



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GRANTS AND GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET
WEDNESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2024**

Meeting Commenced: 10.00am

Meeting Concluded: 11.38 am

PRESENT: Councillors Hugh Malyan (Chair), Joe Bambridge, James Clayton, Peter Crew, Alan Peak, Caroline Reynolds and John Standfield.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Town Clerk/Chief Executive), Helen Morton (Director of Finance and Resources/RFO) Fiona Gardener (Finance Administration Manager), Molly Matthews (Senior Development Officer), Rebecca Saunders (Civic and Committee Officer) and Councillor Roger Bailey

Part Attendance: Darren Fairchild (Town Centre Partnership Manager)

159	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies were received from Councillors Mike Bell substituted by Caroline Reynolds.
160	Declarations of Interest Councillor James Clayton declared pecuniary interests as a North Somerset Council Executive Member for Community Response, as an employee of The Town Centre Partnership BID and as the partner of the owner of Reset.
161	To agree the accuracy of the previous Grants and Governance Sub Committee Minutes held on 25th July 2024 The minutes from the previous meeting had been previously circulated. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried . RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grants and Governance Sub Committee Meeting held on 25 th July 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.

GRANTS

.1 Small and Voluntary Grant Applications

The report of the Finance Administration Manager had been previously circulated.

The council's annual budget for Small and Voluntary Grants was £12,500 with £3,950 committed so far, leaving £8550 balance remaining.

Copies of bank statements, the evaluation criteria and full applications for the following organisations had been previously circulated.

10.04 am Councillor Joe Bambridge joined the meeting.

.1.1. 1st Weston Village Scout Group

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

1st Weston Village Scout Group were seeking a grant for £1000 to help towards the cost of replacing 15 tents. The existing tents used are 15 years old and are no longer fit for purpose.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor James Clayton

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: To award £500 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

.1.2 290 Squadron

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

290 Squadron were seeking financial assistance of £1000 for a desktop PC due to their existing IT equipment being very outdated and not capable of running modern applications. With the monies, 290 Squadron would like to purchase a desktop PC that is capable of running a flight simulator as well as training tasks.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: That the grant be refused on the basis they had access to MOD Funding.

.1.3 Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC)

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Great Western Air Ambulance Charity is the local air ambulance for roughly 2.1 million people. They were asking for grant funding of £1000 to cover just under half of one life saving mission and some of the costs occurred daily such as medical equipment, fuel costs and other running costs. Every mission cost on average £2,200.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: That the grant be refused on the basis the charity already had many other avenues of support.

.1.4 The Creative Thingy Wotsit CIC

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The Creative Thingy Wotsit was a creative arts organisation who supported people living with dementia. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to deliver a series of health beneficial music & movement workshops as invited by Abbey Care Residential Homes & Vision North Somerset

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: To award £500 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

.1.5 Wellspring Counselling

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Wellspring Counselling is a local UK registered charity aimed at providing low-cost 1:1 counselling to anyone in North Somerset age 11 and over. There had been a significant increase in the demand for service. The monies of £1000 would provide 20 free additional sessions for those in need.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: That the grant be deferred pending more information on the amount of Weston-Super-Mare residents benefiting from the service.

1.1.6 Weston Hospicecare

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Weston Hospicecare were seeking financial assistance of £1000 towards the cost of a syringe driver (£1300). The syringe driver was estimated to benefit around 70% of patients out of the 120 currently admitted in the in-patient unit, whom were residents of Weston-super-Mare. The syringe driver was designed to help administer medications as without it, injections would need to be used every few hours causing unnecessary discomfort to patients.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak
SECONDED BY: Councillor John Stanfield

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: That the grant be refused on the basis that the charity had a healthy bank balance to self-fund.

.1.7 Weston super Mare Allotment Club
Grant Applied for £1000
Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Weston Allotment Club had plans to put in place between 4 and 8 raised beds to enable the site to be disability friendly. The Club currently had in excess of 540 members and felt it would be beneficial to provide people with disabilities the same opportunity to allotment life and to also be fully inclusive. They have asked for monies to the value of £1000 towards the cost of between £4550-£6900 to enable this.

COUNCILLOR ROGER BAILEY DECLARED AN INTREST AS AN ALLOMENT HOLDER.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: To award £1000 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

Item 6.1 was brought forward.

10.37 am Councilor Roger Bailey left meeting

A. Weston Town Centre Partnership (£19,999) - previously circulated.

Darren Fairchild (TCP Manager) reported that he had recently come into post and had turned his attention to the Christmas Light Switch on. A positive meeting with The Armed forces committee had already been held and the date of 21st June 2025 had been secured for next year's event which will follow the same model as this year and the request for the final MOD match funding had been submitted.

Projects hoped to be investigated in the coming months were:

- Potential for a land train to bring footfall from the seafront into The Town Centre.
- Weston in Bloom
- Bringing more events to the Italian Gardens

The team would be supporting the Remembrance parade and the Carnival.

A more comprehensive report would be brought back to the next meeting.

A member enquired if officers found the process of booking North Somerset Council owned sites easy to navigate due to the lack of future events booked.

