

# CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 396<sup>th</sup> meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council House, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 9 January 2008

PRESENT; Cllr R Garner – Chairman IN THE CHAIR

Cllrs C Arnold, C Blades, A Cotton, J Dagnall, C Hall, D Hendra, D Jones, L Little, P McNeill, J Middleton, G Morris, J Norton-Sealey, D Shopland, S Vyce, G Watkins, C Wring.

## 7.30pm INFORMAL BUSINESS

PRAYERS were said by the Chaplain

### 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1.1 Clevedon Resident – spoke on his concerns at the condition of the roads and pavements in the town. He was advised this would be discussed with him if he returned at 10am the following day.
- 1.2 Mr R J Grey, 50 Walton Road – wished to highlight the benefits of Portishead Open Air Pool and its continued support by people both in Portishead and, like himself, further a field. He made various observations on savings he would wish to see made by North Somerset Council, thereby ensuring the continued functioning of the Open Air Pool.

2. NORTH SOMERSET LIAISON OFFICER Viv Thompson was not in attendance.

3. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Standing Orders 69 to 74) – During the representations of 1.2 above there had been an observation that the person speaking should limit this to 5 minutes. Afterwards members recalled the history of public participation felt there was no clear time limit definition.

**RESOLVED:** Refer this matter to the Financial & General Policy Ctte for consideration.

## 7.50pm FORMAL BUSINESS

### 08/01 ABSENCE FROM THE MEETING

Apologies received; Cllrs E Blades (family commitment) C Francis-Pester (prior appointment), P Gannicliff (hospital), T Morgan (illness). The Chairman provided a brief update on the condition of Cllr Gannicliff.

**RESOLVED:** Council ACCEPTED the reasons given for absence.

### 08/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Town Clerk, Eleanor Wade and Ctte Clerk, Isabel Johnson, declared prejudicial interests in Minute 08/13 below and offered to leave the meeting should any debate take place.

### 08/03 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 5 December 2007 were approved as a TRUE RECORD and SIGNED by the Chairman.

08/04 QUESTION – received on the 8 January 2008 from Cllr D *Does Council agree that contemporary town councils should strive more forcibly to be pro-active in the process whereby the town they represent is developed?*

In speaking to this question Cllr Hendra read out the powers relating to Town/Parish Councils and observed that Clevedon Town Council was only proactive in about 50% of these. He recalled the current trend was to devolve powers downwards and further expressed concern that this year's reduction in the Precept requirement would limit the functions the Council would be able to follow up or take on. He requested Committees carry out an undertaking to make 'statements of intent' to then monitor these and tap into the resources and powers available. Members who spoke felt this was worth following up and it was;

**RESOLVED:** Refer this matter to the Financial & General Policy Ctte for consideration

### 08/05 ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Norton-Sealey presented the report of the Environment & Planning Ctte meeting held on 10 December 2007. There being no Part 1 items Cllr Norton-Sealey invited questions or comments on Part 2 items, there being none, Cllr Norton-Sealey moved receipt of the report, which COUNCIL received.

### 08/06 FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Cllr Garner presented the report of the Finance & General Policy Ctte meeting held on 12 December 07.

Part 1 items

FGP/07/53.1	Income & Expenditure Report for Financial Year 2007/08	NOTED	
FGP/07/53.2	Committee Budgets 2008/09	]	Vote:
FGP/07/53.3	General Administration 2008/09	]	13 For
FGP/07/53.4	Election Contingency	]	2008/2009
FGP/07/53.5	Earmarked Reserves Review	]	1 Against

**RESOLVED:** To approve the recommendations of the Financial & General Policy Ctte.

FGP/07/54 External Auditor's Report

**RESOLVED:** To approve the recommendations of the Financial & General Policy Cttee.

Cllr Garner invited question or comments on Part 2 items, there being none, Cllr Garner moved receipt of the report, which COUNCIL received.

08/07 ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Norton-Sealey presented the report of the Environment & Planning Cttee meeting held on 19 December 2007. There being no Part 1 items Cllr Norton-Sealey invited questions or comments on Part 2 items. There had being none, Cllr Norton-Sealey moved receipt of the report, which COUNCIL received.

08/08 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2008/09 & 2009/10

A letter provided by North Somerset Council was considered, it directed people to visit the North Somerset Council web site if they required background information to enable them to take part in the consultation. The letter advised that North Somerset Council would particularly welcome views on;

- What are the views on the priorities for investment and the planned investments?
- What ideas exist for further value for money and efficiency improvements within the Council?
- What views would the consultee put forward regarding issues and choices, particularly in terms of service area from which divestment could be made?
- What is the consultee's view on the draft budget strategy adopted by the Council's Executive?

**RESOLVED:** To forward the following comments;

- Bullet points 1 & 4 above – District Councillors provided information that there had been last minute changes to these (the previous evening), therefore, the Town Council felt it was not useful to comment on already out of date details.
- Bullet points 2 & 3 above – It is very difficult to comment when not involved in the year long management process and have full knowledge of details, the choices to be made or available.
- Concern that what information there is for this consultation appears to be only available for those with internet access and knowledge of computers. While it is appreciated North Somerset Council are required to consult – as currently structured it would seem somewhat meaningless.

08/09 STREET TRADING CONSENT – STRODE ROAD LAY-BY, CLEVEDON

Members received the information that a short-term street trading consent for a period of 4 months (to 13 April 08) had been granted, with the imposition of trading hours; 4pm to 12am Sunday to Thursday and 4pm to 2am Friday and Saturday. Also a location which is more suitable for this type of trading should be found.

08/10 REVIEW OF NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL'S STREET TRADING SCHEME

It was agreed Members should reply individually with their comments. The Town Council's observations are:-

**RESOLVED:** To forward the following comments on review;

- Issue 5; Process of Consulting Persons Living or Trading near the Proposed Site – SUPPORT option 2 'Continue current process of writing to all persons within 100m of the proposed trading site'
- Issue 6; Period of Consultation – SUPPORT option 1 'Change to a 28 day consultation period'

08/11 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Following queries on; (1) the difference in two charges for bus shelter maintenance, (2) details of the Fire Extinguisher inspection and renewal of two extinguishers and (3) a carry down error of £1000

**RESOLVED:** Accounts (Appendix 'A') be approved for payment, subject to the correction of the error.

08/12 EXEMPT BUSINESS – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

**RESOLVED:** In view of the exempt nature of the business about to be transacted the press and public be temporarily excluded from the meeting. Reason for exclusion; Para 1, section 2 Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 & Para 1 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

08/13 STAFF & OFFICE ADMINISTRATION SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr Garner presented a report of the Staff & Office Administration Sub Cttee meeting held on 12 December 07 Part 1 items

OA/07/04 Staff Handbook OA/07/05 Salaries 2007/08

**RESOLVED:** To approve the recommendations of the Staff & Office Administration Sub Cttee.

Cllr Garner invited questions or comments on Part 2 items. There had being none, Cllr Garner moved receipt of the report, which COUNCIL received.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

DATE.....