

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT WESTON MUSEUM
ON 17th MARCH 2022**

Meeting Commenced: 10:02 am

Meeting Concluded: 11:19 am

PRESENT: Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman), Jan Holloway, Marcia Pepperall and Pete McAleer; Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Rebecca Saunders (Civic and Committee Officer), Jasmine Ryle (Events and Marketing Officer), Tom Newman (Culture Weston) and Heather Morrissey (Chair of the Friends of the Museum).

362	Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Malcolm Nicholson and Cara MacMahon.
363	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest received.
364	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th January 2022 The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Jan Holloway SECONDED BY: Councillor Marcia Pepperall RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman
365	Budget for 2021/22 The detailed income and expenditure for the Blakehay Theatre and Weston Museum had been previously circulated. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the budget was similar to previous months, with the Museum having responded well after reopening as had the Blakehay. It was explained that year end was not where it had been forecast, but that the closure period had been longer than expected. RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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Marketing Report

The report of the Communications and Marketing Officer had been previously circulated.

Blue Plaques

It was reported that all blue plaques had now been installed. There was no budget remaining for the current financial year. The Chairman suggested that there should be an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss a new programme of plaques, potentially centred around buildings such as the Royal Hotel.

The Ivy Millicent James plaque was now in situ. It was suggested that the college should be contacted to engage with the exhibition, which would run until May, as the college was Ivy's root into art.

The Chairman asked if there was a trail of the plaque. The Communications Officer explained that there were audio recordings on the website. Whilst QR codes on, or near the plaques would be an option, it was felt they did not look aesthetically pleasing and technology was evolving quickly and might become redundant. A member enquired if the Museum had a copy of the Ivy Millicent booklet produced by the Museum in previous years. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that she would investigate.

Literary Festival

It had been decided that a collaboration with Culture Weston was the best way forward, in order to deliver the festival, which would be a celebration of local writers and poets. It was suggested there could be a link with SEE Monster with a climate change emphasis.

The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) entered the meeting at 10:11am.

Members suggested it would be good to get a high profile author in order to attract a higher attendance. The Communications Officer informed that whilst this would be ideal, it would come at a high cost. The Chairman asked how they had planned to attract visitors with local unknown authors. The Communications Officer explained that in Bristol they had worked on more of a panel format, with speakers.

It was suggested that local author Brian Price be a speaker. The Deputy Town Clerk would circulate Tom Newman's email address for members to send suggestions.

The Chairman explained that Jane Evans, the first curator of Weston Museum when opened in 1976, had written a book on George Cumberland and suggested that the Museum would be a good site for a book look. The Friends of the Museum had supported Jane in the publishing of her book.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that Culture Weston should become a partner to aid the next literary festival.

<p>367</p>	<p>Weston Museum Management Report</p> <p>A verbal report was given by the Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services).</p> <p>Members were advised that the Visitor Services Manager had left and that the role had been advertised. She would be based at the Museum as much as possible. The Museum was going through a period of adjustment, but was still very busy and the best service possible was being delivered. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that following the last staffing review, there was built in resilience, with the operational services team able to support the service in the interim period. The service was running as usual, but there was no opportunity for progression until the new manager was in post. The priority was to ensure Museum staff felt supported.</p> <p>A new Catering Supervisor had been appointed and due to start in April. He had a military background, with a wealth of experience in hospitality and catering. The Chairman requested to meet the new Catering Supervisor when in post.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed his delight at seeing the Worle History Society exhibition in the courtyard, the Know Your Place exhibition in the function room, and the Ivy Millicent James exhibition in the William Mable Gallery.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) reported that volunteers were essential to the running of the Museum and had provided vital support during this period of change.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Catering Assistant was absent due to a family bereavement. The Chairman requested for the Committee's condolences to be given.</p> <p><i>The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) left the meeting at 10:28 am.</i></p> <p>A report was tabled by the Chairman, to be noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal museum management and Chairman's tabled report be noted.</p>
<p>368</p>	<p>Blakehay Report</p> <p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Theatre Manager for the very well received open day, however his disappointed at fellow councillors that only 5 had attended was noted.</p> <p><i>The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) reentered the meeting at 10:30 am</i></p> <p>The Theatre Manager introduced Jasmine, whose role had changed from Box</p>

