

**MINUTES OF THE 92ND ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2000**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Bickley – in the Chair

Councillors Brown, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Mrs Haysom, J
Johnston, M Johnston, Palmer, Pasley, Pickering, Walters,
Whitfield

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council
Mrs R Tranter – Assistant to the Clerk
Mr R Taylor – NSC Liaison Officer

APOLOGIES Councillors J H Clark, Mrs Cole, Gamlin, Terry

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

Mr John Dixon, a resident of Roath Road, pledged his support for the proposed Town Centre CCTV System and asked councillors to ensure that the cashpoint machines were covered.

Mr Dixon also reminded councillors of the need for the railway line to be reopened and expressed his concern about the proposal by the Railway Property Board to dispose of certain strategically important parcels of land. In reply, the Chairman assured Mr Dixon that the Council had raised this matter with both the sSRA and the DETR.

Mr Ron Hazelton, representing Portishead Chamber of Trade, stressed the Chamber's support for the Town Centre CCTV System and urged the Council to endorse the application for Home Office funding. Mr Hazelton also confirmed that the Chamber had pledged a substantial contribution towards the capital costs of the scheme.

Standing Orders were resumed.

768 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 91st Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 8th November 2000 be confirmed as correct.

769 ITEM DEFERRED FROM 8TH NOVEMBER 2000 MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL – REPORT OF RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE DATED 25TH OCTOBER 2000

Councillor Mrs Haysom, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented a report of the items from the 25th October 2000 meeting of the Committee which had been deferred from the 8th November 2000 meeting of the Council.

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

RW408 BUS SERVICES

Councillor M Johnston confirmed that First Badgerline had agreed to fund the total cost of publication of the 4-page timetable pull-out in the Portishead Paper. He anticipated that it would be included in the February edition.

RW409 BEST VALUE

Councillors Mrs Bickley, J Johnston, Pickering, and Whitfield to form the Best Value Team.

RW410 PORTISHEAD TOWN CENTRE HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS

Amend recommendations to read –

1. The Town Council write to NSC Chief Executive expressing their deep concern at the way this issue had been handled and at the apparent virement of the £25,000 allocated in the Task Register for Town Centre improvements.
2. In the interests of safety the top priority of the Town Council is the provision of a safe crossing point at the Combe Road/High Street junction.
3. The Town Council agree with the traffic calming measures proposed for the High Street and outlined by Mr Schneider at the meeting on 18th October 2000, provided that the “pavement build-outs” at both crossings remain (this was unclear on the drawing submitted).
4. The Town Council write to NSC Director of Planning asking that the provision of double yellow lines on Portishead High Street be reviewed with the intention of maximising the number of on-street parking places.
5. The Town Council request that a further investigation be made into the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Folk Hall.

**RW411 PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN NORTH
SOMERSET**

Add to recommendation 3 –

If there is a delay in the disposal of the site, the Town Council request that the toilets be demolished and the land allocated for community use.

The Town Council request a copy of the timetable for the disposal of the site.

The report of the items deferred from Committee meeting held on 25th October 2000 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

770 CCTV – PORTISHEAD TOWN CENTRE

Councillors Mrs Cruse and Whitfield each declared an interest in this matter, took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.

Further to Minute No. 760, members now received a report of a meeting held with representatives of the Chamber of Trade, North Somerset Council, Community Safety Local Action Team, Neighbourhood Watch and the Police on 20th November and a report of an additional meeting with the Chamber of Trade on 23rd November. The Clerk also reported on letters and telephone calls received from local organisations and members of the public, all pledging support for a CCTV System for the Town Centre.

It was noted that CCTV was considered to be a useful tool in acting as a deterrent to the opportunist and that the introduction of CCTV in other areas had brought about a considerable drop in crime figures in the first year and to a lesser extent in the following years.

