



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GRANTS AND GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET
WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL 2025**

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am

Meeting Concluded: 11.32 am

PRESENT: Councillors Hugh Malyan (Chair), Joe Bambridge, Mike Bell, Peter Crew and Alan Peak.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk), Molly Matthews (Senior Development Officer), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager) and Ellie Lloyd (Somewhere to Go) (part attendance).

356	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Clayton and it was noted that John Standfield was absent from the meeting.
357	Declarations of Interest There were none received.
358	To agree the accuracy of the previous Grants and Governance Sub Committee Minutes held on 23rd January 2025 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 24 th October 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.
359	At this point in the meeting, the Chair invited Ellie, the Manager of Somewhere To Go to make a verbal report the subcommittee. The Chair thanked Ellie for her address, which was very useful and requested that future reports be received on time.

GRANTS

360

.1 Small and Voluntary Grant Applications

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

The council's annual budget for Community Event Grants was £12,500 with £0 committed so far, leaving a £12,500 balance remaining.

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

360.1.1. Aishah's Food Charity

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Aishah's Food Charity was a local hot meal food bank supporting local people in Weston-super-Mare who were struggling with food insecurity and financial difficulties. All of their service users lived in Weston-super-Mare and 95 people benefited every week. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to cover the cost of raw materials and ingredients, water and packaging to enable them to alleviate the burden of using personal finances from time to time. Aishah's Food Charity had previously been awarded funding of £1000 in May 2024.

Comments received from members included future evidence of linking in with other likeminded services.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To award £750 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

360.1.2 Blessings in Action CIC

Grant Applied for £990

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Blessings in Action was a CIC dedicated to supporting mental, emotional and physical wellbeing through community-based initiatives. They were seeking financial assistance of £990 to support the Family Fitness Fun project covering the costs of personal trainers, first aiders, session management, marketing and materials. Blessings in Action CIC have not applied for grants from the Town Council previously as a newly established Community Interest Company (CIC), they have provided their latest bank statement; however, as they have been operating for less than a year (since November 2024), they do not yet have a trading account or balance sheet for the last financial year. To meet the Town Council's requirements for new start-ups, they have submitted basic financial information.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To refuse the grant on the basis that the application did not evidence where the grant funding would be spent.

360.1.3 FUCHSIA Cancer Support Group

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

FUCHSIA was a non-profit organisation self-help group for people who have experienced cancer whether as a patient or as a relative/carer. The group launched in 2010 and has been hosted free of charged until unfortunate circumstances required them to relocate. They were looking for financial assistance of £1000 to help support keeping the group running as despite Weston Football club offering them a reduced rate and the costs to members being increased, the group still need to find additional funding to keep the costs neutral. FUCHSIA have not been previously awarded any monies by the Town Council.

Comments received from members included that the income streams were not sustainable and that the organisation needed to become more suitable in the future.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

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

RESOLVED: To award £250 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

360.1.4 Federation of Young Initiators (Indian) Community

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

FYI Community Association were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to fund cultural events and activities that celebrate the diversity of Weston-super-Mare. These included performances of music, dance and drama, showcasing the traditions of different communities and interactive workshops. The funding will also cover venue hire, workshop materials, performance equipment and facilitator fees. The events are planned to take place monthly with larger seasonal celebrations to mark significant cultural objectives. FYI Community Association have not been previously awarded monies from Weston Town Council.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

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

RESOLVED: To defer the grant and request more information on how the grant would be specifically spent i.e. activities/communities.

360.1.5 North Somerset British Bangladeshi Association

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

North Somerset British Bangladeshi Association were an organisation whose purpose was to provide vital support to the Bangladeshi Community residing in Weston-super-Mare. In addition to these services, their organisation was committed to relieving poverty, organise sports activities and provide sewing classes. They were seeking financial assistance of

£1000 to buy sports equipment and to hire a badminton court. North Somerset British Bangladeshi have previously been awarded funding of £1000 in May 2021.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

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

RESOLVED: To refuse the grant due to lack of information to justify the need and recommend that the organisation needed to run more independently.

360.1.6 RENEW Weston

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

RENEW Weston was a social enterprise based in Weston-super-Mare who provided work opportunities to local residents who wanted to work but faced difficulties. Their products and services benefited the environment – upcycling abandoned furniture. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to purchase two fit-for-purpose ‘air scrubbers’ for their workshop to help improve ventilation to remove the dust and fumes generated by the work activities. Around 40 residents of WSM will benefit directly from RENEW this year. They have not been previously awarded monies from the Town Council.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To defer the grant, requesting more information on whether the fixtures were permeant, clarifying building lease and the amount of match funding.