	<p>Officer Supervisor to Events and Marketing Officer. Since reopening there had been two shows at the Museum, Wrestling and 'Opening Up' performed by the Oppits, with Worle Operatic performing Rent the following week.</p> <p>In April a Gospel group from Northern Ireland were due to perform, which would bring in visitors from Northern Ireland. The Theatre Manager referred to page 2 of her report which detailed future performances and where the bookings had come from. It was demonstrated that bookings were being taken from companies all over the country. The Chairman highlighted the need to advertise these performances to the community. It was explained that the Events and Marketing Officer was working on this, with the Blakehay's attendance up on the national average of 60%. Tom Newman explained that North Somerset Council maintained a list of activities, to which they provided information about bookings. The Theatre Manager explained that all the bookings were external hires, not programmed works, and it was the hirers responsibility to market their shows and ensure there were no local clashes.</p> <p>The Chairman enquired what the working relationship with the Playhouse was like. The Theatre Manager explained that the relationship with staff was working well, but was strained with the management. The Deputy Town Clerk informed that they had tried previously to engage with no success. It was suggested that the Placemaking meetings might be a good way to engage, as the Playhouse attended these. The Chairman was keen to forge better relationships with the Playhouse, and asked members to action this.</p> <p>The Theatre Manager reported that the Theatre had been shortlisted for a tourism and leisure award and would bring news of the outcome to the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>369</p>	<p>WSMTC Grant Development</p> <p>A verbal update was given by the Development Officer.</p> <p>The evaluation report for the Arts Council England Cultural Recovery Fund Continuity Support had been submitted and they were awaiting confirmation of completion of the funding project.</p> <p>The Development Officer explained that many funders were pulling back following the immense support throughout Covid. The Arts Council and Heritage Lottery Fund were in a position to support, however more planning works would be required with the Museum and Blakehay before we were in a position to apply.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk advised that there was a meeting with Culture Weston to discuss working together to attract bigger grants.</p> <p><i>The Theatre Manager left the meeting at 10:46 am.</i></p>

	<p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
370	<p>South West Heritage Trust Update Report</p> <p>The report of Bethan Murray had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the floor in the William Mable Gallery had been laid after a substantial delay.</p> <p><i>The Theatre Manager reentered the meeting at 10:48 am.</i></p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services stated that the exhibition in the courtyard had blocked visitors view of the William Mable Gallery and as such, she had needed to redirect people. It was suggested this should be explored further.</p> <p>A horrible histories exhibition would be coming to the William Mable gallery. The Chairman advised this should be well publicised, as it would be free to attend, unlike other Museums.</p> <p>Members discussed the lack of an opening event for the Ivy Millicent James exhibition. It was considered that this was a missed opportunity to bring people into the Museum, but that consideration of how the event ran and who was invited should be given, as they tended to produce the same visitors.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
371	<p>Friends of Weston Museum Verbal Report</p> <p>Heather Morrissey provided a verbal update</p> <p>The Friends of the Museum talks had been well attended, and they had expanded into coffee mornings which were building momentum.</p> <p>The Friends would have a stall at the Museum Fayre.</p> <p>A dinosaur donation box had been commissioned from Somerset Wood Recycling. This was being repaired following a pencil being lodged, so was not currently in situ.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
372	<p>North Somerset Council and Heritage Action Zone Report</p> <p>The report of Cara McMahon had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
373	<p>Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard Update Report</p>

Tom Newman gave a verbal update.

Glow

Members were advised that the Glow Event had been completed with success. 3,000 people had attended over the two days, with one of the days having been cancelled due to high winds. Tom brought feedback for members to discuss. He gave thanks to the Town Council and ACE for their support was noted. Tom was working with Paula, the events creator, to understand if the event could run next year. The Chairman gave his thanks, having attended and enjoyed the event. Members discussed some of the feedback. Tom explained they would be expanding the event to include other areas in the town.

SEE Monster

Tom reported that Culture Weston were developing ideas from the think tanks, and applying to ACE to fund them. The Communications Officer informed that six local projects had been chosen to be on the SEE MONSTER platform.

They were:

- Moth Research Team
- Construction: Drone, Time-lapse and Photo interviews
- Michelle Cassar Seb and Polly Planet
- Photography Project - Jim Woods
- Write Box - Spoken word and poetry
- Sunrise and Sunset Yoga and meditation sessions with Do Yoga

Other events around the town would include:

- A story and art workshop with a weather theme for children aged 4-7.
- STEAM Themed art exhibition
- Sensory, 3D, ever-changing art installation.
- Fashion Show (pre-loved clothing designs and Mardi Gras Parade
- Steepholmers Shanty Band and Shrimpers exhibition are hoped to join together for an event at Weston Museum.
- Rainbow singers have funding from the Chat room / REN for 10 concerts during SEE MONSTER. They are looking for free venues and marketing.
- STEM Local Business film in Collaboration with NSC Placemaking.
- The Flood: Past, Present and Future Flood risk in Weston-super-Mare. A short environment film.

Upcoming events

Other upcoming events from Culture Weston included:

- A Weston vs Bristol poetry slam at Loves Café on the 25th March
- Tom's Tea Party – amplifying LGBTQ+ voices in the community at Proud Bar on 26th March
- Super shrine would be going to planning the upcoming week
- Cuba's Revenge on the 20th May
- Worley Gig – September
- Arts and Health Weekender – October

Members advised that they would like to see events at the Quarry return.

	RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.
374	There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:19 am. Signed.....Dated..... Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee