



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GRANTS AND GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET
THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 2026

Meeting Commenced: 10.00 am

Meeting Concluded: 11.30 am

PRESENT: Councillors John Standfield (VC), Alan Peak, Hugh Malyan, Joe Bambridge and Peter Crew.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearce (Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk), Fiona Gardner (Finance Administration Manager), Alison Garner (Democratic Services Officer), Molly Mathews (Senior Development Officer), Jim Stanbury and Howard Potheary (North Somerset Community Response).

396	Election of Chair The CEO/Town Clerk invited approval for the position of Chair of the meeting (Vice Chair), noting that nominations for a permanent chair would be needed within the committee memberships at its annual review at the annual meeting in May. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was: RESOLVED: That Councillor John Standfield (Vice Chair) be elected Chair of the meeting.
397	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Bell and James Clayton with no substitutions.
398	Declarations of Interest There were none received.
399	To agree the accuracy of the previous Grants and Governance Sub Committee Minutes held on 22nd January 2026.

	The minutes from the previous meeting had been previously circulated. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried. RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grants and Governance Sub Committee Meeting held on 22nd January 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair.
400	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 £0 committed so far, leaving a £12,500 balance remaining. Copies of bank statements, evaluation criteria and full applications for the following organisations had been previously circulated. 400.1 Small and Voluntary Grant Applications 400.1.1 <u>Afrifest Weston CIC - £1,000</u> Afrifest Weston CIC was a nonprofit community organisation dedicated to delivering a free cultural event in Weston-super-Mare. The Committee members noted that; • They were newly established in WsM PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was: RESOLVED: To award Afrifest £1000 from the Small and Voluntary Grants budget. 400.1.2 <u>Blessings in Action CIC - £995</u> Blessings in Action was a CIC dedicated to supporting mental, emotional and physical wellbeing through community based initiatives. Members noted that; • Blessings in Action was recently awarded a £990 grant in last financial year. • Bank statements showed a healthy bank balance. • That more time between submitting grant applications would be preferred. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was: RESOLVED: That the Blessing in Action grant be refused on the basis that they had received funding in the previous financial year, it was reiterated there was need to provide the current bank balance and our response should suggest that more time between submitting grant applications would be more appropriate.

400.1.3 Grow Feral CIC - £1,000

Grow Feral was a small CIC dedicated to connecting people with nature and strengthening community wellbeing in Weston-super-Mare. Members noted that;

- The grant application was 50% of the overall cost.
- The breakdown of the costs were discussed including the leaflets.
- WsM already had many volunteer groups in that area of nature walks/guided walks.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Joe Bambridge

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

RESOLVED: That the Grow Feral grant be refused on the basis that WsM already had a number of volunteer groups operating in the subject area of nature walks.

400.1.4 The Hangar Gym CIC - £1,000

The Hangar Gym CIC was a nonprofit community gym and wellbeing space in Weston-super-Mare. Members noted that;

- The bank statement balance was high.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

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

RESOLVED: That the Hangar Gym grant be refused on the basis that their bank balance was at a substantial level.

400

400.2 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 £0 committed so far, leaving a £60,000 balance remaining.

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

400.2.1 British Bangladeshi Association North Somerset - £2,500

The British Bangladeshi Association North Somerset were seeking funding to deliver an expanded South Asian Mela Festival in North Somerset.

Discussion ensued regarding the application and that the information provided was unclear. The CEO/Town Clerk advised that the application was similar to a previous application and that clarity was needed around where the event would be held as there was conflicting information with the application itself. It was also unclear if it was an indoor or outdoor event.

RESOLVED: That the British Bangladeshi Association North Somerset application be deferred until further information and clarity from the applicant pertaining to the venue and type of event it was had been received.

400.2.2 Common Waves CIC - £7,256.17

To cover the core costs and overheads of The Common Room so that they could run their yearlong creative programme of exhibitions, events, workshops and community projects. It was noted that the application was worded such that funds were requested for running costs and not for an event which did not meet the criteria.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: That the Common Waves grant be refused on the basis that the committee did not feel the application fully aligned with the aims of the grant fund and its criteria.

400.2.3 In Between Time - £8,475

We Are Warriors was an immersive light and sound artwork for Weston, combining community engagement, remembrance rituals and events to create a collective public artwork in October 2026.

It was noted that;

- That this was a similar event to Glow Festival which had already received funding through the scheme.
- That it was based in the Sovereign but unclear as to if the organisation was liable to pay rent to NSC.
- It was unclear where the event was taking place.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

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

RESOLVED: That the In Between Time grant be deferred pending more information regarding the venue and to establish if there was an ability to have 'a rent free period' of any funding from NSC to support this event in the first instance.

400.2.4 Reset - £5,000

Reset were seeking funding to support the Youth Awards North Somerset Ceremony to be held in Weston celebrating and showcasing children and young people. Members noted that;

- Accounts were provided but bank statement was not submitted.
- It's award based nature was a positive aspect, serving as a valuable recognition event.
- The event itinerary was unclear.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: That the Reset grant be deferred pending a request for more information in the form of bank statements and a breakdown of the costs.

400.2.5 WSM Pride - £4,000

Funding to deliver Weston-super-Mare Pride 2026, covering staging, sound, accessibility and safety.

Members noted that;

- Historically this was a good event.
- The success of Pride was important to WsM and that this new group would make a successful event.
- The grant request figure was too high for the small event and that a £2,000 grant would be more appropriate.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

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

RESOLVED: To award WSM Pride £2000 from the Community Event Grants Budget.

400.2.6 Evaluation of previously awarded Community Events Grants

There were four outstanding retained values totalling £1,615 from the 2025/2026 budget. It was explained that 10% of the total grant award was held in retention until the council had received evaluation of the events from the organisations. An overview was given as to the value held in retention:

- Theatre Orchard – event not yet taken place
- Steepholmers Shanty Band – event had taken place and had been repeatedly chased for evaluation
- Evolve Music – event not yet taken place
- Growing @ Grove Park – event had not taken place. A request had been made for a change of event date due to works ongoing in Grove Park, with the new event due to take place 17th May 2026.

RESOLVED: That the change of event date for Growing @ Grove Park be noted, and that Steepholmers Shanty Band be contacted to explain that without their evaluation, the retention would not be released, and any future grant application would not be looked upon favourable.

10.54am At this point in the meeting the Community Response Team (Jim Stanbury and Howard Potheary) joined the meeting and the sub committee introduced themselves.

GOVERNANCE

401

Service Level Agreements

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

401.1 Community Service Level Agreements;

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

At this point In the meeting, the Chair brought forward agenda item 6.2 F to allow an in person report.

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

Jim Stanbury, CCTV and Community Response Manager was invited to present the Q4 report.

- During Q4 there were 4 days of action where the team worked alongside Police, Street Wardens and other agencies . These days were designed to target individuals who had been causing issues around street drinking. The Operation was a police led, multiagency initiative addressing antisocial behaviour linked to the street community in Weston-super-Mare town centre.
- The patrol enforcement by ward showed overwhelmingly the pull of issues with the town centre.

It was noted that the Police Sergeant had significantly improved the culture within the town centre and had taken a proactive approach to the way in which the town centre was managed and operated.

The Chair thanked John Stanbury and Howard Potheary who left the meeting at 11.15am.

401.1.1 RESOLVED: That the report of North Somerset Council Community Response be received and noted.

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

401.1.2 RESOLVED: That the report of Weston Town Centre Partnership be received and noted.

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

401.1.3 RESOLVED: That the report of CANS be received and noted.

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

401.1.4 RESOLVED: That the report of Somewhere to Go be received and noted.

D. YMCA

401.1.5 RESOLVED: That the report of YMCA be received and noted.

401.2 Direct Service Level Agreements;

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

401.2.1 RESOLVED: That the report of South West Heritage be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 11.30am

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