

**MINUTES OF THE 110TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2002**

PRESENT Councillor Pickering – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cole, J Johnston, M Johnston, Mrs Mason, Terry, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council
Mrs R Tranter – Assistant Clerk

APOLOGIES Councillors Mrs Cruse, Daws, Mrs Haysom, Palmer, Pasley

902 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

903 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

904 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 109th Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th May 2002 be confirmed as correct.

**905 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN
SEPTEMBER 2002**

Members received a verbal report on the Draft 2002 School Organisation Plan from Councillor Brown.

Whilst acknowledging that the 2002 Plan addressed the comments previously made by the Town Council in 2001, Councillor Brown informed members that in his opinion the Plan was still seriously flawed as the projected demand for school places only took into account new housing development for which planning permission had been granted. It did not include developments which were only proposed.

As it appeared that the Plan did not include provision for all of the expected housing development in the town, which, when completed, was expected to increase the population of Portishead by 33%, members considered the projected figures to be totally inadequate and lacking in credibility.

RESOLVED that the Clerk forward the above comments to North Somerset Council.

Councillor Terry took no part in the discussion on this item and did not vote.

906 DTLR CONSULTATION : LOCAL INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

Councillor Mrs Bickley informed members that the DTLR had produced a consultation paper which set out proposals for the framework within which allegations about misconduct by councillors could be handled at a local level.

In detailing the proposals Councillor Mrs Bickley reported that the Local Government Act 2000 provided for the Standards Board for England to investigate misconduct allegations. However, it was now considered that in certain circumstances, Ethical Standards Officers could choose to refer the matter to the monitoring officer of the appropriate local authority for investigation and consideration by the local standards committee. Cases relating to town or parish councillors would also come under the appropriate responsible local authority.

Whilst members generally agreed with the principles on which the framework was based, they were concerned about a number of issues, including –

- The proposal that local Standards Committees have the power to suspend or remove a councillor from office. Members considered that cases where the penalty may involve suspension or removal from office must be referred back to the Standards Board.
- Resources available to the Monitoring Officer
- Proposed composition of Standards Committees.

RESOLVED that the response attached to and forming part of these minutes be forwarded to the DTLR.

Councillor Mrs Bickley was thanked for preparing the report.

907 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2002

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2002.

Members were asked to note that whilst the Financial Report showed a General Reserve (uncommitted sums) of £68,313.26, £10,000 of this had subsequently been allocated for non-budgeted items in the current 2002/2003 financial year. The actual General Reserve therefore now stood at £58,313.26.

The Clerk further reported that investigations were continuing into the appointment of an internal auditor and details of the arrangements for the external audit were still awaited. A further report would be made to the Council in due course.

RESOLVED that the Financial Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2002 be APPROVED.

The Financial Report is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

The Clerk was thanked for preparing the Financial Report.

908 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT

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

909 PLANNING COMMITTEE

As Councillor J Johnston, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, had been absent from the Committee meeting held on 8th June 2002, the report of that meeting was presented by Councillor M Johnston.

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

02/P/1001/F LAND OFF WYNDHAM WAY, PORTISHEAD

Erection of retail furniture showroom

Amend first paragraph to read –

Although this development is on land designated for B1/B8 employment use, it may make a far greater compensating contribution to the town's future well being by providing a major unit of the comparison goods shops necessary for a viable shopping area and a well-balanced attractive town.

02/P/1055/F 16 HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD (CHINESE RESTAURANT)

Delete 2nd paragraph and amend recommendation to APPROVAL.

The report of the meeting held on 8th June 2002 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

910 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

North Somerset Primary Care Trust – established on 1st April 2002. Chair of Trust to be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council.

Appointment of independent internal auditor – Clerk investigating.

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Annual Policing Plan Priorities.

North Somerset Council Ranger Service – Various events taking place in Portishead during summer.

1st North Weston Brownies – Letter thanking Council for grant received.

The following items were circulated for information –

Briefing Notes –

North Somerset Council – Parish Voice

North Somerset Council – Guidance on Dispensations

Strategic Highways Issues

Other Miscellaneous Reports

Portishead Community Safety LAT 30.4.02
North Somerset Council Highways Services Newsletter – April 2002
Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee – 29.4.02
Queens Golden Jubilee Committee – 14.5.02
Port Marine Public Art Management Steering Group – 19.4.02
Gordano Councils Transport Group – 20.5.02
Avon Local Councils Association 29.5.02

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06pm

.....Chairman

10th July 2002