WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 2024

Meeting Commenced: 7.02 pm
Meeting Concluded: 8.41 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Armstrong, Joe Bambridge, Peter Crew (VC), Justyna Peak-Michalowicz, Owen James, Richard Tucker and Tim Taylor.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Town Clerk/CEO**)** Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager), Rebeca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer), Jackie Lower (BSIP Infrastructure and Delivery Manager), Kim Ponting (North Somerset Council), Chris Jenkins (North Somerset Council) and Lucy Hamell (Stone Water Architect).

	In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair took the meeting. The Chair acknowledged the public speakers in attendance and invited them to address the Committee at the relevant point on the agenda.
62.	**Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitution** Apologies were received from Councillors Caroline Reynolds, John Carson and Martin Williams with no substitutions.
63.	**Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest received.
64.	**Minutes of the previous Planning Committee Meeting held on 26th June 2024** The minutes from the previous meeting held on 26th June had been previously circulated. **PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Ray Armstrong **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Peter Crew **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the 26th June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.

PLANNING

65. **Bus Service Improvement Plan**

Presentation by Jackie Lower, BSIP Infrastructure and Delivery Manager accompanied by Kim Ponting and Chris Jenkins from North Somerset Council.

The presentation gave an overview of the planned project which would streamline bus routes, increase bus bays from 13 meters to 25 meters to allow buses to pull in and out more fluidly and upgrade 180 bus stops throughout North Somerset. The main focus in Weston-super-Mare would include the installation of two transport hubs located at Weston General Hospital and Worle Highstreet. The funding secured for the project had to be used by the end of 2025, so a rolling programme was being undertaken to keep to the tight timeline. The bus stops along Locking round would be in the first batch of works carried out with some shelters being replaced and some slightly relocated which was anticipated to cause some resistance from residents, but was needed to maximise traffic and foot flow on roads and paths.

It was queried if any of the Town Council bus stops would be included in plans and if there was an opportunity to coordinate with the project to share resources and upgrade these sites and explore options of introducing some advertising at the sites to create some revenue which could be reinvested. The concept of linking up was welcomed, but it was noted that none of the Town Council sites would be addressed in the first batch of works and safety regarding visibility would needed to be carefully considered with regard to utilising bus stops for advertising. It was also suggested that working together with other organisations such as Network Rail, at the Train station site would maximise impact from the project.

It was queried what measures of success were hoped to be achieved by the project, to which it was reported that this was to grow patronage and improve passenger satisfaction.

The Committee were consulted on how they would like to be updated on the project.

RESLOVED- That a visual update be submitted to each Planning and Environment Committee meeting, to include a plan of the order of bus stops due to be upgraded and forwarded to ward councillors for information.

The Chair thanked Officers for attending, who left the meeting at 7.35pm.

66. Matters for Consideration

a) Disabled Parking Bays Applications

The committee considered the following applications, noting ward councillors' comments and objections from members of the public received:

1. 16, St Austell Road – No objection
2. 22, Malvern Road – No objection
3. 178, Drove Road – No objection
4. 182, Drove Road – No objection

RESOLVED: To inform North Somerset of the Town Council's responses.

b) Street Naming

To allocate addresses to some more of the 207 approved dwellings at the former airfield planning applications: 12/P/1510/OT2 and 22/P/2427/RM

Information had been previously circulated advising of the suggested street names.

RESOLVED: No objection - to inform North Somerset of the Town Council's response.

67. Matters for Noting

a) Appeal for 2 North Lane, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1QR - 23/P/1607/CM2A
Appeal Reference: APP/D0121/W/24/3343906

Information had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: Noted.

68. Planning Applications and other Planning Matters submitted to the Town Council for consideration.

The Committee considered applications in respect of the weekly lists provided by North Somerset Council dated**:**

a) 17th June – 22nd June 2024
b) 24th June – 30th June 2024
c) 1st July – 7th July 2024
d) 8th July – 14th July 2024

Lucy Hamell of Stone Water Architects, addressed the committee in respect of application 24/P/0865/FUL - *Demolition of existing buildings and development of 39no. houses with associated roads and parking.*

Stone Water Architects had been instructed to develop the site and Lucy explained the associated planning issues to include surrounding flooding and Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) in place.

The Committee agreed to support the application as affordable housing was considered more import than low quality trees in this instance.

The Chair thanked Lucy for attending and she left the meeting at 7.58pm.

	RESOLVED: That the Town Council's comments on planning applications be directly uploaded to 'Uniform' website as part of the system of work requirement by North Somerset Council. This information would also be reflected on the Town Council's website with hyperlink back to North Somerset Council's website for referral purposes. **Note**- A training session for the committee on how to respond to applications referring to planning law, would be arranged to strengthen input from the council.
69.	**ENVIRONMENTAL** **Overview from the Chief Executive/Town Clerk** The Town Clerk gave a verbal overview of the work of the former Climate Change Working Party referring to previous agenda's and requested the committee's direction on what items they would like to see, for inclusion on future agendas. **RESOLVED:** The committee would like to see the following reported at future meetings: 1. Progress of the Road Map to Zero - to be included every meeting. 2. Report Climate Data from community projects to inform of environmental impact of schemes - to be included every meeting. 3. Green Infrastructure Update - to be included Bi-Monthly.
70.	**To consider the Council's current status on Roadmap Zero at January 2024** As detailed in the report previously circulated. The Town Clerk advised that the current Roadmap was outdated since the Climate and Community Development Officer had left and the post not replaced. At present, the development team did not have the resource to undertake the task of updating the data, which was extremely time-consuming. In response to comments received, the Town Clerk advised that the Roadmap needed to demonstrate continuity, regardless of the council's change of premises. **RESOLVED:** Noted.
71.	**To consider the Green Infrastructure Strategy** The Town Clerk encouraged members to familiarise themselves with the document, which had been previously circulated. **RESOLVED:** That Steve Clerk the council's Tree Officer, address the committee at the next meeting.
	There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.41pm Signed……Dated …… Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee