

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON  
MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.55 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Clive Webb (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, Peter Crew, Clive Darke, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, Michal Kus, Mike Lyall, Richard Nightingale, Robert Payne, Lisa Pilgrim

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm L Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer), Helen Morton (Finance Officer), Tricia Brabham (Committee Officer), Councillor Len Purnell and Sarah Robinson (Weston, Worle & Somerset Mercury).

<b>232.</b>	<b>To receive Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</b>  All Committee Members were in attendance so there were no apologies for absence received
<b>233.</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest received.
<b>234.</b>	<b>To approve minutes of the Policy &amp; Finance Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015</b>  The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.
<b>235.</b>	<b>To note the minutes of the Working Party to Review Expenditure &amp; Governance 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015</b>  The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be noted.
<b>236.</b>	<b>Monthly Financial Reports:-</b>  The financial reports had been previously circulated with the agenda.  <b>a) For Approval</b> i) Schedule of Unapproved Expenditure October and November 2015  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Michael Kus <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the reports be approved.

	<p><b>b) For Noting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Bank Reconciliations for October and November 2015</li> <li>ii) Budgetary Control Report for October and November 2015</li> <li>iii) Bank Interest Report for October and November 2015</li> <li>iv) Schedule of Receipted Income for October and November 2015</li> <li>v) Income Analysis for 2015/2016</li> <li>vi) Bad Debt</li> <li>vii) Month end overspend report, period October and November, 2015/16</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the reports be noted.</p>
<p><b>237.</b></p>	<p><b>To consider re-joining NALC/ALCA</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk reminded members that representatives from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Avon Local Councils' Association (ALCA) had attended an earlier Policy and Finance Committee to discuss the advantages of re-joining. The Town Council had left NALC/ALCA in 2010/11 as the total annual subscription for the year was nearly £8,000. If the Town Council re-joined now the fees for the year would be £2,647.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council do not re-join NALC/ALCA</p>
<p><b>238.</b></p>	<p><b>Car Parking Consultation</b></p> <p>The Car Park Consultation had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed members that although the closing date for the consultation had past, North Somerset Council had given the Town Council an extension to respond.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Clerk write to North Somerset Council stating that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Town Council appreciates the freeze in most parking charges but considers that North Somerset Council needs to develop a business strategy for car parking across its whole area, rather than the failed approach of making piecemeal changes to current tariffs to try to make</li> </ol>

	<p>up a budget shortfall.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. It is noted that car parking is now cheaper in central Bristol than in Weston. North Somerset Council should therefore reduce, rather than increase, charges for car parking in Weston town centre, recognising that people will take the option to shop elsewhere where parking is cheaper or free.</li> <li>3. Given that tourism is a mainstay of the town's economy, North Somerset Council should not be increasing all day parking charges for coaches to £10 as proposed, but should reduce them to £5.</li> <li>4. The proposed increases to the day and 7 day parking charges at Diamond Batch are illogical as they will merely further divert parking onto nearby residential roads.</li> <li>5. As in previous years, the Town Council objects to the fact that almost all of the charged car parks are in Weston and that no parking charges at all are applied in the town centres of Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea.</li> </ol>
<p>239.</p>	<p><b>Draft Town Council Strategy</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk and the draft Town Council Strategy had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Debate ensued with particular focus on the planning section and in particular houses of multiple occupancy (section 12.1 bullet point 2) and opposition to the conversion of retail units into residential dwellings (section 12.1 bullet point 3).</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That item 12.1, bullet point 2 be split in two and amended to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage the licensing of all houses of multiple occupancy</li> <li>• To oppose additional drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres</li> </ul> <p>Further debate ensued.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Mark Canniford  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Mike Lyall</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That opposition to the conversion of a retail unit into a residential dwelling be removed from the strategy</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that stakeholder input on the strategy would be beneficial.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That with the above changes the draft Town Council Strategy go out to public consultation.</p>

<b>240.</b>	<p><b>Budget 2016/17</b></p> <p>The draft budget 2016/17 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer informed members that an email from North Somerset Council had been received advising that costs for CCTV were £54,000 but this was not what the Town Council had agreed with North Somerset; so confirmation was being sought. There was also a discrepancy in the costs that North Somerset had provided for parks and recreation grounds. Confirmed costs would be taken to Town Council in January.</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer advised members that a seven year plan was agreed for the museum as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The council would need to underwrite the shortfall in the budget should further grant income not be received in order for the project to proceed and permission be given by the HLF to appoint the main contractor.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p><i>Councillor Purnell left the room at 8.00pm and returned at 8.03pm.</i></p> <p>The Chairman of the Tourism Committee advised that the Tourism budget could be cut by £17,000 from the draft budget, made up from:</p> <p>Savings to Tourism budget of £11,000:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Visitor Information Centre staffing costs be reduced by £4000</li><li>2. Cost of furnishing Visitor Information Centre be reduced by £5000</li><li>3. Visitor Information Centre running costs be reduced by £2000</li></ol> <p>Income of £6,000 from the TIC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Commission on ticket sales</li><li>2. Advertising</li><li>3. Space to rent out</li><li>4. Upgrade to membership packages</li><li>5. New members</li></ol> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Tourism budget be cut by £17,000 by making the changes set out above.</p> <p><i>Councillor Pilgrim left the meeting at 8.20pm.</i></p> <p>Further debate ensued. Four further changes to the draft budget were proposed and voted upon in turn as follows:</p>
-------------	---

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Mark Canniford

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Clive Darke

‘That the extension to Grove House be cut from the budget.’

A vote was taken and **lost**.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Mark Canniford

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Clive Darke

‘That the improvements to the Blakehay Bar be removed from the budget.’

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

**RESOLVED:** That the improvements to the Blakehay Bar be removed from the budget.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Mark Canniford

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Robert Payne

‘That the addition of £50,000 to the reserves fund is removed from the budget.’

A vote was taken and **lost**.

Further debate ensued and a further change was proposed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Robert Payne

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Mark Canniford

‘That the Visitor Information Centre be removed from the budget.’

A vote was taken and **lost**.

The Responsible Financial Officer noted the changes to the draft budget:

1. Reduction in Tourism Budget of £17,000 to make the balance £155,380
2. Reduction in Capital Projects of £31,000 to make the balance £146,410

The Responsible Financial Officer then advised that with the above agreed amendments the required budget and precept for 2016/17 would be as follows:

Total budget requirements	£1,807,424
Less grant NSC	£ 194,020
Precept	£1,642,507

The 2015/16 precept was £1,389,396 a difference of £253,111; and the number of Band D Properties: £24,080.80 (estimated by NSC +1%).

The Responsible Financial Officer further advised that the Town Council needed to underwrite any shortfall in the museum project and as such should be mindful of this when setting the precept.

	<p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> In order to secure the current design proposal for the refurbishment of the museum (HLF Grant), that the sum indicated in the budget (£87,000) would be underwritten by the council within its budget for 2016/17 in the event that further grant income from external bodies is not received.</p> <p>Taking into account the draft budget submitted to the Committee, along with the changes which had been passed it was then further:</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b> by 8 votes to 1. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the draft budget, incorporating the above changes be recommended to the Town Council for approval on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016.</p> <p>Councillor Mark Canniford asked for his vote against to be recorded.</p> <p>A copy of the budget summary following the meeting is appended to these minutes.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm</p>

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated.....