



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GRANTS AND GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET
THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 2026**

Meeting Commenced: 10.01 am

Meeting Concluded: 11.44 am

PRESENT: Councillors John Standfield (VC), James Clayton, Alan Peak and Caroline Reynolds.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk), Fiona Gardner (Finance Administration Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Civic Officer/PA to CEO), Alison Garner (Democratic Services Officer) and Darren Fairchild (Town Centre/BID Manager).

287	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Bell substituted by Caroline Reynolds and Councillors Hugh Malyan and Peter Crew with no substitution. It was noted that Councillor Joe Bambridge was not in attendance.
288	Declarations of Interest There were none received.
289	To agree the accuracy of the previous Grants and Governance Sub Committee Minutes held on 23rd October 2025 The minutes from the previous meeting had been previously circulated. PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Clayton 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 23 rd October 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair. <i>It was noted that a new Sub Committee Chair would be elected at the next meeting on 16th April 2026.</i>

GRANTS

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

The council's annual budget for Community Event Grants was £12,500 with £4491 committed so far, leaving an £8,009 balance remaining.

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

290.1 Small and Voluntary Grant Applications

290.1.1 Blessings in Action CIC

Blessings in Action CIC was dedicated to supporting mental, emotional, and physical well-being through accessible community-based initiatives. They were seeking financial assistance of £990 towards essential resources and marketing costs.

Members noted that;

- The growing need for this kind of community support.
- That other similar grants had been awarded within the financial year.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Clayton

SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield

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

RESOLVED: To award £990 to Blessings in Actions from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

290.1.2 North Somerset LGBT+ Forum

NSLGBT+ Forum were notified at the end of November that they would now need to pay for Radio net/crime link prevention after previously having this free of charge. They were asking for £468 to cover the cost of this service for one year.

It was noted that North Somerset LGBT+ Forum was previously awarded a grant in January 2025 for £1000.

Sub Committee members agreed that;

- Darren Fairchild had offered this service at 50% of the cost.
- Radio link was a valuable service.
- The grant would be a one off gesture payment.
- The grant would be the actual cost for one year only, as this had come as an unforeseen outgoing.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds

SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield

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

RESOLVED: To award North Somerset LGBT+Forum £280.80 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget.

290.1.3 Weston Ark

Weston Ark was a Christian charity based at the Hughenden Centre in Weston-super-Mare. Their purpose was to relieve financial hardship and support local people in need through practical help and community-based support, alongside community activities and outreach. Weston Ark was requesting £999 towards the purchase of four outdoor feather flags and four hard-floor bases to improve visibility and wayfinding for Ark Café and wider public use of the Hughenden Centre. The total cost was £1,099.20 (inc VAT), with £100.20 match funding from Weston Ark (unrestricted funds / Ark Café budget).

Weston Ark had not previously been awarded any monies by the Town Council.

Discussion ensued regarding costs of flags and resident awareness of the charity and the services they offered. It was agreed to award 50% of the requested grant.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds

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

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

290

290.2 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 £25,000 for Weston Wallz for the year 2025 preapproved within the budget setting process, leaving a remaining budget of £35,000. Of this £35,000 budget, £20,438 had been awarded so far this year, with £14,562 remaining to allocate.

290.2.1 Growing @ Grove Park - £2,150

The purpose for the funding was for a community apple celebration, with Morris dancing, a céilidh dance, folk music and family art and craft activities, paying artists to facilitate workshops in lantern and costume making.

The Sub Committee noted that the organisation ran on good will and grant funding and that Grove Park had been enhanced by this organisation.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds

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

RESOLVED: To award Growing @ Grove Park £2150 from the Community Event Grants budget.

290.2.2 Weston Artspace £343.80

As per the Community Event Grant conditions, a 10% retention was held until after the event has taken place, in order to evaluate the success. The 10% retention, when released, would come from the 2025/2026 Community Events Grants budget.

Weston Artspace had submitted their evaluation, which was detailed in the attached report.

A video presentation was viewed at the meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Clayton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

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

RESOLVED: That the 10% retention of £343.80 for Weston Artspace be released.

291

GOVERNANCE

Service Level Agreements

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

Councillor James Clayton declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of The Town Centre Partnership BID.

