant to be allocated out of general reserves.

RW577 ST MARY'S ROAD, PORTISHEAD

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council defer further consideration of this item and the Leader of North Somerset Council be asked to defer his decision until such time as the Gordano School Travel Plan is completed.
2. North Somerset Council be advised that additional School Keep Clear markings are required in lower St Mary's Road.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 28th July 2004 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1149 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report Target Review – Response received from NSC.

St Peters School 200th Anniversary Commemorative Book – Copies received along with a letter of thanks from PTA.

CCTV – May log supplied to Clerk.

Gordano Valley Church Cludo Club – Letter of thanks and Holiday Club programme received.

Public Seats – Library seat relocated to High Street (HSBC Bank)

The following items were circulated for information –

- National Association of Local Councils – Legal Topic Note ref Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- NSC Highways Services Newsletter – June 2004
- Gordano Councils Transport Group 20.5.2004-08-11

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm

.....Chairman

8th September 2004