

**210th ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
13 OCTOBER 2010**

PRESENT Councillor Terry (Vice Chairman) – in the Chair

Councillors Cameron, Mrs Cruse, Cruse, Hazelton, Howells, Mrs Lord, Mrs Mason, Miers, Parker, Pasley, Miss Stanley, Walker and Walters.

Mr M Dolton – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillor Mrs Knight (Chairman of the Council), McMurray, Wright and Mrs Way.

There were 16 members of the public and press present at the meeting.

1834 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pasley stated that any views he expressed on matters to also be considered at North Somerset Council would be provisional and based on the facts currently known. He would be exercising his right to reconsider the matter afresh when the matter went before North Somerset Council.

Councillor Hazelton : Personal Interest in Minute No. RW977 (Youth Centre)
Reason – Town Council representative on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Mrs Cruse : Personal Interest in Minute No. RW977 (Youth Centre)
Reason – Town Council representative on the Youth Club management committee.

Councillor Terry :

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW977 (Youth Centre)
Reason – North Somerset Council representative on the Youth Club management committee.
- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW978 (Acquisition of Allotment Land)
Reason – Secretary of Portishead Allotment Association

Councillor Cruse : Personal Interest in Minute No. RW978 (Acquisition of Allotment Land)
Reason – Allotment tenant – North Weston Allotments

Councillor Mrs Lord : Personal Interest in Minute No. RW 979 (Play Equipment Lake Grounds)

Reason – proximity of residence

Councillor Miss Stanley : Personal Interest in Minute No. RW981 (Grant Application Transition Portishead)

Reason – acquainted via other committees with applicant.

1835 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, and that councillors may respond through the Chairman to any issue raised if they so wish, but that no full debate was appropriate.

- (i) Mrs A Hennessy a resident of Albert Road, Portishead, addressed the meeting on the subject of the forthcoming works to the High Street, and the proposed 20 mile per hour speed limit area. Mrs Hennessy referred to the minutes of a Town Council meeting in January 2010 when a member had commented on the speeding traffic in the High Street, and subsequent media reports relating to that comment. She then commented that the minutes of the recent Planning Committee when the item was further discussed showed that members appeared to see the proposed limit as pointless unless it could be enforced.

Mrs Hennessy felt that members had not articulated two very important factors that should be considered, whether there is any justification for the proposal, and whether in these times of severe financial constraint the works required were a good use of public funds.

There had been 9 injury accidents in the past 3 years, and Mrs Hennessy asserted that only one of these may have involved any element of excessive speed. She then detailed the accidents to indicate that speed was not a factor and therefore the introduction of a 20 miles per hour limit on the grounds of safety was not justified.

Due to the recent financial constraints on Council spending, Mrs Hennessy suggested that there may be other locations within the district where the need for expenditure on new speed restrictions were needed more and justifiable, and therefore urged members of the Town Council, when next considering the issue, to give regard to the accident statistical evidence and costs involved.

- (ii) Mrs Tracey Fowler, a resident of Avon Way Portishead addressed the meeting. Mrs Fowler referred to the recent success of the gymnast Imogen Cairns, a resident of Portishead, who has won two gold medals

at the Commonwealth Games in India. Mrs Fowler asked that members of the Council consider marking her achievement in some way.

The Vice Chairman responded to Mrs Fowler informing her that the Chairman of the Council will be informed of Imogen's achievements on her return from holiday.

- (iii) Miss Le Faye a resident of The Garstons Portishead addressed members about the recent publicity that the current library building in the High Street was to be disposed of by the owners.. Miss Le Faye expressed her disappointment that the Town Council had been reported in the press as indicating that they held no specific interest in the building. She asked for clarification of who owned the building, and for members to take part in ideas of what the building could be used for in future, perhaps a cinema, museum, small concert hall. Miss Le Faye stated that she held the strong view that the building should not be sold off to a private buyer.

The Vice Chairman responded to Miss Le Faye by clarifying that the current owners are North Somerset Council. The notification of their intention to dispose of the building, along with another piece of land in Portishead was an agenda item later in this meeting in the Recreation and Works Committee report, and members would no doubt take into account her views when they came to consider that item.

- (iv) Mr John Dixon, a resident of Portishead addressed the meeting. Mr Dixon expressed his concern about the lack of an emergency telephone facility at The Lake Grounds. He said that with the large number of visitors to the area, and some members of the public not having access to a mobile telephone, the nearest working public telephone was in the High Street which was much too far away for emergency purposes.

At the invitation of the Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs Mason responded that at the time of the BT consultation of the de-commissioning of the equipment on the Lake Grounds, the Council had responded to the effect that they felt the facility should remain, but to no avail.

The Vice Chairman stated that he felt that this issue was worthy of further consideration by members, and asked the Clerk to put the matter on a future Recreation and Works Committee agenda for discussion.