360.1.7 Together Pussycat

Grant Applied for £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Together Pussycat provided opportunities for families to learn and play together in a safe and exciting environment. They were looking to organise a junior talent competition. They were looking for financial assistance of £1000 for the cost of advertising the event, special acts and judges. As part of their application they have also requested the hire of the Blakehay Theatre free of charge. Together Pussycat CIC have previously been awarded funding of £3000 in August 2024 and £1000 in October 2023. The project will be accessible to all school ages children living in Weston-super-Mare.

It was noted that the Youth Council were putting on a Youth Talent Show at the Blakehay later in the year and it was suggested that the applicant should look to collaborate and share resources.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To refuse the grant based on previous two years of funding and recommend that the applicant contact the Youth Council regarding possible collaboration.

360.2 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 £20,000 for Weston Wallz preapproved within the budget setting process, leaving a remaining budget of £40,000.

360.2.1 Common Waves CIC - £8,000

Common Waves would produce a dynamic 12-month creative arts programme that elevated the untold stories of Weston-Super-Mare alongside those of internationally renowned artists. Common Waves CIC were a newly established organisation and as such have not been able to supply a trading account/balance sheet. They have, however included a cashflow document. Within the grant criteria it is stated that:

Organisations just starting up must submit basic financial information to the satisfaction of the Town Council.

It was noted that the application scored as unclear on the financial section of the application due to them being a start-up organisation.

Members comments included that the council had spent too much of its budget on Arts and Culture and not on the rest of the community and there needed to be more of a balance.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Joe Bambridge

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

RESOLVED: To refuse the grant on the basis that it was not a local organisation and had sourced funding from other sources.

360.2.2 Reset WSM Community Interest Company - £3,000

Reset were seeking funding to support the North Somerset Youth Awards Ceremony to be held in Weston - celebrating and showcasing children and young people and the local young people groups.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To award £3,000 from the Community Event grants budget.

360.2.3 Theatre Orchard Projects Limited trading as Super Culture - £23,000

GLOW was an ambitious 7-night light festival that will illuminate Grove Park, with stunning interactive, fun and captivating light installations.

It was noted that Theatre Orchard had received funding from the council for the event over the last 4years. Also that there was a winter events programme being provided by BID.

Comments received included looking at the relationship between the council and applicant and possible entering into a Service Level Agreement.

It was suggested that the council should support but needed to acknowledge other projects also.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

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

RESOLVED: To award £10,000 from the Community Event grants budget.

360.2.4 Weston College of Further and Higher Education - £10,000

Planning, scheduling and managing facilities, activities and third-party providers; promoting, running and ensuring a safe and successful community celebration event.

It was noted that the application had scored an unclear financial score due to 'support in kind' reference and had over 2million cash at bank.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Joe Bambridge

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

RESOLVED: To refuse due to insufficient financial information supplied and cash at bank.

360.2.5 Steepholmers Shanty Band - £4,000

Weston-super-Mare Sea Shanty and Folk Music Festival 2025 - There are going to be up-front costs to be borne prior to the Festival. These include: payment of site fees and licences to North Somerset Council, publicity (printing, distribution, media advertising and promotion, etc.); hire of staging & marquee(s); hire of p.a. / sound systems and engineers, hire of portable toilets, hire of additional waste management facilities, etc., etc.

It was noted that the grant amount applied for had increased year on year with no explanation of inflation costs.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To award £3,000 from the Community Event grants budget and recommending that future events should be self-funded.

360.3. Weston Wallz

Application received within Weston Wallz funding for additional funding, please find attached.

It was noted that this was an additional project at a cost £5,000

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Joe Bambridge

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

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

RESOLVED: To refuse the grant on the basis that the Community Event grants budget was oversubscribed and the Town Council were already funding the Weston Wallz project.

360.4. Evaluation of previously awarded Community Events Grants

360.4.1 The Steepholmers Shanty Band - £300

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mike Bell

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

RESOLVED: That the 10% retention for The Steepholmers Shanty Band (£300) be released.

361

GOVERNANCE

Service Level Agreements

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

361.1 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.

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

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

D. YMCA (£76,926)

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

361.2 Direct Service Level Agreements;

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

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

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

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

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

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 11.32 am

Signed.....Dated
Chair of the Grants and Governance Sub Committee