



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE GRANTS AND GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET
WEDNESDAY 23rd JANUARY 2025

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am

Meeting Concluded: 10.54am

PRESENT: Councillors Hugh Malyan (Chair), Mike Bell, James Clayton, Peter Crew, Alan Peak, and John Standfield.

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

247	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes There were none received.
248	Declarations of Interest There were none received.
249	To agree the accuracy of the previous Grants and Governance Sub Committee Minutes held on 24th October 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 24th October 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair. The Chair asked if the CEO/Town Clerk had actioned the resolution from minute number 163, to enquire with North Somerset Council regarding their event booking system. The Town Clerk reported that this had been discussed in a recent meeting and she had been reassured by the events department that the booking process was being streamlined and made simpler.

GRANTS

.1 Small and Voluntary Grant Applications

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

The annual budget for Community Event Grants was £12,500 with £5950 committed so far, leaving a balance of £6550 remaining.

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

.1.1. Read Easy North Somerset

Grant Applied for £900

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Read Easy North Somerset were seeking financial assistance of £900 to cover a quarter of the annual costs to maintain the service in Weston-super-Mare.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To award £900 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

.1.2 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 Mike Bell

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

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

.2 Community Event Grant Applications

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

The annual budget for Community Event Grants was £60,000 with £32,500 committed (£550 held in retention) so far, leaving £27,500 balance remaining.

.2.1 The Senior Development Officer informed that no new grant applications had been received and that The Steepholmers Sea Shanty band had indicated that they would funds, following their AGM on 22nd January.

The CEO/Town Clerk informed that some consideration around the unspent funds in the Community Grants provision was needed and suggested that the funds be ear marked to instigate events over the summer and Christmas period. A joint working approach with North Somerset Council Place team could be adopted with funding requests reporting back to the Grants Sub Committee. This would allow for a more strategic approach to spending funds.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly

RESOLVED:

2.1.1 To take a proposal to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to Ear mark the unspent £27,000 from the Community Grants provision to pilot Community Summer and Christmas events in the town.

2.1.2 Any proposals for utilising the funds be submitted to the Grants and Governance Sub Committee for approval.

2.2 British Bangladeshi Association North Somerset

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was: (5 for;1 abstention)

RESOLVED: That the 10% retention for the British Bangladeshi Association North Somerset be released.

.3 Weston In Bloom Grant Applications

The annual budget for Weston in Bloom is £8,000 with £2,692 committed) so far, leaving a balance of £6,308 remaining.

.3.1 Weston Hospicecare

Weston Hospicecare have applied for a grant of £250 to enhance the street facing planters outside the hospice in Uphill. The funds will be used specifically for purchasing the plants and any necessary materials to create vibrant, seasonal displays on the existing planters. The activity will directly engage 5 local volunteers in planting and maintaining the floral displays.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was (4for 2 against)

RESOLVED: To award £250 from the Weston In Bloom Budget to Weston Hospicecare

The following resolution was made by the Community Service Committee in January 2023:

References from other Committees:

Expenditure & Governance Working Party – 19th January 2023

Weston In Bloom Grants Scheme - Supporting Communities

To consider proposed Grant Criteria and Grant Application which had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Members were advised that the proposed grant criteria were based on the similar model for the small and voluntary grants and tailored to be fit for purpose. It was noted that the council could not pay individuals for obvious reasons and applicants needed to demonstrate that they were a community group or similar organisation.

Based on the fact that the WIB budget was £14,000, which was also for the council to utilise for purchasing plants, a £500.00 maximum was deemed the absolute maximum for an exceptional project with a suggestion on the application form that grants sought should ideally be around the £250 pound or less as a guide, and any grant applications exceeding £500 should be referred to committee for approval. It was further noted that the WIB budget was limited so grants should be contained within a set value of a suggested. £1,000

It was agreed to add into the application form that if an organisation was in the first year of trading it should provide bank details and evidence of set up in the same manner as the Small and voluntary grant scheme works.

It was advised that plants could not be given away instead of funding as the council only ordered plants twice per year and it would be difficult to manage expectations.

It was suggested that the word 'evaluation' be reviewed on page 3 as was more reflective of how the grants were received. The Grounds Coordinator explained evaluation meant organisations providing information on how their project has benefited the community in whichever format they have available. This could be quotes from the public, number of people who have taken part in the project ect.

Discussion ensued regarding publicity and communication of the scheme and it was agreed to plan a launch event between now and April.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roz Willis

*A vote was taken and was **carried***

RESOLVED: *To approve the Weston in Bloom Grants Scheme - Supporting Communities and proposed Grant Criteria, with the above amendments.*

Members are requested to:

Decide as to whether they would like to:

- a) Receive all Weston in Bloom applications or
- b) Only receive applications over £500 as agreed in January 2023.

The Town Clerk reported that new partnerships were forming with new volunteers coming forward and organising their selves and organisations such as the Lions expressing an interest in supporting.

The general feeling was if momentum was built, the scheme could be a great success again.

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

A vote was taken and was **carried**

RESOLVED: That applications under the value of £500 be approved by the Director of Community Services /Deputy Town Clerk and any application above this value to be referred to The Grants and Governance Sub Committee.

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GOVERNANCE

Service Level Agreements

To receive quarterly KPI reports and monitor the Council's Service Level Agreements (SLA'S).

.1 Community Service Level Agreements;

Members noted the councils current SLA's with the following organisations, with budget provision values as follows;

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

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

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

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

10.39am Councillor James Clayton left and rejoined the meeting

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

It was agreed to send feedback to Somewhere to Go that the quality of their latest report was well received by the Sub Committee, however they were disappointed that it had not been reported in person as arranged and extended an invitation for an in-person report at the next Grants and Governance Sub Committee meeting in April

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

D. YMCA (£76,926)

A member raised concerns around the reach of the youth clubs, only engaging dozens compared the volume of youths in the town.

The Town Clerk felt the Youth worker and Director would welcome the feedback and be open to look at other options and therefore, suggested a positive conversation when they were due to deliver their in-person report at the September Grants and Governance Sub Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

.2 Direct Service Level Agreements;

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

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

	F. <u>North Somerset Council Community Response (£51,550)</u> Members noted an increased presence and the positive effect of this in the community. RESOLVED: Received and noted. G. <u>North Somerset Council CCTV Provision (£95,700)</u> (previously circulated on a monthly basis) RESOLVED: Received and noted.
	There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 10.54 am Signed.....Dated Chair of the Grants and Governance Sub Committee