

**MINUTES OF THE 140TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2004**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs Lord – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse,
Gething, Johnston, Mrs Mason, Miers, A McMurray, J McMurray,
Pasley, Rigby, Terry, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council
Mr Penska – NSC Liaison Officer

APOLOGIES Councillor Miss Griffiths

Before commencing the formal business of the meeting the Council observed a minute silence in memory of Councillor John Daws who had died on 20th November 2004. In paying tribute to Councillor Daws, Councillor Mrs Lord spoke about his long service to the community and his commitment to the residents of Redcliffe Bay in particular. Councillor Mrs Lord confirmed that a donation in Councillor Daws memory had been made on behalf of the Council to the British Heart Foundation .

**1179 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE
REMAINDER OF THE 2004/2005 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Councillor Mrs Cruse proposed, Councillor Pasley seconded, the motion that Councillor Mrs Lord be elected Chairman of the Council for the remainder of the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

There being no further nominations it was therefore RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Lord be elected Chairman of the Council for the remainder of the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

1180 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Clerk, acting as the Proper Officer of the Council, received the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

1181 CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL

Councillor Mrs Lord thanked the members of the Council for having elected her Chairman. She hoped to be able to repay the confidence placed in her by working hard for the people of Portishead and pledged to do her best to encourage the integration of the new residents into the community.

1182 ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2004/2005 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Councillor Mrs Bickley proposed, Councillor J S Clark seconded, the motion that Councillor Miers be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the remainder of the 2004 /2005 Municipal Year.

There being no further nominations it was therefore RESOLVED that Councillor Miers be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the remainder of the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

1183 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Clerk, acting as the Proper Officer of the Council, received the Vice-Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

1184 VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL

Councillor Miers thanked the members of the Council for having elected him Vice-Chairman. He was honoured to be elected and pledged his full support to the Chairman and the Council.

1185 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

1186 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Lord –

- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 04/P/3000/F – 9 The Precinct, Portishead – Change of use from butchers to Bistro and takeaway pizza, replacement of shop window with folding/sliding doors, new signage. (This application includes provision for alcohol store and will therefore need to be licensed).
Reason – Member of the Justices' Licensing Panel

Councillor Pasley –

- Personal interest in the Grant Application submitted by North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau
Reason – Trustee of North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau
- Personal interest in Planning Application No. 04/P/2967/F – 33 Beach Road West, Portishead – Conversion of a single residential dwelling to two apartments to include side and rear extensions, raising of roof and conversion of roof-space; excavation of land to front of dwelling to form utility/store at basement level; erection of summerhouse within rear garden.
Reason – Property visible from his house

Declaration by members who serve on both the Town and District Council

Councillors Brown, J H Clark, Gething, Terry 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.

1187 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 139th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 10th November 2004 be confirmed as correct.

1188 NORTH SOMERSET CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

(a) Portishead Drop-in Advice Service – Presentation from Ms Anne Richards

The Chairman introduced Ms Anne Richards, Director of North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau, and invited her to update members on the Portishead Drop-in Advice Service.

Ms Richards reported that during the last year there had been a significant increase in the number of enquiries being received, with welfare benefits and debt management continuing to be the largest area of enquiry. Ms Richards also pointed out that many of the enquiries received were complex and required lengthy casework by a paid, qualified advisor. Whilst the Bureau would ideally like to extend the Drop-in Service present resource restrictions, both in manning the service and availability of accommodation, precluded this but she hoped that the Council would continue to support the service with an increased grant to enable the qualified advisor's hours to be increased.

In answering questions from Councillors Ms Richards confirmed that –

- The majority of the Bureau's funding came from North Somerset Council. Ms Richards undertook to provide the Clerk with a breakdown of what % of this went towards the Portishead outreach service.
- Clevedon and Nailsea Town Councils provided funding for their respective outreach services.
- CAB received a grant of £1,000 from Weston-super-Mare Town Council in 2003/2004.
- Many potential telephone enquiries went un-answered due to a lack of resources. This was a national problem that was being investigated.
- The possibility of using law students as volunteers would be investigated.

The Chairman thanked Ms Richards for her presentation.

(b) Application for funding for the continuation of the Portishead Drop-in Advice Service for 2005/2006

During the ensuing discussion some members commented on the importance of the continuation of the Portishead Drop-in Advice Service and expressed their support for the work carried out by the Citizens Advice Bureau. It was further agreed that in order to increase security for both the CAB and the Council consideration should be given to setting up a three year service level agreement.

Concerns were expressed about the lack of support from Weston-super-Mare Town Council and also on the allocation of the North Somerset Council funding. The District Councillors undertook to take this matter up directly with colleagues at North Somerset Council.

RESOLVED that

1. The North Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau application for funding for the continuation of the Portishead Drop-in Advice Service for 2005/2006, in the sum of £8,168, be referred to the Budget Meeting for further consideration.
2. Consideration of setting up a 3-year service level agreement be referred to the Recreation and Works Committee.

1189 MOTION TO COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 9

Councillor Mrs Mason proposed, Councillor Mrs Lord seconded, the following motion –

Motion

Portishead and North Weston Town Council would like to recognise the commitment to Portishead and Redcliffe Bay by the late Councillor John Daws with a plaque to commemorate his service to the Town and recently his term as Chairman of the Council.

The plaque to be presented to Mrs Daws at a mutually agreed date.

Upon being put to the vote the motion above was carried nem con. It was therefore

RESOLVED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council would like to recognise the commitment to Portishead and Redcliffe Bay by the late Councillor John Daws with a plaque to commemorate his service to the Town and recently his term as Chairman of the Council.

The plaque to be presented to Mrs Daws at a mutually agreed date.

1190 REPRESENTATION AT PUBLIC INQUIRY IN RESPECT OF PLANNING APPLICATION 04/P/0576/CN1 – ASYLUM SEEKERS SCREENING CENTRE, UNIT D, PORTISHEAD OFFICE PARK

The Chairman confirmed that as she had been able to change her holiday plans she would be able to represent the Council at the Planning Inquiry due to commence on 4th January 2005.

The Chairman also confirmed that a written statement had been submitted.

1191 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2004

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

1192 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Bickley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 4th December 2004.

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

04/P/2825/RM BLOCK N, DOCK AND DOCKSIDE, PORTISHEAD QUAYS, PORTISHEAD

Construction of 38 apartments and town houses including a single storey ancillary unit (Class A3), landscaping, car parking and associated infrastructure.

A lengthy discussion ensued on this application, with comments being made in particular about the lack of ground floor commercial units. Members were also concerned about the density proposed and questioned whether the proposals were in accordance with the Master Plan.

Recommend REFUSAL. The Council are disappointed that there are not more ground floor commercial units along this important section of waterside.

The Clerk was also asked to write to North Somerset Council requesting clarification on the overall density of the Portishead Quays and Ashlands developments and the capping limits that had been placed on the various areas within the developments.

04/P/2975/F 80 EASTCLIFF, PORTISHEAD

Construction of a single storey rear extension.

Concerns were expressed at the loss of privacy to neighbouring gardens from the roof terrace.

Recommend APPROVAL of the extension, REFUSAL of the roof terrace.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 4th December 2004 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1193 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 24th November 2004.

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

RW597(b) Speed Warning Signs

Add to list of recommended temporary speed activated signs –

Down Road – between Weatherly Drive roundabout and Charlcombe Rise.

1194 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Audit of 2003/2004 Accounts – External Audit complete and Certificate issued.
Letters of thanks for grants awarded received from Victim Support, St Peter & St Pauls Church and Portishead in Bloom.
2005/2006 Budget Arrangements – Working party meeting to be held 7.30pm 5th January 2005.
CCTV – September log supplied to the Clerk.
Review of Local Supported Bus Services – Meeting to be held with NSC and First Bus in New Year
Revaluation of Business Premises – Folk Hall to be re-assessed.
Avon Pension Fund – Employers contributions to be increased from 10.5% to 13.6% with effect from 1st April 2005.

The following items were circulated for information –

Parish Wharf Leisure Centre – Briefing Note
Citizen Focused Policing Information Paper – Issue 1
Portishead Heritage Rail Project – 3.11.2004
Portishead Quays Public Art Group – 26.10.2004
NSC Highways Services Newsletter – October 2004

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

..... Chairman

12th January 2005