- (v) Mr Kenneth Smith, a resident of Down Road Portishead addressed members. Mr Smith asked that all members considered the need to ensure that they informed the public of the facts of matters in future. He referred to recent occurrences when he suggested that a member had, as a Town Councillor, commented that he felt that the lake should be dredged, but had then, as a District Councillor, commented that

there were insufficient financial resources to achieve this. Mr Smith also asked that the Council consider the position with the Clapton Lane Gordano football pitches, which are available for hire to the public at a cost of some £60. Every time he has passed he has not seen the pitches in use and wondered if the apparent high cost might be the reason.

At the invitation of the Vice Chairman Councillor Pasley responded to Mr Smith in relation to the lake. Councillor Pasley stated that he had indeed asked that the lake be dredged, and had met North Somerset officers at the site and accepted the financial constraints. They are now considering other ways of achieving the dredging.

Councillor Miss Stanley commented that she was also concerned about the football pitches in Clapton Lane, as she had recently had cause to visit them and questioned the state of the pitches.

The Vice Chairman asked the Clerk to give this matter consideration and future attention.

- (vi) Mrs Jane Pegano, of the Portishead In Bloom Group addressed the meeting. She stated that the Chairman of the group Mrs Tebbutt had a prior engagement and had therefore asked her to speak and update members. Recent activities had included planting a spiral of crocus on the verge near the Waitrose garage earlier that day, and of course the group had been very active in attending the SouthWest In Bloom and National Britain In Bloom award ceremonies. In the SouthWest category Portishead had achieved a Gold award, won the class, received the trophy for the best urban community, and this year been the recipients of the much coveted 'Blue Ribbon Cup' for the best entry in the whole of the South West. In the National competition Portishead had achieved a Silver Gilt award within a very tough class being up against major cities and areas. Mrs Pegano informed members of various activities and events in the coming weeks, particularly the Annual General Meeting of the Group to be held at the Folk Hall 7.30pm on the 29th of October 2010.

The Vice Chairman said that he felt sure he spoke on behalf of members when he congratulated and thanked the group on their excellent achievements. He felt sure that the Chairman will wish to mark the achievements in some way in the future.

Other members spoke briefly to echo the words and sentiments of the Vice Chairman, and it was aired that the achievements of the Portishead group had to also be taken in light of the fact that they are all volunteers which make the achievements remarkable when set alongside other areas who have employed assistance.

1836 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the 209th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 8 September 2010 were presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED that

The Minutes of the 209th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 8 September 2010 be confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

1837 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION / CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2010

Members considered the report of the Clerk.

After minor typographical amendment the schedule was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that

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

The schedule is attached to and forms part of these minutes

1838 GRANTS WORKING PARTY

Members received the report of the Grants Working Party comprising of Councillor Mrs Cruse, Councillor Terry and the Deputy Clerk, which had met on Monday the 11th of October 2010.

Councillor Mrs Cruse summarised the report by explaining the various sections and elements of the report. After short discussion and comment, members unanimously agreed to approve the report and payments therein.

RESOLVED that

1. In Accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 Portishead and North Weston Town Council approves the expenditure on the attached schedule which, in their opinion, is in the

interests of the area and will benefit the area in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

The Schedule is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

2. The following is included for payment in the 2011/2012 budget (and later years as appropriate) –

Citizens Advice Bureau

- The sum of £12,179 is included in the budget for 2011/2012 for the continuation of the Portishead CAB Service.
- The sum of £12,577 is included in the budget for 2012/2013 for the continuation of the Portishead CAB Service.
- The sum of £12,891 is included in the budget for 2013/2014 for the continuation of the Portishead CAB Service.

North Somerset Arts Week

- The sum of £500 is included in the budget for 2011/2012.

3. Budget provision for 2011/12, subject to application –

- **Nailsea & Community Transport** – The sum of £10,500
- **Portishead Christmas Lights** - The sum of up to £7,500 (including the cost of garage rent for the storage of the Christmas Lights)
- **Portishead in Bloom** -The sum of £5,000
- **Portishead Lifeboat** – The sum of £3,000.

1839 RECREATION AND WORKS COMMITTEE

Councilor Mrs Cruse presented the report of the recreation and Works Committee meeting, held on Wednesday the 29th September 2010.

Members discussed Item RW 982 (Library Building / Land at Harbour Road) :-

Several members expressed the view that whilst they supported the committee's recommendation in relation to the current library building in the High Street, i.e. indicate no specific interest, this wording should be amended to express a view that this council may be supportive of any future community projects relating to the building, without any commitment.

It was proposed, duly seconded and agreed by majority vote, that the wording of the committee's recommendation should be amended to reflect the Council's indication of potential support of any appropriate future community project.

Members approved all other recommendations of the committee as in the report.

RESOLVED that

The report of the Recreation and Works Committee held on Wednesday the 29th September 2010 is approved subject to the following amendment : -

RW 982 PORTISHEAD LIBRARY BUILDING / LAND AT HARBOUR ROAD - DISPOSAL BY NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

‘The Portishead and North Weston Town Council respond to the letter from North Somerset Council relating to disposal of the current library building in the High Street Portishead, and the land at Harbour Road. The response is to indicate that both sites are subject to a Community Use planning designation.

