

**MINUTES OF THE 137TH ORDINARY MEETING OF
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE FOLK HALL, HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD
ON WEDNESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2004**

PRESENT Councillor Daws – in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bickley, Brown, J H Clark, J S Clark, Mrs Cruse, Miss Griffiths, Johnston, Mrs Lord, Miers, A McMurray, J McMurray, Pasley, Rigby, Walters

Mrs P Rendle – Clerk of the Council

APOLOGIES Councillors Gething, Mrs Mason, Terry

1150 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr Michael Wilks, a resident of 3 Beach Road East, raised his concerns about the traffic problems in the area around the Portishead Quays development and expressed the opinion that the proposed landmark building (04/P/1992/RM) would exacerbate an already difficult situation. He reminded members of the problems already being faced by residents since the opening of Portishead Primary School and stated that in his opinion the development of the landmark building would be detrimental to the quality of life of residents of the surrounding area. Mr Wilks also criticised Councillors for allowing the East Portishead development to take place and questioned why the public were unable to obtain access to agreements with developers. He further questioned why certain aspects of the development were different from the original plans. He considered that no further development should be allowed until there had been a full investigation by an independent body.

In reply, the Chairman advised Mr Wilks that contact details of the Standards Board for England and the Local Government Ombudsman were available from the Clerk should he wish to pursue a complaint.

Councillor Mrs Bickley commented that members of the public were probably unaware of the provisions of Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to developer contributions and questioned how members of the public could obtain this information. She also expressed the opinion that planning application amendments should be more widely publicised.

Mr Chris Shaverin, a resident of Lake Road and speaking as the Chairman of the Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team, gave a brief outline of the role of the PCSLAT and highlighted some of the projects undertaken in the last few years – including, Speedwatch, investigation into marina safety, road safety, and work towards achieving an alcohol ban for certain areas of the town. Mr Shaverin reminded the Council

that they had a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider crime and disorder when exercising their functions and expressed the hope that the Council and PCSLAT could work closely together in the future for the benefit of the town. He also confirmed that due to other commitments he would be unable to continue as Chairman of the PCSLAT.

The Chairman introduced Inspector Chris Gardner, who had recently taken over as North Area Sector Inspector from Inspector Pat McGowan who had moved to the Weston Sector. Inspector Gardner gave members a brief resume of his Police career and emphasised how delighted he was to be back working in North Somerset. He confirmed that the Police were very supportive of the work carried out by Local Action Teams and pledged his full support to the Portishead Team.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Gardner for attending the meeting.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Bickley

- Prejudicial Interest in Minute No.1157 (RW579) – Application for a Grant from Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team
Reason – Secretary of Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team

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

Councillors Daws, Brown, J H Clark, Gething 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.

1152 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 136th Ordinary Meeting of Portishead and North Weston Town Council held on 11th August 2004 be confirmed as correct.

1153 COMMUNITY SAFETY LOCAL ACTION TEAM

The Chairman drew members attention to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Portishead Community Safety Local Action Team dated 18th May 2004 which reported that the LAT were struggling to recruit volunteers and officers and a decision had been taken to suspend the teams activities until the autumn. The Team had also sought assistance from the North Somerset LAT Co-ordinator, Mr Steve Bridges, who the Chairman now introduced to the meeting.

Mr Bridges reminded members that Community Safety Local Action Teams were established under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1999 with the specific aim of encouraging local communities to work together to combat local crime, disorder and community safety issues. Close liaison with the local Town/Parish Council, District Council and local police was pivotal to the success of any LAT. Whilst the Portishead LAT had been very active and had tried to develop numerous crime reduction and community safety initiatives, progress had been frustrated by a lack of support and enthusiasm, in part from the Town Council, but particularly from North Somerset Council. Mr Bridges confirmed that this situation was not peculiar to the Portishead LAT as a few other LAT's were experiencing similar problems. Mr Bridges was therefore embarking on a programme to raise the profile of LAT's throughout North Somerset, and particularly at the District Council. He urged the Town Council to continue to support the Portishead LAT.

In answering questions from Councillors Mr Bridges commented that –

- The LAT Co-ordinator role is funded jointly by North Somerset Council and the Police.
- It is expected that local police should attend LAT meetings whenever possible.
- There needs to be strong community involvement.
- LAT's need to be proactive and focussed to avoid being seen as “talking shops”.
- Other LAT's are supported financially by their respective local councils.
- The Town Council and District Council have a responsibility to support the LAT.

