

WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON
MONDAY 6TH JUNE 2016

Meeting Commenced: 4.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 4.46 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Crew, James Clayton, John Crockford-Hawley, Catherine Gibbons, Jocelyn Holder, David Hitchins, Ian Porter, Len Purnell, Roz Willis and Clive Webb

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:, Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Tania Middlemiss (Assistant Town Clerk), Jennifer Lawley (Committee Officer), Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Administrator) and Ian Jefferies (Love Weston)

The meeting of the Tourism and Leisure Committee had been convened at 4.00 pm rather than 2.00 pm in order to accommodate members of the committee attending the opening of the new Visitor Information Centre at 6.00 pm.

8.	Election of Chairman The Town Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chairman. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Jocelyn Holder RESOLVED: That Councillor Peter Crew be elected Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee for the year 2016/2017. Councillor Peter Crew then took his place as Chairman of the meeting. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman invited questions and observations from parishioners present.
9.	To receive Apologies for Absence and Notifications of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Derek Mead, Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Debbie Matthews (Tourism Consultant) and Caroline Darlington (Visitor Information Officer). No notifications of substitutions were received. Councillor James Davis was not in attendance.
10.	To receive Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.
11.	Election of Vice Chairman The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roz Willis

	<p>SECONDED BY: Councillor Len Purnell</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Jocelyn Holder be elected Vice Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee for the year 2016/2017.</p>
12.	<p>Minutes of the previous Tourism & Leisure Committee Meeting held on 4th April 2016</p> <p>The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p>
13.	<p>Love Weston</p> <p>The report of the Tourism Consultant had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman had arranged for a projector and screen to be made available at the meeting in order that members could view a live link to the Love Weston website. The Chairman advised that all website enhancements as reviewed at the last meeting of the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting had been implemented.</p> <p>In response to a member's query on low website rankings in April, the Tourism Assistant advised on Google's continual tightening up of Search Engine Optimisation (SEO). However, work was in progress on all sites and New Mind were confident that this would be resolved and rankings would be back on track very soon.</p> <p>Debate ensued on holiday accommodation offered in the town and the feedback received. The seafront was excellent, the town poor and the resort was seen as a day tripper's destination. All agreed that the town needed visitors to stay overnight and in response debate ensued regarding the regeneration of the town, the empowering and encouragement of hoteliers and the improvement of holiday accommodation. Further Visitor Information Centre (VIC) feedback would be sought through surveys and the Visitor Information Officer was preparing a questionnaire. It was suggested that feedback be forwarded on to North Somerset Council for their information.</p> <p><i>Councillor John Crockford-Hawley joined the meeting at 4.15 pm, and apologised for his late attendance.</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.</p>
14.	<p>Visitor Information Centre</p> <p>The report of the Visitor Information Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The VIC was scheduled to open on Saturday 28th May 2016 with an official invitation only opening on the 6th June 2016. The Town Council had appointed two contract staff members and five casual staff members.</p> <p>Debate ensued on the current operation of the VIC to which the Town Clerk responded. One topic raised was that of security, and it was agreed that a hand held radio connection would be a sensible acquisition. The VIC had its own telephone number 01934 888877 which was linked into North Somerset Council's automated system. It was hoped that a</p>

	<p>more appropriate voicemail response for the VIC could be activated through the automated system.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Water Park Kiosk and Splash Pad</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk was tabled.</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported on the Town Council’s sustained commitment to the good maintenance and continuing improvement of the Water Park since its opening in 2010.</p> <p>The new refreshment kiosk was now open with the new concession having been awarded to Clare Morris of Coco Browns. The concessionaire had recently built a storage extension to the rear of the kiosk without prior notice. The Town Clerk advised that consent would need to be sought from North Somerset Council as landlord and with the approval of the committee, he would explore the need for and apply for any necessary consents.</p> <p>The Splash Pad had been out of commission for approximately two weeks, the problem having occurred just before the May Bank holiday. However, the issues were resolved quickly with the supplier after negotiations highlighted the importance of the Splash Pad’s swift repair, enabling the Splash Pad to be operational over the Bank holiday.</p> <p>New changing facilities at the Water Park had now been provided consisting of 4 cubicles.</p> <p>Debate ensued on the issue of people going over the wall to access the Water Park without payment and what actions were in place to discourage this practice. Challenging this type of behaviour was an option but the presence of a member of staff wearing a Hi Vis vest and walking around the Water Park should help to act as a deterrent.</p> <p>On the question of feedback about the Water Park, members were advised that the survey/questionnaire would be made available at the kiosk for members of the public to complete.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be approved.</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p>Parks and Play Areas</p> <p>A verbal report was received from the Community and Grounds Administrator in the absence of the Grounds Manager.</p> <p>At this time of year, the Grounds Team were extremely busy with grass mowing. Initiatives between Weston-In-Bloom and Tourism for ‘Year of the Garden’ were underway together with the ‘Go Potty’ project.</p> <p>The issues occurring with the plant room at the Water Park with the consequence of the Splash Pad’s closure, was once again highlighted.</p> <p>There had been severe vandalism at Jubilee Park involving the major multi play unit in the play area being badly damaged. The repair of the unit was being addressed but in the mean time the unit had been isolated with barriers.</p> <p>The Hutton Moor Skate Park Project was an on going initiative with a big lottery grant application being submitted and other grant application options being explored. The Town Clerk advised that the Skate Park had a 15 year lease and that he was meeting with a North</p>

	<p>Somerset Council officer regarding the extension of facilities at Hutton Moor Leisure Centre which hopefully would not affect the Skate Park Project.</p> <p>There were new play areas at West Wick and Weston Village, and in response to the Chairman, the Town Clerk affirmed that in principle it had already been agreed that these new play areas would come under Town Council management. During debate on devolved powers of North Somerset Council and possible funding for the Skate Park, the Community and Grounds Administrator informed that the Skate Park Project had been based on self funding and its refurbishment was in budget.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be received and noted.</p>
17.	<p>The Chairman advised members that the Tourism & Leisure Committee would in future convene at 7.00 pm and not 2.00 pm. The time of 2.00 pm had been initially scheduled to encourage hoteliers' attendance.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the change of meeting time be noted.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 4.46 pm.</p> <p>Signed.....Dated</p> <p>Councillor Peter Crew Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee</p>