

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 405th meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council House, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 7th January 2009

PRESENT: Cllr T Morgan – Chairman
Councillors C. Arnold, C. Blades, J. Dagnall, R. Garner, C. Hall, Mrs. L. Knott, Mrs. L. Little, J. Middleton, P. McNeill, J. Norton-Sealey, D. Shopland, S. Vyce, G. Watkins, Mrs C. Wring.
Town Clerk - Ms P Heath
Committee Clerk - Mrs I. Johnson

7.30pm INFORMAL BUSINESS

PRAYERS were said by the Chairman

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - There was no public participation.
2. NORTH SOMERSET'S LIAISON OFFICER - Mrs Thompson was not in attendance.

7.35pm FORMAL BUSINESS

09/157 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received; Cllrs Mrs E Blades (illness), A. Cotton (illness), C. Francis-Pester (work commitments), P Gannicliff (illness), Mrs. D Jones (illness), G. Morris (illness)

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

09/158 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda given at the start of the meeting.

09/159 THE MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2008 is approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

09/160 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

09/161 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There were no questions to the Chairman

09/162.1 Letter from the Weston-super-Mare Council

The Chairman read a letter received from the Council at Weston-super-Mare asking for support for the Pier planning application. Members approved of suitable renewal/renovation of the pier but did not feel they could support the application without having seen the details.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman would write giving the Council's general support to the replacement of the pier at Weston-super-Mare.

Members were informed that the Civic Society would be discussing the plans at a meeting to be held at St Andrews Centre on 8th January at 7.30 pm.

Cllr. Shopland arrived during the above item

09/162.2 Salvation Army

The Chairman read a letter thanking him for a donation received in lieu of Christmas cards being sent by the Chairman.

09/162.3 letter concerning an alternative site for Clevedon Hospital

The Chairman read a letter from David Turner, Director of Development & Environment North Somerset Council concerning the land on Strode road being considered by the PCT which included an explanation of the problems with developing the site. Members requested that the text be included in the minutes.

"The site known as Strode Rd playing fields was originally used for clay extraction by the Clevedon Brick and Tile Company. However, in 1952 Albright and Wilson Limited purchased the site. The site was used by Albright and Wilson to dispose of approximately 65,000 – 66,000 tonnes of contaminated material from its phosphorus production facility in Portishead. This material contained a small proportion of phosphorus (between 1800 and 2300 tonnes). This material was deposited within circular clay pits and capped with clay up to a depth of 1.5 metres. Phosphorus exists in several different elemental forms, yellow (also known as white) and red being the most common. When yellow phosphorus comes into contact with air it oxidises to produce phosphorous pentoxide which can be seen as obvious white fumes. These fumes are a lung irritant with chronic and acute health effects. In 1979 Woodspring District Council purchased the site. At the time Albright and Wilson wrote to the Council stating that 'We wish to stress that under no circumstances whatsoever and at no time in the future should the phosphorus residues be disturbed or dug up'. Various plans indicating where this material was deposited on the site have been produced over the years, however, it has become clear through trial pitting in parcels of land that were thought to be virgin that in fact the extent of tipping was more extensive than originally thought. The sports centre appears to be built on the only parcel of virgin land on this site and there is a question mark over the remainder of the land and because of this, this land should not be developed in any way. The properties of phosphorus are such that exposure to air will cause oxidation and generate substantial quantities of phosphorus pentoxide. At the same time phosphorous burns can occur if phosphorus touches the skin and it should therefore remain at depth below a safe capping layer. Officers have made enquiries about whether it is possible to decontaminate the site, the advice from specialists in Phosphorus contamination was to leave the land alone, minimum estimates of cost were in excess of £100 million. During the time that the Council has owned this parcel of land a number of proposals have been put forward to develop various parts of the site, these have been vigorously resisted by this department and advice during this time has remained consistent with that offered by Albright and Wilson in 1979, namely that 'under no circumstances should the phosphorus residues be disturbed or dug up'"

Members discussed the contents of the letter and the history of the site

09/163. ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE – 01.12.08

Minutes of the Environment & Planning Cttee meeting held on 01.12.2008 were presented to the meeting. There being no Part 1 items the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items.

Cllr Hall, as a North Somerset Councillor commented on E/08/222 Crabtree Farm informing Members of the current position.

The Council received and **ACCEPTED** the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee of 01.12.08,

09/164 FINANCE AND GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE – 10.12.08

Cllr. Shopland requested advice as to the declaration of prejudicial interest in respect of the CAB grant within the precept. The Town Clerk advised that as the total figure was being discussed and not individual awards the declaration was not required.

Members discussed at length the background to the precept figures and the work carried out by the committees to reach their individual request.

FGP/08/64.2 - Committee Budgets & General Administration 2009/10 –

<i>Allotments Committee</i>	<i>2,900</i>
<i>Amenity Committee</i>	<i>16,000</i>
<i>Property Committee</i>	<i>32,800</i>
<i>Environment & Planning Committee</i>	<i>1,200</i>
<i>Liaison Committee</i>	<i>34,150</i>
<i>Transport & Highways Committee</i>	<i>21,252</i>

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the above budget for individual committees.

