

**MINUTES OF THE 116TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD AND NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2002**

PRESENT Councillor Pickering – in the Chair

Councillor Mrs Bickley, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Daws, Mrs Haysom, J
Johnston, M Johnston, Mrs Mason, Palmer, Terry, Walters, Whitfield

*Cllr Terry arrived at 8.00pm, prior to consideration of Minute No. 959

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors Brown, J H Clark, Mrs Cole, Pasley

955 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing Orders were suspended to allow District Councillor Greenham to provide members with details of two community safety schemes currently being initiated in other areas of North Somerset. Councillor Greenham stated that the introduction of Neighbourhood Wardens in Weston-super-Mare had been hailed a great success in helping to reduce crime and deter anti-social behaviour. Councillor Michael Roe, the leader of the District Council, was keen to extend the Neighbourhood Warden scheme to other areas of North Somerset and Councillor Greenham considered that Portishead should be included. Councillor Greenham also informed members that an extension to the areas where the drinking of alcohol in public is banned was also being investigated. He suggested that the Town Council may wish to consider applying for a ban on drinking at the Lake Grounds.

In reply, Councillor Walters, whilst expressing general support for the ideas, stated that areas for a drink ban would need to be considered extremely carefully.

The Clerk was asked to obtain further information and to report back to a future meeting of the Council.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Greenham for bringing the two schemes to the attention of the Town Council.

Standing Orders were resumed.

956 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Cruse

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW489
Reason – Member of Portishead Partnership

Councillor M Johnston

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW490
Reason – Chairman of North Weston Village Hall Management Committee

Councillor Pickering

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW489
Reason – Member of Portishead Partnership

Councillor Walters

- Personal Interest in Minute No. RW489
Reason – Member of Portishead Partnership

957 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 115th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 6th November 2002 be confirmed as correct.

**958 NORTH SOMERSET CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – 2003/2004
APPLICATION FOR A GRANT TOWARDS THE CONTINUATION OF THE
PORTISHEAD SERVICE**

The Chairman introduced Ms Annie Broadhead, North Somerset CAB Advice Services Manager and invited her to update members on the Portishead outreach service.

Ms Broadhead thanked the Council for their support of the Portishead CAB over the preceding twelve months and reported that the Monday drop-in service continued to be extremely busy. Whilst enquiries relating to employment, housing advice and legal and relationship issues continued to be steady, enquiries relating to debt, consumer and benefit advice were increasing. Ms Broadhead was also able to report that the introduction of a home visiting benefits service during the year was proving to be particularly beneficial to the elderly and disabled. The introduction of this service also meant that the CAB no longer required the use of the Eve Wigan Room for their appointment-only service on a Thursday.

Ms Broadhead also reported that systems were currently being put in place to cope with an expected increase in benefit enquiries following the introduction of the new Tax Credit system in April 2003.

In concluding her report Ms Broadhead again thanked the Council for their support and hoped they would be able to continue their financial assistance for 2003/2004.

In answering questions from Councillors Ms Broadhead confirmed that

- enquiries previously dealt with at the Thursday appointment-only sessions were now dealt with by peripatetic advisors and the home visiting service.
- it was hoped to be able to extend the outreach service to outlying areas when resources allowed.

The Chairman thanked Ms Broadhead for her interesting presentation.

RESOLVED that the sum of £5,600 be included in the 2003/2004 budget for the continuation of the Portishead CAB outreach service.

959 POLLING DISTRICT AMENDMENTS – PORTISHEAD SOUTH AND NORTH WESTON WARD

Members were informed that the NSC Electoral Services Manager had highlighted significant deficiencies with the electoral arrangements for the Portishead South and North Weston Ward polling district. In particular, the Electoral Services Manager reported that several complaints had been received from electors living in the south and east of the polling district who had been unable to visit the polling station as it was situated at Avon Way Hall, in the northern part of the district. Furthermore, the geography of the polling district made it difficult to find a single polling location which was convenient to all electors. He therefore proposed to split the Portishead South and North Weston ward into three components –

- Polling District No. 1 comprising the area containing the group of roads linked by Avon Way, Lower Down Road, Rippleside, Severn Road, St Mary's Park Road and West Hill to be served by a polling station to be based at Avon Way Hall.
- Polling District No. 2 comprising the area containing Capenor Close, Greenfield Park, St Mary's Road, Spring Rise and Wetlands Lane to be served by a polling station to be based at North Weston Village Hall.
- Polling District No. 3 comprising the group of roads to the west of High Street including St Peters Road, Newlands Hill, Church Roads North and South and related roads to be served by a polling station to be based at the Folk Hall (but with a separate polling station to that used for Portishead East Ward).

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Electoral Services Manager as indicated above be approved.

It was further suggested that a review of the changes be carried out in Summer 2003, following the May 2003 elections.

960 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION /CASH STATEMENT

The Clerk reported that as the bank statements had not been received she had been unable to finalise the report.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred until the January 2003 meeting of the Council.

961 PLANNING REPORT

Councillor J Johnston, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 30th November 2002.

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

REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN

A lengthy discussion took place on this item, with a number of additional proposals and amendments to the draft response being agreed.

RESOLVED that the duly amended response, a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these minutes, be forwarded to North Somerset Council as the Town Council's formal response to the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan (Draft) September 2002.

The report of the meeting held on 30th November 2002 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

962 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 20th November 2002.

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

RW490 NORTH WESTON VILLAGE HALL

The Town Council include in its budget for 2003/04 sufficient funding for it to progress the replacement of the North Weston Village Hall.

The report of the meeting held on 20th November 2002 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

963 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Correspondence – Letters thanking the Council for grants awarded received from Portishead Neighbourhood Watch, North Somerset Arts, St Peter and St Pauls Church, Avon Wildlife Trust, Nailsea and District Community Transport, Portishead in Bloom, Woodspring Association for Blind People, North Woodspring Victim Support.

Audit of 2001/2002 Accounts – Completed satisfactorily. External Auditors Certificate and Opinion received.

Town Centre CCTV Project – Contract awarded to Photoscan Ltd. Installation expected by end March 2003.

Portishead Lifeboat Trust – Thanks to an anonymous donation have been able to order a new boat.

Portishead Christmas Lights Committee – Letter congratulating the Committee on the splendid Christmas Lights display to be forwarded.

The following items were circulated for information –

NSC Highways Services Newsletter – October 2002

Port Marine Public Art Management Group – 15.10.02

Gordano Councils Transport Group – 28.10.02

Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team 17.9.02

Portishead Partnership – 11.11.02

Skateboard Working Party – 30.10.02

NSC Local Transport Plan – Extract from 2nd Progress Report ref. Portishead to Bristol Rail Corridor

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

.....Chairman

8th January 2003