In speaking in support of the presentation made by Mr Bridges, Inspector Gardner reiterated the comments he made at the beginning of the meeting and confirmed that he would be addressing the problem of police attendance at future LAT meetings.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bridges and Inspector Gardner for attending the meeting and confirmed that the matter would be referred to a future meeting of the Recreation and Works Committee.

1154 ALBERT ROAD DEPOT – PROPOSED RELOCATION OF FORMER FIRE STATION BUILDING

Further to Minute No. 1138 (RW570) Councillor Mrs Cruse now confirmed that the Portishead Railway Heritage Project Group's lottery application had been unsuccessful and the groups future plans were unlikely to involve the use of this building. It was also unclear whether there were any other groups interested in using the building. In addition, a copy of the relevant clauses from the draft conditional contract of sale between North Somerset Council and Pegasus Retirement Homes Plc had been received in which the Town Council's interest in the former Fire Station Building was noted.

A lengthy discussion ensued, with some members expressing the opinion that the Town Council should not lose the opportunity to acquire the building for use as a possible Heritage Centre and meeting rooms. Other members questioned whether there was a need for these additional facilities. Concerns were also expressed about the financial aspects of the proposal particularly in view of the loss of lottery funding and the need to ensure that the premises complied with modern building regulations. It was further suggested that any subsequent S106 funding, as indicated in the draft conditional contract of sale, should be used for initial setting-up costs and not future running costs. Councillor Johnston confirmed that the Gordano Society would wish to be involved with the development and running of a Heritage Centre facility.

RESOLVED that

Portishead and North Weston Town Council continue to negotiate with North Somerset Council over the Albert Road depot to ensure the best benefit for residents of the Town.

1155 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION/CASH STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2004

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

1156 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

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

04/P/1992/RM SITE 'L', LAND NORTH OF HARBOUR ROAD, PORTISHEAD

A lengthy debate ensued on this application with some members speaking in support of the Planning Committee recommendation for approval and others commenting that the building was unattractive, too big and more appropriate for a city. It was also suggested that the developers should provide a visual aid (ie a crane) to help residents understand how tall the building would be.

On being put to the vote the Committee recommendation for approval was amended to REFUSAL.

STREET NAMING – THE ASHLANDS

RESOLVED that the various sections of the Spine Road (recommendation 2 on the planning report) be allocated names from an alphabetical list of North Somerset villages (delete reference to list of islands) –

Brockley, Claverham, Dundry, Felton, Kenn, Langford, Puxton, Redhill, Sandford, Tickenham, Winford

GREATER BRISTOL STRATEGIC TRANSPORT STUDY

RESOLVED to accept the Planning Committees recommended response with the addition of the following –

The Town Council would like to see some of the resources currently spent on expensive highways schemes redirected to alternative transport projects. For instance it has recently been announced that £30M+ is to be spent on providing north and south-bound crawler lanes on the M5 between junctions 17 and 20. Furthermore, a £15M grant was given to Bristol Port Company to enable them to use the Bristol to Portbury railway line for freight purposes only. If funding is available for these schemes why can funding not be found to re-open the remaining part of the railway line to Portishead, upgrade the complete Bristol to Portishead line for passenger use and to sort out the congestion at Temple Meads?

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

1157 RECREATION & WORKS COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Cruse, Chairman of the Recreation and Works Committee, presented the report of the Committee meeting held on 25th August 2004.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations thereon be accepted.

The report of the Committee meeting held on 25th August 2004 is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

1158 MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL

North Weston Allotment Association – Social function 11th September 2004
Revaluation of The Folk Hall and Redcliffe Bay Hall – Insurance values increased.
Correspondence – Letters of thanks received from Avon Wildlife Trust and Portishead Town Band.
Temporary closure of Brampton Way/Heron Gardens Footway/Cycleway – 20th September for eight weeks.
CCTV - June log supplied to Clerk
ALCA – Councillors Information Day 30th October 2004
Local Supported Bus Service No. 692 – Restored to original route and timetable.
Cabstand Improvement Works - NSC confirmed that traffic movements continuously being monitored; difficulties to be reported direct to highway engineer.

The following items were circulated for information –

Gordano Councils Transport Group – 22.7.2004
Post Office Ltd – Reply to TC objection to Post Office closures
Portishead Youth Centre – Update on refurbishment project
Portishead Quays Public Art Group – 28.6.2004 & resume of current position
NSC Highways Services Newsletter – July 2004
Redcliffe Bay Hall AGM – 7.6.2004

1159 CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES NATIONAL SALARY AWARD 2004/05

RESOLVED that the revised pay rates as recommended by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services and The Society of Local Council Clerks be applied to all staff with effect from 1st April 2004.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

.....Chairman

13th October 2004