AGREED

FGP/08/64.2 RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL the following budget figure which includes; administration expenditure, salaries, insurances, audit, Chairman's allowance & hospitality (remains unchanged), fees, notices. £66,900

AGREED

FGP/08/64.3 Elections Contingency

RESOLVED: *RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the sum of £1,000*

AGREED

RESOLVED: that the Council sets a budget total of £176,202

FGP/08/64.5 Earmarked Reserves Review)

RESOLVED: *RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL these reserves remain unchanged for 2009/10*

AGREED

FGP/08/64.5 RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the sum of £11202 from general reserves is used to offset the Precept.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Shopland that the Council take sufficient moneys from reserves to provide a 2.5% precept increase on the 2008/2009 request, a transfer from reserves of £25220.

Following a discussion on the reserves and the effect on the residents of Clevedon the amendment was put to the vote. The amendment was lost on a vote of 8 to 7 by the Chairman's casting vote.

The original recommendation was put to the Members and **AGREED** by 10 votes to 4

FGP/08/64.6 PRECEPT REQUIREMENT 2009/2010

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the Precept total of £165,000

AGREED

*FGP/08/65 NHS N SOMERSET DRAFT INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
RECOMMEND COUNCIL does not comment as it was felt the strategy is not relevant to the health care provision for the residents of Clevedon. Also the timescale for comments was too short. These observations to be forwarded to the PCT.*

AGREED

FGP/08/66 RECOMMEND COUNCIL supports Cllr R Garner's voluntary wish to be nominated as a representative on the North Somerset Partnership Board (part of Voluntary Action North Somerset.)

AGREED

FGP/08/67 RECOMMEND COUNCIL reiterate previous response that lowering the voting age to 16 is not appropriate

AGREED

FGP/08/69 RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL the comments underlined below are forwarded as the observations of Clevedon Town Council.

Q1 Should law be changed so the full addresses of candidates at UK parliamentary elections are not included on ballot papers or other election documents open to the public at election time?

CTC YES

Q2 If candidate's full home address is not open to the public, should first part of Postcode of the candidate's address be included on ballot papers and other election documents instead? Would this be sufficient?

CTC YES

Q3 If candidate's full home address is not included should Returning Officers be required to verify that an address supplied on nomination paper is "correct", or should they continue to accept the information provided by candidates about their home address at face value?

CTC YES

Q4 If Returning officers should have to "verify" address details, should a Returning Officer (a) simply have to verify an address existed or (b) verify whether or not it was genuinely a candidate's residence?

CTC (b)

Documentary evidence – as per money laundering regulations

Q5 If Returning Officers required to verify a candidate's residence at an address, should they be able to reject the nomination if they are not satisfied with evidence presented?

CTC YES

Q6 N/A

Q7 If made law to ensure candidate's full home address did not have to be made publicly available on ballot papers etc, should candidates be able to choose to continue to have their full home address published if they wish?

CTC No

Q8 If address not included on ballot papers etc, should other specified persons, such as Candidates and their agents, election observers be allowed to see full home address of candidate or only disclosed to Returning Officer?

CTC Only Returning Office

Following a discussion an amendment to the response for question 1 was proposed in that the Council should answer "No" this was passed by a vote of 6 to 5

Therefore Question 2 is changed to "not applicable", Question 3 is changed to "not applicable"

There being no questions on part 2

The Council received and **ACCEPTED** the minutes of the Finance and General Policy Committee of 10.12.08

09/164.2 Precept Recommendation for the Finance Year 2009/2010

RESOLVED: that this Council's precept request for 2009/2010 be £165,000

09/164.3 Letter from North Somerset Council – Local Council Finances 2009/2010

Members noted the precept information provided

09/164.4 Letter from North Somerset Council – Budget Strategy Consultation 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Members were informed of the consultation request received in the office on 2nd January 2009 with a deadline date of 23rd January 2009. Members were concerned that insufficient time was being allowed for Parish and Town Council's to respond to this consultation and also that no detailed figures had been produced to enable an effective consultation to take place.

RESOLVED: that North Somerset Council is made aware of the Council's concerns, and that the Clerk requests a full copy of the budget figures and background papers that form the consultation.

09/165 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – 15.12.08

Minutes of the Environment & Planning Cttee meeting held on 15.12.2008 were presented to the meeting. There being no Part 1 items the Committee Chairman invited questions or comments on Part 2 items.

E/08/232 Queen Square

In response to a question Cllr Knott informed Members that it was unlikely that any funding would be available from DTZ in the current financial climate.

The Council received and **ACCEPTED** the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee of 15.12.08,

09/166 CONSULTATION – CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY

Members noted the intention that this consultation would be discussed at the Finance and General Policy Committee on 25th February 2008.

RESOLVED: that the Finance and General Policy Committee are given delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Council as the deadline for responses is prior to the next Council meeting on 1st April 2009.

09/167 ACCOUNTS

The RFO answered Members questions on the accounts, Members noted that all contracts and agreements would be subject to scrutiny over the forthcoming months.

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the accounts for payment, as per attached list

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the retrospective accounts for payment, as per attached list

09/168 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

09/168.1 Reissue of calendar of meeting
Members noted the alterations to the calendar dates.

09/168.2 Voluntary Sector Forum meeting
Members noted the meeting details of which had been circulated to all Members.

09/169 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting finished at 8.59 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD
CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....