291.1 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)

The Chair welcomed Darren Fairchild (Town Centre / BID Manager) who gave a presentation on the Weston Town Centre Partnership.

October;

- Final meetings had taken place with Xmas lights the installation contractor.
- Annual inspection had taken place of the Prince of Wales clock.
- Final Armed Forces Day debrief had taken place. Final report was sent to the MOD for completion of the grant application, and the payment had now been received.
- Street Wardens continue to clean the glass at Silica daily.
- All weekly inspections completed, including updating of noticeboards.

November;

- Christmas Lights installation.
- Event Manager for Remembrance Day Parade with fabulous crowd, even with less space/more challenging due to enhancement works in Grove Park.
- The Mayor had requested assistance for Town Carnival. It was an honor to lead the parade.
- The Social media creator left their role which had impacted on social media presence.
- Weston Eats Festival dates for 2026 had been agreed and by 2027, would be self-sufficient.
- Event Manager at Annual Christmas Lights Switch on.

December;

- Operation Anomic saw partnership operation with the Police. The stock returned to businesses had grown and litter removal had increased.
- Winter planting had taken place in the 8 BID planters.
- Street Wardens continued to clean the Silica glass daily.

The Sub Committee asked if there was a plan to clean the Italian Gardens to which the CEO/Town Clerk advised that discussions were due to take place between Weston Town Council, Weston BID and North Somerset Council regarding the Green Warden role, which could provide resource for such maintenance.

A member enquired about the benefits of CCTV, to which the Town Centre Manager advised that the resource was used multiple times a day to help track people and gain evidence for prosecution, so a value could not be put on this service.

Darren Fairchild left the meeting 11.03am.

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

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

It was noted that the Citizens Advice were still located in the Sovereign Centre but had been relocated to a new unit and the Sub Committee queried the ongoing rental costs. CEO/Town Clerk would clarify the cost of the new unit and the Sub Committee could choose whether to solely fund the costs.

RESOLVED: That the CEO/Town Clerk request that CANS provide the rental costings of the new unit to the Sub Committee.

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

Discussion ensued noting that Somewhere to Go was attracting people from outside of Weston-super-Mare. The Town Clerk/CEO would request Somewhere to Go to provide a breakdown of the KPI report.

RESOLVED: That the CEO/Town Clerk to request Somewhere to Go provide a breakdown of the origin area of people attending the service within their next KPI report.

D. YMCA

A discussion ensued regarding the size of Youth Council and how effective the group were. It was noted that Town Councillors on the Youth Council rarely attended and The CEO/Town Clerk would raise this with group leaders.

It was also noted that the Bournville Youth Group had continued to be well used and was a vital resource in the area, but the Town Centre offering continued to have poor engagement.

RESOLVED: That the CEO/Town Clerk would raise Councillor attendance at Youth Council meetings with Group Leaders.

291.2 Direct Service Level Agreements;

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

No comments

RESOLVED: Received and noted.

F. North Somerset Council Community Response (£51,500)

Members discussed the recording of Community Response Officers' hours, including time lost due to sickness. The CEO/Town Clerk highlighted the important role of the Community Response Team in supporting Weston Town Council events and activities and noted their reliability when requested. It was agreed that further clarification would be provided in the next report regarding service delivery, SLA coverage during periods of staff absence, officer deployment arrangements and joint working with Street Wardens.

Members also discussed whether the Town Council could take on overall management of the Community Response Team. The CEO/Town Clerk advised that limited liaison meetings had taken place with North Somerset Council (NSC) in the absence of the Deputy Town Clerk and that the Council continued to engage with the wider Community Safety Partnership on town centre anti-social behaviour. Feedback from partners, including the Police, NSC CCTV and WSMTC service managers, remained positive and reflected the team's responsive and proactive approach.

Members were reminded that Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are statutory powers held by principal local authorities (under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) and therefore currently remain the responsibility of NSC.

Members noted that any consideration of bringing the service in-house would require further assessment of capacity and resources. The CEO/Town Clerk proposed inviting Howard Potheary to a future meeting to present the KPI report and address the points raised.

RESOLVED: That CEO/Town Clerk would invite Howard Potheary (North Somerset Community Response) to present their KPI report in person at the next Grants and Governance Sub Committee Meeting.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 11.44 am

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