

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT WESTON MUSEUM
ON 8th FEBRUARY 2024**

Meeting Commenced: 10:04 am

Meeting Concluded: 11:02 am

PRESENT: Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Chair), Peter Crew, Catherine Gibbons,, Caroline Reynolds, Roger Bailey and Jemma Coles ; Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services), Molly Maher (Senior Development Officer), Sam Bishop (Office Manager and Committee Officer), Bethan Murray (South West Heritage Trust), Cara MacMahon (High Street Heritage Action Zone Officer - North Somerset Council), Josyanne Clark (North Somerset Council), Lee Newton (North Somerset Council), Fiona Matthews (Super Culture) Heather Morrissey (Friends of the Museum), Lee Newton (North Somerset Council Archeologist), Tracey T Joy and Warren Parker-Mills (Members of the public).

316	Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charles Williams who was substituted by Caroline Reynolds, Marc Aplin who was substituted by and Roger Bailey and Councillor Helen Thornton with no substitution. Apologies were also received from Sarah Pearse and Rachel De Garang.
317	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest received.
318	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30th November 2024 The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda. RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman
319	South West Heritage Trust The South West Heritage Trust report was previously circulated. Bethan gave an overview of the report, noting that work was ongoing with the archeological collection. Work had begun preparing the Les Sandy Exhibition for Weston Museum. <i>Councillor Catherine Gibbons entered the meeting at 10:08am</i>

	<p>All of the copies of the mercuries that were at King John's Hunting Lodge were now in storage at the South West Heritage Trust. They were being held there as a temporary measure whilst a permanent location was explored.</p> <p>The Trust had a new Head of Museums, Estelle Gilbert, who started the role on the 1st February.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received.</p>
320	<p>Friends of Weston Museum Update</p> <p>Heather Morrissey gave a verbal update on behalf of the Friends.</p> <p>It was noted that the friends were doing well, with well attended talks. The last talk was on the Battle of Sedgemoor. Future talks included the work of the WVS and Bridgwater Carnival. Posters were going up on noticeboards.</p> <p>A bookshelf had been donated to the Museum for second hand books to raise funds for the Friends.</p> <p>£30 worth of bricks had been purchased for the Lego hillfort, and the Friends would also be paying for the cover.</p> <p>Thatcher's had replaced the Apple Tree in Clara's Courtyard.</p> <p>The friends were interested to hear about any fundraising or grant opportunities and Josyanne offered to send information from Grant Finder to the Friends.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be received.</p>
321	<p>Heritage Action Zone</p> <p>The Heritage Action Zone report was previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Extra funding had been obtained to restore the stonework on Walliscote Road properties 4-12. The scaffold was due to be down by the beginning of March.</p> <p>There would be a test wash of the tiles on the Plaza Cinema in order to plan how to restore them moving forward. North Somerset Council were working with Merlin Cinemas on the retailer units. One unit had been earmarked to be a tea and coffee shop and additional box office for cinema tickets. For the other units, Merlin wanted to work with local independent startups and businesses and had agreed to offer a low rent period.</p> <p>Members asked if there were any plans to improve the sound proofing within the cinema. Cara explained that there was a medium-long term plan which included heating, sound proofing and seating. They wanted to turn screen 4 into a performance venue and were considering putting in a cocktail bar.</p> <p>Cara had met with the owners of the Kendall's building, who had agreed to go ahead with 5 shop front restorations and would be going out to tender the following week. Part of the work would include reinstating the awning.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that a North Somerset Council - Levelling Up Funding Update would be added to the agenda for future meetings.</p> <p>Members would be emailed a Leveling Up Fund update from Josyanne Clark after the meeting.</p>
322	<p>Super Culture</p> <p>The Glow event would be taking place the following week, with 20% of the tickets remaining. Fiona thanked the Town Council for ongoing support.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
323	<p>Budget for 2023/24</p> <p>The Museum's steady increase in income over the past 5years through café sales and bookings was noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal reports be received.</p>
324	<p>Communications and Marketing Report</p> <p>The report of the Communications and Marketing Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It was noted that the statistics were skewed by the Dr Who Exhibition.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received.</p>
325	<p>Weston Museum Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Weston Museum Manager was previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair suggested the need for a greater link between what Weston Museum exhibited and what the library had in terms of documentation.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received.</p>
326	<p>Blakehay Theatre Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Blakehay Theatre Manager was previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It was highlighted that 11.3 of the report was missing.</p> <p>The Chair advised that a working party had been set up to review the Blakehay's management and business model, recommending to the Expenditure & Governance Working Party and reporting to the Policy & Finance Committee. An update would be reported at a future meeting.</p>

	<p>A six-point plan had been created, with marketing featuring. The Marketing and Communications Officer would be dedicating one day a week to marketing for the theatre.</p> <p>Members felt the reports moving forward should be more focused around figures such as audience numbers, income and costs with more details.</p> <p>Some members reported that they had gifted their free pantomime ticket to others, who then purchased further tickets. This was an effective way to encourage new people to visit and use the theatre.</p> <p>The Chair advised that more performance coordination was needed with other venues in the town.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received.</p>
<p>327</p>	<p>WSMTC Grant Development</p> <p>The report of the Deputy Town Clerk & Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Weston-super-Mare Town Council was awarded funding from the Department for levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the Community Ownership Fund to take over the ownership and management of the Old Town Quarry.</p> <p>It is therefore, recommended that the Committee Terms of Reference for the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee (HAC) be updated to reflect the inclusion of The Old Town Quarry, be formally approved at the next Town Council Meeting. Subject to approval, it is suggested all formal updates and decisions should come to HAC.</p> <p>Given the short turnaround of the grant, members may therefore wish to consider the creation of a smaller Old Town Quarry Working Group for the purpose of monitoring the project progress. As part of the grant, any changes to the aims and objectives set out in the business plan will need to be reported back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, as well as the Committee/Working Group.</p> <p>The Chair requested that all councilors be asked if they wished to sit on the working group to which an email would be sent to this effect.</p> <p>The Senior Development Officer informed that the appointed Project Manager would be in post from March with a working pattern of Tues/wed/thus and that Expressions of Interest were currently out. Therefore, a monthly meeting frequency from the 1st April was suggested, to progress the project within the timescale. Work with the Communications & Marketing Officer to develop a Communications Plan to include public engagement on events and ecology of the site was underway.</p> <p>It was therefore</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried. And</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee Terms of Reference be updated to reflect the inclusion of The Old Town Quarry to HAC for approval at the next Town Council Meeting.</p> <p>And</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To note the appointment of Currie and Brown as the Contract Manager (Building refurbishment) for the cost of £45,264.44.2. To note the 1-year fixed term appointment of a Project Manager to oversee the delivery of the approved Business Plan.3. To create an Old Town Quarry Working Group, inviting all members involvement.
<p>328</p>	<p>Community Event Grant applications</p> <p><u>Weston Wallz</u></p> <p>It was noted that a report had not been received for circulated and therefore it was</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be deferred to the following next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that should the need for a decision be urgent, a Special meeting could be called.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:02 am</p> <p>Signed.....Dated..... Chair of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee</p>