

**MINUTES OF THE 91ST ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2000**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Bickley – in the Chair

Councillors Brine, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Daws, Gamlin,
Mrs Haysom, J Johnston, M Johnston, Palmer, Pasley,
Pickering, Terry, Walters, Whitfield

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

PC A Jones – Community Beat Manager (in attendance for
Minute No. 759)

Mr T Crees – NSC Community Safety and CCTV Manager (in
attendance for Minute No. 760)

APOLOGIES

Councillors Mrs Cole, Mrs Cruse

Mr R Taylor – NSC Liaison Officer

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

Mr John Carey, Chairman of Portishead Branch of the Royal British Legion, thanked the Council for providing financial assistance towards the refurbishment of the War Memorial. He reminded members that the Annual Act of Remembrance would take place in the Precinct at 11am on Saturday 11th November and the Annual Service of Remembrance, at which the Memorial would be rededicated, would be held at 10.50am at St Peters Church on Sunday 12th November. Mr Carey also informed members that the Portishead branch of the RBL would be hosting the North Somerset Drumhead Service in June 2001. He hoped the Council would allow the service to be held in the Folk Hall Car Park.

Mr Graham Lammiman, the warden of Victoria Court sheltered housing complex, brought to members attention the problems being experienced by the elderly residents of Victoria Court. He cited incidents of windows being smashed, washing lines being broken and residents being frightened by youths banging on the windows of ground floor flats. He urged the Council to consider the installation of a CCTV system in the Town Centre.

Mr Ian Moore, representing Portishead Chamber of Trade, also spoke about the need for a CCTV System in Portishead Town Centre and confirmed that the Chamber would be prepared to contribute towards the capital costs of the scheme. He also confirmed that the Chamber would be pleased to join in partnership with the Council to submit a bid for funding under the Home Office CCTV Initiative.

Ms Annie Broadhead, North Somerset CAB Advice Services Manager, thanked the Council for their support of the Portishead CAB Service over the preceding twelve months. Ms Broadhead reported that whilst most of the enquiries to the Monday drop-in service related to financial problems and welfare benefits, an increasing number of enquiries were being made in respect of relationship difficulties, employment rights and matters affecting elderly persons. Referrals to the Thursday appointment-only specialist service were also increasing.

Ms Broadhead also outlined changes that had been necessary to the management of the outreach service during the year – re-grading to supervisor of the paid member of staff and upgrading of information system to an electronic system.

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 the coming year.

In reply, the Chairman thanked Ms Broadhead for her report and confirmed that the Council would be considering the matter later in the meeting.

The Chairman ruled an enquiry from Councillor M Johnston in respect of the District Councils decision to re-open St Mary's Road out of order.

Standing Orders were resumed.

758 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 90th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 11th October 2000 be confirmed as correct.

759 POLICE LIAISON

PC Andy Jones reported that crime figures for the Town for the last few months were generally low. There had, however, been several incidents of thefts from motor vehicles. He confirmed that the Police were aware of the anti-social behaviour in and around the Town Centre area at weekends and were taking steps to deal with this. PC Jones also confirmed that he would be investigating the particular incidents reported by Mr Lammiman earlier in the meeting.

PC Jones then answered a number of questions from councillors relating to the opening times and staffing levels at the Police Station, and the time taken to respond to emergency calls. PC Jones also informed members that the Beat Managers could now be contacted by e-mail – nwatch.jp@avsom.police.uk.

On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked PC Jones for attending the meeting.

760 CCTV – PORTISHEAD TOWN CENTRE

Members received details of the requirements for a CCTV Scheme for Portishead Town Centre and an indication of the likely costs from Mr Terry Crees, North Somerset Council Community Safety and CCTV Manager.

Mr Crees confirmed that an informal survey of the Town Centre area had indicated a requirement for 4 cameras for the High Street area and 1 for Pioneer Car Park. These could be monitored 24 hours a day from the Weston-super-Mare control room. It was expected that the cameras would cost in the region of £20,000 each to install. Whilst funding was available towards capital costs under the Home Office CCTV Initiative, ongoing annual maintenance and line rental costs would have to be funded from local sources. This could cost in the region of £2,000 per camera per annum.

In summing up, Mr Crees stressed that a bid for Home Office funding was more likely to be successful if it was submitted in partnership with the Chamber of Trade and, as bids had to be in by 22nd December 2000, a decision on whether to proceed was needed as a matter of urgency.