The CEO/Town Clerk informed that with experience, the officers could comply with the system but felt it unlikely that community groups, not familiar with the complex process would find it difficult.

The Sub Committee felt it would be beneficial for the CEO/Town Clerk to write to North Somerset Council to enquire if the event space booking system could be made more accessible.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Maylan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Centre Partnership Manager's report be received and noted.
2. That the CEO/Town Clerk write to North Somerset Council on behalf of the council to enquire if the event booking process could be made more accessible.

.2 Community Event Grant Applications

The report of the Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated.

The Council's annual budget for Community Event Grants was £60,000 with £30,000 committed (£1000 held in retention) so far, leaving £30,000 balance remaining.

Copies of bank statements, the evaluation criteria and full applications for the following organisations had been previously circulated.

.2.1 The Front Room

Grant Applied for £8595

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was to fund the producing of 2 Christmas shows, 1 for families & 1 comedic evening show, in November & December with local professional performers, providing an accessible & affordable cultural Christmas offer for Weston.

It was noted that there was one 'unclear' on the matrix, which in line with the application was an acceptable omission. They were a new organisation, and as per the application guidance, have provided alternative information in place of trading account and balance sheet for the last financial year. They had submitted their income and expenditure breakdown in line with the Arts Council England Grant evaluation.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor John Stanfield

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was: (6 for 1 against)

RESOLVED: That the grant be refused on the basis that it posed a conflict with The Blakehay Theatre.

.2.2 British Bangladeshi Association North Somerset

Grant Applied for £6000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The following application had been previously considered by the subcommittee, which was seeking to fund to support a free, inclusive Diwali celebration at Winter Gardens, featuring Indian dance performances, cultural activities, educational talks, and Indian cuisine, promoting community unity and cultural understanding.

It was noted that the application was deferred pending more information, to include a breakdown of the £4700 overheads, which had been received and was outlined within the report.

It was noted that a proposal for £200 was made, which did not find a seconder.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor James Clayton

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was: (6 for 1 against)

RESOLVED: That an amount of £2500 be granted and the suggestion be sent to the organisers explore donations at next event to fund.

.3 Evaluation of previously awarded Community Events Grants

As per the Community Event Grant conditions, a 10% retention is held until after the event takes place, in order to evaluate the success. The 10% retention, when released will come from the 2024/2025 Community Events Grant budget.

Applicants submissions were detailed in the attached report.

Councillor James Clayton absented from the next section due to his declared interests.

. 3.1 Beacons lonss Dykons

.3.2 RESET

.3.3 Together Pussycat CIC

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: That the 10% retention for the above applications 3.1,3.2 and 3.3 be released.

163	Review of current grant schemes July 2024 – Onward as follows: The previous covering report of the Senior Development Officer had been recirculated for information only. Members noted the previous recommendation that: <i>That members take some time to review the Current Grant Criteria; Scoring Matrix and Grant Evaluation Reporting from Officers and bring suggestions back to the October meeting, for proposals to be made in February 2025.</i> .1 Current Grant Criteria .2 Scoring Matrix .3 Grant Evaluation Reporting from Officers The CEO/Town Clerk suggested it would be advantageous to have the ability to hold the purse strings for external organisations, to support them to execute events well, if the council wanted to. The Chair suggested it would be good to enable groups of neighbors to apply for a small Weston in Bloom grant, the CEO/Town Clerk advised that this would not be easy to facilitate, as products would need to be supplied not funds in this situation. It was hoped the Weston in Bloom group could be reset and move forward in a positive way. The Senior Development Officer highlighted the Matrix questions were objective. RESOLVED: That the CEO/Town Clerk bring back a new proposal surrounding events to enable the council to assist external organisations to carry out events under the Councils Governance.
164	GOVERNANCE Service Level Agreements To receive quarterly KPI reports and monitor the Council's Service Level Agreements (SLA'S). The Town Clerk advised that all SLA's had been agreed by council, with the exception of C. Somewhere To Go which would now be approved by Town Council on the 25th November. As stipulated in the council's SLA's, each organisation would come and present to the Sub Committee once per year, showing evidence of working together with other organisations under SLA's with the council. Questions and suggestions on style of reporting was welcomed by Officers to achieve consistency. .1 Community Service Level Agreements; Members noted the councils current SLA's with the following organisations, with budget provision values as follows;

B. Citizens Advice North Somerset (CANS) (£25,000) - previously circulated.

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

C. Somewhere to Go (Homeless Support Fund Total = £50,000)

RESOLVED: Noted, for consideration by Town Council on the 25th November 2024.

D. YMCA (£76,926) - previously circulated.

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

.2 Direct Service Level Agreements;

E. South West Heritage (SWH) (Curatorial Services = £85,537) – Previously circulated

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

F. North Somerset Council Community Response (£51,550) – previously circulated.

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

G. North Somerset Council CCTV Provision (£95,700) (previously circulated on a monthly basis)

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

It was explained that organisations wrote their own KPI's (key performance indicators) as they specialised in their own area but all KPI's had been approved by Council.

It was noted that Somewhere to Go were due to submit more information to support their SLA by end of October and would go to Full Council in November for approval.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 11.38 am

Signed.....Dated

Chair of the Grants and Governance Sub Committee