WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON WEDNESDAY 16th OCTOBER 2024

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm
Meeting Concluded: 8.50 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Caroline Reynolds (Chair), Ray Armstrong, John Carson, Peter Crew, Justyna Peak-Michalowicz. Timothy Taylor, Richard Tucker and Martin Williams.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer /Town Clerk), Molly Mathews (Senior Development Officer) and Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer).

149	**Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitution** Apologies were received from Councillors Joe Bambridge and Owen James with no substitutions.
150	**Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest received.
151	**Minutes of the previous Planning Committee Meeting held on 21st August 2024** The minutes from the previous meeting held on 18th September 2024 had been previously circulated. **PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Ray Armstrong **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Richard Tucker **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the 18th September 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.
152	**PLANNING** **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: 501 Locking Road, Weston-Super-Mare, BS22 8QT- No objection **RESOLVED:** To inform North Somerset of the Town Council's response.
153	**Matters for Noting** **a) Cornerstone Planning Letter** Letter had been previously circulated. **RESOLVED:** Noted. **b) Appeal Reference:** APP/D0121/W/24/3348771172 - Locking Road, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding to the rear and erection of a 1no. dwelling *7.05pm Councillor Martin Williams joined meeting.* **RESOLVED:** Noted.
154	**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) 9th- 15th September 2024** **b) 16th - 22nd September 2024** **c) 23rd- 29th September 2024** **d) 30th - Septemebr-6th October 2024** **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.
155	**ENVIRONMENTAL** **Town Centre Parking** The Chief Executive Officer /Town Clerk reported North Somerset Council had approached the Town Council to consider Town Centre Bicycle parking. There would be an opportunity to identify where more bike parking would be beneficial and some funding would be required. It was noted that the BSIP scheme would be including bicycle parking so a joined-up approach would be sensible. **RESLOVED:** To request North Somerset Council team to attend a future meeting to present their Cycle plan for the committee can consider it.

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156	**Tree Management** Steve Clark the Arboricultural Consultant reported that he was currently managing the stock of 1000 trees, 103 nearly planted trees would be planted in the next year at locations such as the newly acquired Town Quarry. An inspection schedule was followed on all trees, how often these inspections took place was dependant on the condition and health of the individual tree from this a rolling management plan was produced and followed. British standard practices were followed for insurance compliance and once trees infected with Ash dieback reached 50% coverage they were safely felled. Three years ago, a tree and plant group was set up and from this, the Green Infrastructure strategy was written with the long term aim to plant 10,000 trees in Weston-super-Mare. This planting and the first 15 years maintenance would be funded by the climate grant. The CEO/Town Clerk noted it would be a useful exercise for ward councillors to identify land in their ward which would be suitable for tree planting and the public would be encouraged to plant on their private land. *8.07pm Councillor Justyna Peak-Michalowicz. - left the meeting.* It was hoped for more local involvement such as Fat Head Brewery, who were donating to the tree planting scheme. *8.10 pm Councillor Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz joined the meeting.* It was suggested to engage with youth organisations such as Scouts and The Youth Council to get young people involved with environmental issues. Other organisations suggested to try to engage with to increase canopy cover were: • Social Housing • Housing developers Forest of Avon Trust had been contacted to secure funding for open space trees and a site visit with the Grounds Manager was scheduled to identify possible planting locations. Viral walks of Milton Road Cemetery and Grove Park had now gone live. It was noted that trees currently being planted were not being recorded in the roadmap to zero which would have an impact on the data if included. **RESLOVED:** That the Senior Development Officer produce some communications to Ward Councillors to encourage them to identify land to plant trees with a link to the canopy cover map.
157	**Update on the Roadmap to Zero** The Senior Development Officer highlighted that the data provided, was up to date as possible now a volunteer had been working on inputting all the data but in the absence of a Climate Officer, full Analysis was not possible. There were plans to run a travel to work survey in the coming months which would be compared to previous surveys.

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	It was reported that all contracts for energy considered carbon efficiency but was also weighed up with budget value. **RESLOVED:** That an Energy report be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.
158	**Tree Forum Presentation /Tree Planting Scheme/ Green Infrastructure Strategy Update** The Senior Development Officer reported that back in October 2022, Weston-super-Mare Town Council had resolved to earmark a budget of £10,000, to match fund money spent by North Somerset Council on trees. Given current local considerations, it was unlikely that North Somerset Council would be able to provide funding for new trees. As such, it had become necessary for the Town Council to find a way to approach tree planting in both an environmentally and financially sustainable way. The Civic Society had approached the Council with a view to planting trees and therefore if agreed, there would be an option to access the match funding money to maintain the newly planted trees. Following meetings with Steve Clark the Town Council's Arboricultural Consultant, and community partners, three options had become apparent for the Town Council. 1. Work with community organisations and partners, such as the Civic Society, to match fund their tree planting by way of providing the ongoing maintenance. This option recognises that there are other community groups which may want to donate trees, as well as the Civic Society. 2. Plant and maintain trees within our own land. This would require using the allocated funds solely, without North Somerset Council or another organisation match funding. As this was a requirement of the original allocated funds, a decision will be required to overrule this resolution. 3. Alongside options 1 and 2, there was also the possibility of exploring income streams to increase budget provision. Grant funding could be available for ongoing maintenance, as well as the opportunity to provide ongoing maintenance, at a cost, for other local parishes. It was recommended that a business case be brought to the next meeting to explore the options available. Both options 1 and 2 would see the Town Council being responsible for maintenance, and as such, thought would need to be given on how this would be done, but also how this would be monitored and ensure a certain. **PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Caroline Reynolds **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Martin Williams A vote was taken and **carried.** Accordingly, it was: **RESLOVED:** 1. To renew the pervious resolution to enable the £10,000 ear marked Work, with suitable community organisations and partners, to match fund their tree planting by way of providing the ongoing maintenance. 2. Plant and maintain trees within the council's own land. This would require using the allocated funds solely, without North Somerset Council or another organisation match funding.

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	3. To explore income streams to increase budget provision such as Grant funding.
	There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.50 pm. Signed……Dated …… Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee

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