In answering questions from councillors Mr Crees gave details of the means of transmission of the pictures and monitoring, and the type and visual range of cameras. There then followed a lengthy discussion with many opinions, both for and against, being expressed. Some members felt that cameras would act as a deterrent and would reduce crime and the fear of crime, others felt that the anti-social behaviour and crime problems would be displaced elsewhere in the Town and residents would not like the idea of being watched whilst going about their daily business.

Funding was also discussed. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Chamber of Trade had indicated their support towards the capital costs, concern was expressed that the Town Council would be expected to meet the annual maintenance costs.

RESOLVED that

In principle, the Town Council supports the provision of a CCTV System for Portishead Town Centre and seeks to form a partnership to progress the scheme as a matter of urgency.

It was further **AGREED** that representatives of the Chamber of Trade, North Somerset Council and the Community Safety Local Action Team be invited to a working party meeting to be arranged as soon as possible. The meeting to be open to all members of the Town Council who wish to attend (core members - Councillors Mrs Bickley, Mrs Haysom and Whitfield).

A further report to be made to the 6th December meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor Brown voted against this decision and asked that this be recorded.

761 REPORT OF LIBRARY WORKING PARTY

Members received a written report on the meeting of the library working party held on 30th October 2000 from Councillor Brown, the Chairman of the working party.

It was noted that Crest intended to submit a planning application for the south end of the dock and the redesign of Cabstand shortly and a library on highways land about 50 yards from the existing library was now thought possible.

RESOLVED that

In principle, the Town Council welcomes this initiative.

762 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

The Council considered a report detailing the 2000/2001 applications for grants.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The grants detailed on the schedule attached to and forming part of these minutes be APPROVED.
- (ii) In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council approves the following expenditure which, in their opinion, is in the interests of the area and will benefit the area in a manner commensurate with the expenditure –
 - North Woodspring Victim Support – Grant of £220 towards training costs
- (iii) Use of the Folk Hall and Committee Rooms – Notional grants equivalent to the cost of their usage be given to –
 - Folk Hall Senior Citizens Group – use of Folk Hall every Friday afternoon.
 - Portishead Twinning Association – use of Committee Room once a month and the Folk Hall twice a year.
 - Portishead Womens Royal British Legion – use of Committee Room once a month.
 - Citizens Advice Bureau – Use of Eve Wigan and Members Rooms every Monday and Thursday (9.00am-4.00pm)
- (iv) The sum of £5,925 be included in the 2001/2002 budget for the continuation of the Portishead CAB Service.
- (v) All recipients of grants be requested to indicate in their annual accounts/reports that they have received a specific grant from the Town Council.

763 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER

The Clerk presented the financial statements for the six months to 30th September 2000. The statements detailed the actual receipts and payments compared with the budget for the year and an unofficial forecast of the likely result for the year to 31st March 2001. It was noted that the General Fund was projected to stand at approximately £50,000 at the year-end providing no further contingency items arose.

The Clerk was thanked for preparing the financial report.

764 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

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

765 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor J Johnston, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 4th November 2000.

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

JOINT REPLACEMENT STRUCTURE PLAN

Amend 2nd paragraph of response to read –

The Town Council cannot identify any further brownfield sites in the town which would be suitable for new housing and investigation in the Urban Housing Capacity Studies.

PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND – WYNDHAM WAY

Amend response no. 4 to read –

4. The access at Gordano Gate (marked B) should be removed subject to 3. being implemented

The report of the Committee meeting held on 4th November 2000 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

A review of the agenda was made in accordance with Standing Order No. 79.

766 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Haysom, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 25th October 2000.

RESOLVED that

Minute No. RW407 and RW412 be APPROVED

Consideration of Minute Nos. RW408 to RW4011 inclusive be deferred until the December meeting of the Town Council.

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

767 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Portished Quays – Crest investigating acquisition of land in vicinity of Bristol Road for use as playing fields.

Reopening of Portishead to Bristol Railway – Dr Fox MP taken up Railway Property Board's proposed sale of strategic landholdings with DETR

Provision of Youth Facilities – Community Safety Action Team arranging meeting with young people at Gordano School.

2001/2002 – Budget working party 3rd January 2001

Staff matters – Resignation of John Taylor

Parish Wharf Leisure Centre – Winner of National Leisure Club Award for Excellence 2000

The following items were circulated for information –

ALCA – Report of AGM 19.9.00 and Meeting 5.10.00

Redcliffe Bay Hall Management Committee – Report of meeting 26.9.00

NSC Highways Information Sheet - September

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm

.....Chairman

6th December 2000