

**MINUTES OF THE 138TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2004**

PRESENT Councillor Daws – in the Chair

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

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors Mrs Cruse, Terry

1160 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr Trevor White, a resident of Gardner Road, reiterated the comments he made to the Planning Committee on 9th October in respect of Planning Application No. 04/P/1992/RM, the proposed landmark building at Harbour Road. Mr White spoke in particular about the detrimental effect the building would have on the landscape and expressed the opinion that the developers should be made to adhere to the original outline planning consent and Master Plan.

Mr Michael Wilks, a resident of 3 Beach Road East, also spoke about the proposed landmark building and stated that to his knowledge the majority of residents of the town opposed the development. He urged councillors to represent the wishes of the residents and refuse the application. In supporting the comments made by Mr White he also stated that the developers should be made to adhere to the original outline planning consent and Master Plan.

Councillor Mrs Bickley informed members that the preliminary report on the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study would be published shortly and it had therefore been decided to postpone the meeting of the Gordano Councils Transport Group scheduled for Thursday 14th October 2004 until after the report was available. Members would be notified of the new date of the meeting as soon as possible.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1161 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Lord

- Personal interest in Planning Application 04/P/2245/F 10 The Precinct, Portishead – Proposed change of use to betting office. Proposed single storey rear extension. Installation of 3 satellite dishes and shop front alterations.
Reason – Member of the Justices' Betting and Gaming Committee.

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.

1162 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 137th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 8th September 2004 be confirmed as correct, subject to the following alteration –

Minute No. 1156 – Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study
3rd sentence, amend Portbury Dock Company to read Bristol Port Company.

The Clerk was also asked to send the Council's response to the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study to the Secretary of State for Transport.

1163 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CONSULTATIONS

Councillor Mrs Lord reported that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had invited responses to two consultation papers –

(a) Draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees – this paper sought views on proposals for a code of conduct which would apply to relevant employees in local government. The Code would form part of the Council's standing orders and would become part of employees' terms and conditions of employment. Members noted that the provisions of the draft Code were analogous to the provisions in the Members Code of Conduct and covered

- Honesty, Integrity, Impartiality and Objectivity
- Accountability
- Respect for Others
- Stewardship
- Personal Interests & Registration of Interests
- Reporting procedures
- Openness
- Appointment of Staff
- Duty of Trust

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council welcome the document which should ensure high standards from employees across all authorities.
2. There should be a list of interests and benefits etc which should mirror the councillors' code. It should not be available to the public and should be restricted to officers of a certain level eg the Clerk in the case of Town/Parish Councils. It should be limited to areas which have a bearing on the way in which functions of the authority are discharged by that employee.
3. The proposal on the reporting of misconduct provides sufficient protection from victimization to whistle-blowers. However, if a duty is not laid on employees to report misconduct, then the duty of confidentiality could have the effect of preventing such disclosures.
4. The phrase 'relative or friend' is sufficient.

(b) Review of restrictions on the political activities of local authority employees and pay of political assistants – this paper sought views on proposals arising from a review of the current restrictions which apply to council employees' political activities and sought views on the current arrangements for remuneration of political assistants.

Members noted that currently, only the Clerk's post was classed as being politically restricted.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council welcome the opportunity to comment on the document.
2. The Town Council recommend no change to current rules as they appear to provide sufficient safeguards to employees and the public in the case of Town Council employees.

1164 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2004

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

1165 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 9th October 2004.

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

**04/P/1992/RM SITE 'L' LAND NORTH OF HARBOUR ROAD,
PORTISHEAD (Amendment)**

Submission of Reserved Matters of external appearance, siting, design, means of access and landscaping for the erection of 65 flats, A 3 use to the ground floor and car parking pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 00/P/1846/O (Amendment dated 27th September).

A lengthy debate ensued on this application. Whilst some members acknowledged the amendments that had been made to address the Council's previous concerns, a majority of members still considered that the building was too tall, not in accordance with the previously agreed Masterplan, and not in keeping with the character of the Town. Some members also commented that the building was not imaginative enough and needed to be more distinctive if it was to be considered a landmark building.

On being put to the vote the Committee recommendation for REFUSAL on the grounds that the application did not adhere to the Masterplan in respect of its height was approved.

**04/P/2345/RM 4 ACRE SITE, LAND ADJACENT TO 72 BRISTOL
ROAD**

B1 office development complete with associated parking

On a point of clarification Councillor Mrs Bickley confirmed that the Planning Committee's concerns about this application had not been resolved.

On being put to the vote the Committee recommendation for approval was amended to REFUSAL on the grounds that the application is not complete and various matters have not been resolved to the satisfaction of the Council.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 9th October is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1166 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

CCTV – July and August logs supplied to Clerk

Ashlands Primary School – 210 place voluntary aided primary school, to be opened in September 2007, approved by School Organisation Committee.

Parish Wharf – draft Agreement referred to Solicitor.

NSC Directorate of Development and Environment – Open Day 1st November 2004.

N.Somerset CAB – Annual Meeting 20th October

The following items were circulated for information –

NSC Highways Services Newsletter – August 2004

Redcliffe Bay Hall Man.Cttee – 2.8.2004

SeaBritain Festival 2005 – Newsletter No. 2

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

..... Chairman

10th November 2004