The Chairman also reminded councillors that the Chamber of Trade had pledged a significant contribution towards the capital costs of the scheme and stressed that, as bids for Home Office funding had to be submitted by 22nd December 2000, a decision on whether to proceed was needed as a matter of urgency. It was further confirmed that the technical aspects of the scheme could be considered at a later date.

A lengthy discussion ensued, with a majority of members expressing their support for a CCTV System in the Town Centre. However, concerns were expressed about the limitations on the current monitoring system at the Weston-super-Mare control room and the requirement for the annual maintenance costs to be met from the Town Council budget.

RESOLVED that

1. The Town Council form a partnership with the Chamber of Trade and North Somerset Council and put forward a bid for CCTV funding.

2. The Town Council contributes £20,000 from its 2001-2002 budget towards the capital costs of the project.
3. Ongoing maintenance and service costs be met by local residents in the form of local taxes.
4. The Town Council ask the Police to supply details of the latest crime figures relating to the High Street.

771 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – AFFORDABLE HOUSING DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – RESPONSE

Members received a report from Councillor Pickering summarising the Draft North Somerset Council Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance and giving a suggested response.

It was noted that the purpose of this document was to provide detailed guidance on the implementation of the Council's policies on affordable housing as set out in the Local Plan. In particular it gave details of how housing needs would be assessed and the steps the Council would take to negotiate an element of low-cost or subsidised housing with developers.

The document was generally supported by members with comments being made in particular about ensuring that any financial contribution sought from developers in lieu of on-site provision related to the cost of housing in that particular area.

RESOLVED that

1. Portishead and North Weston Town Council welcomes the Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance
2. The Town Council would wish the proposed method of off-site contributions to be made by developers in lieu of affordable housing on site used only in exceptional circumstances, and where accepted, the contribution should relate to the cost of housing in that particular area. The Council also wish to see all new housing developments mixed, for social reasons, and would not wish to see enclaves of affordable housing on separate sites, mimicking the council estates of the past.

772 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

The schedule of payments and bank reconciliation/cash statement for the month of November 2000 was APPROVED.

773 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor J Johnston, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2000.

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

00/P/1900/F PLOT NO. 1 BATTERY ROAD, PORTISHEAD

Erection of one dwelling and integral garage with new vehicular access

Councillor Mrs Haysom declared a pecuniary interest in this application and left the meeting for its consideration.

Amend recommendation to read –

Recommend APPROVAL, subject to the roof height being lowered.

00/P/1996/AD CO-OP MARKET TOWN STORE, WYNDHAM WAY

Display of signage for store and car park to include fascia sign, menu board, totem sign, lozenge signs and graphic panels (retrospective)

After receiving confirmation that the graphic panels could not be changed without further planning permission it was agreed to amend the committee's recommendation to APPROVAL.

00/P/2069/RG3 LAND AT BRISTOL ROAD, PORTISHEAD

Replacement Primary School with associated playing fields. Alterations to gyratory road system.

Add to recommendation for REFUSAL

8. Concerns about safety of pupils attending Gordano School and the proposed school site (safe routes to schools initiative)

The report of the Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2000 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

774 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Correspondence – Letters of thanks for grants awarded received from Nailsea & District Community Transport, North Woodspring Victim Support, St Peter & St Pauls Church, 1st Portishead Scouts, Portishead Porters, Gordano Valley Giants, Folk Hall Senior Citizens Association.

Audit of Accounts 1999/2000 – Auditors Certificate and Opinion received.

Portishead Small Boat and Sea Angling Club – Request for publicly accessible slipway referred to NSC in first instance.

Reopening of Portishead to Bristol Railway – Assurances received from DETR & sSRA in respect of proposed disposal of RPB landholdings.

Christmas Lights Display – Clerk asked to forward Council's thanks and appreciation to Christmas Lights Committee.

The following items were circulated for information –

Portishead Quays – Public Art Management/Steering Group – Update
NSC Highways Services Information Sheet October 2000

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

.....Chairman

10th January 2001