The Town Council have no specific further comment relating to ownership in relation to the current library building in the High Street, however, the Town Council may be supportive of any future appropriate community projects at the building.

The Town Council indicate, without prejudice, that members would be interested in exploring further potential options for the land in Harbour Road, and request that North Somerset Council communicate with the Clerk in order that he may brief members on any such potential’

The report of the Recreation and Works Committee held on Wednesday the 29th September 2010 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1840 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Howells presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 6th of October 2010.

Members briefly discussed item PL020 (Planning Appeal : Skate Park) and after discussion and majority vote agreed to approve the recommendation of the committee as written in the report.

RESOLVED that

Sections 1 and 3 of the Planning Committee report of the meeting held on the 6th October 2010 are noted. Section 2 of that report is approved.

The report of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday the 6th of October 2010 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1841 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN WISHES TO PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Vice Chairman explained to members present that the Chairman of the Council had been unable to return from abroad due to industrial action.

The Chairman had asked the Vice Chairman to communicate to members :-

Her expression of thanks to all members who attended and assisted at the Open Day on Saturday the 18th of September 2010. The Chairman particularly wished to thank Councillors Mrs Lord and Pasley, and the Clerk, for their hard work and commitment in preparing this event which she considered to be a great success.

The Chairman also wished to express thanks on behalf of all members, for the extra hours and commitment shown by the office staff during the absence of Peter the Folk Hall caretaker in the past three weeks due to his illness. She felt that members would no doubt be pleased to see Peter now restored to health and returned to work, and she was conscious of the evenings and often late night work that office staff had completed to ensure the continued functioning of the hall.

- **Representations by Chairman on behalf of the Council :-**

11 September	Attended the 40 th Charter Anniversary Dinner at Walton Park
14 September	Met with the Judges of the South West In Bloom at Bath
15 September	Finals of South west In Bloom at Bath
18 September	Activity event at Somerset Hall
29 September	Finals ' Britain In Bloom' Birmingham
3 October	Portbury Wharf handover (Avon Wildlife Trust)

- **Correspondence Received :-**

Road Closures Notification :- Relating to the works to be conducted in the High Street this autumn – full details in the office.

Community Policing Awards 2010 :- Letter from Avon & Somerset Police launching these awards and asking for any nominations.

Lake Grounds : Trampoline :- Letter from North Somerset Council responding to the request by this Town Council to consider the matter, stating that the trampoline will be removed from the fenced area of the play area.

- **Publications and Reports** – The following items have been received and are available in the Town Council Office –
 - Friends of North Somerset Museum newsletter September 2010
 - Local Council review Autumn 2010
 - NHS North Somerset – Annual report 2010
 - North Somerset Life – October 2010
 - School Travel Action News – August / September 2010
 - So What's on in Somerset – Autumn 2010
 - Streetscene – September 2010
 - What's on in N Somerset to 26 October 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.51pm

Chairman

10th November 2010

GRANTS 2010–2011

APPLICANT	PURPOSE OF GRANT	GRANT REQUESTED	GRANT APPROVED
General Grants			
MS Therapy Unit	Training for Oxygen Chamber operators	£250	£250
North Somerset Accordion Club	Towards new keyboard	£1,000.00	£500
Parkinsons	Towards transport costs of members	No amount specified	£375
Portishead Chamber of Commerce	Towards building a website	£322.88	£100
Portishead Film	To stage another two seasons of films	£400.00	£400
St Peter & St Paul's Church Weston in Gordano	Towards upkeep of burial ground/ churchyard	£80.00	£80
Transitions	Towards Home Energy Day	£415.00	£200
Vision North Somerset	Towards home visiting service	£200.00	£200
Vitalise	Towards provision of short brakes for disabled people	£81.75	£75
Youth Grants			
Cludo Club	Towards cost of hiring coaches or hiring Gordano School or any lesser amount	£700.00	£700
Nailsea Festival of Music	Towards the Festival of Music, Speech and Drama	£250.00	£100
North Somerset Mencap Playscheme	To assist with transport costs for local children	£500.00	£250
1 st Portishead Scouts	To help with refurbishment of toilets	£2,000.00	£1,000
Portishead Amateur Swimming Club	Re-placing water polo goal and balls	£200.00	£100
Portishead Children's Centre	Towards developing the outside area	No specified amount	£500
Portishead District Guides	To purchase a plastic shed for camping equipment storage	£900.00	£500
Portishead Senshinryu Karate Club	Towards the purchase of safety	£500.00	£250

	equipment		
Specific Grants	Provision of Christmas Lights through the High Street	£7,500	£7,500
Portishead Christmas Lights			
Portishead in Bloom	Maintaining and improving floral displays throughout the town	£6,000	£6,000