

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2020**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.45 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mark Canniford (Town Mayor), Dot Agassiz, Marc Aplin, Roger Bailey, Gill Bute, Gillian Carpenter, James Clayton, Sarah Codling, Ciaran Cronnelly, David Dash, Catherine Gibbons, Pete McAleer, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter, Sonia Russe, Tim Taylor, Helen Thornton and Richard Tucker.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer/Administrator), Matthew Hardy (Weston Museum Visitor Services Manager), Henry Woodford, (Weston & Somerset Mercury) Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager), Mr Chris Harrison (NSC CCTV Control Room Manager), Hannah Cooke (Deputy Mayoress) and 1 member of the public.

394	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Ray Armstrong. Mike Bell Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Peter Fox, David Hitchins, Jan Holloway, Daniel Marcos-Ashworth, Ella Sayce and Roz Willis.</p>
395	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
396	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 20TH January 2020</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ian Porter SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
397	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Mayor's announcements and communications were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Town Mayor and Mayoress had attended 39 engagements and the Deputy Mayor had attended 1 on his behalf; which was a total of 203 to date.</p> <p>The Town Mayor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted his official visit, in January 2020, with Councillors Clayton & Crockford-Hawley to Hildesheim. They had undertaken a busy programme of 19 events during the visit.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informed meeting that the: The Hildesheim Youth Exchange visit scheduled for March & April 2020 had been cancelled. The Mayor's Ball, scheduled to be held on 28th March 2020, had been postponed until the Autumn.
398	<p><i>The Mayor advised the meeting that he would take agenda item 11 next:</i></p> <p>To approve the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2020 to May 2021</p> <p>The draft calendar had been previously circulated with the agenda. A further paper titled 'Suggested Proposal Corona Virus Emergency Measures' was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Mayor referred Councillors to the following points to be agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) That the calendar of meetings dates be approved.b) That after the close of the meeting, all committees, subcommittee and working party meetings be suspended until further notice.c) The Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, the Leader of the Conservative Group, The Mayor and the Town Clerk (or substitute representatives) hold communication either face to face or remotely on a regular basis as required.d) In addition to his existing powers the Town Clerk is temporarily authorised, in consultation with the above members where possible, to take all necessary decisions to enable Council services to continue as far as possible. <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>The meeting noted the Government announcement regarding social distancing and the closing of Town Council facilities was suggested. The Mayor informed the meeting that the Government was likely to announce social distancing and isolation measures later that the week.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Health & Safety advice was being taken from Ellis Witham and asked for Councillors to allow him to follow this guidance.</p> <p>A member said that she supported the proposals providing there would be no policy decisions made during the suspension.</p> <p>The Mayor promised that there would be no policy development during this time and expected the Government to amend current legislation and hoped that he had the trust of Councillors and explained the proposed communication channels.</p> <p>Members asked for clarification on the length of the suspension of the next complete cycle of meetings.</p> <p>The Mayor replied that the proposed suspension would be, initially, for 2 months and that it was about taking a lead rather than following, and helping the community.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the calendar of meetings dates be approved. 2. That after the close of the meeting, all committees, subcommittee and working party meetings be suspended until further notice. 3. The Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, the Leader of the Conservative Group, The Mayor and the Town Clerk (or substitute representatives) hold communication either face to face or remotely on a regular basis as required. 4. In addition to his existing powers the Town Clerk be temporarily authorised, in consultation with the above members where possible, to take all necessary decisions to enable Council services to continue as far as possible.
<p>399</p>	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting</p> <p>The notes of Youth Council meetings held in January 2020 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Noted.</p>
<p>400</p>	<p>Designation of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2020/2021</p> <p>The Mayor outlined the implications of the Covid 19 outbreak on the Mayoralty and informed the meeting that based on current Government advice it was unlikely that there would be a Town Council annual meeting in May. The Town Council was legally required to hold an annual meeting but legislation was likely to be introduced to allow its postponement until the summer.</p> <p>Events, functions and Mayoral engagements would be cancelled, possibly well into the next Mayoral year. This would impact on the Mayoralty and it would be disappointing for the Mayor to have no engagements or civic events.</p> <p>The Town Clerk clarified that it was procedurally acceptable to debate the matter.</p> <p>Discussion ensued.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor said that he recognised the disappointment for the Mayor for having to postpone the Mayor’s Ball, as it was unknown how long the pandemic would last. He accepted that it was an unfortunate situation and he supported the option of the current Mayor continuing in office for another year.</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bailey conveyed his disappointment to the meeting at not being proposed as Deputy Mayor designate. He understood that it would be pointless to take on the role if there were no engagements for the Deputy Mayor to attend.</p> <p>The Council paid tribute to Councillors James Clayton and Roger Bailey for their understanding and acceptance of the situation.</p> <p>An amendment was therefore proposed that:</p> <p>Councillor Mark Canniford remain in office as Town Mayor for 2020/2021 Councillor James Clayton remain in office as Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021 Councillor James Clayton be designated as Town Mayor for 2021/2022 Councillor Roger Bailey be designated as Deputy Town Mayor for 2021/2022.</p>

	<p>This amendment was accepted by the proposer and became part of the substantive motion.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>400.1 RESOLVED:</p> <p>Councillor Mark Canniford remains in office as the Town Mayor for 2020/2021.</p> <p>Councillor James Clayton remains in office as Deputy Mayor for 2020/2021.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>400.2 RESOLVED: That Councillor James Clayton be designated Town Mayor for the year 2021/2022.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>400.3 RESOLVED: That Councillor Roger Bailey be designated Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2021/2022.</p>
<p>401</p>	<p>Development in Weston Presentation by Alex Hearn, Assistant Director of Development and Environment, NSC.</p> <p>This agenda item was cancelled.</p>
<p>402</p>	<p>NSC Your Neighbourhood Consultations</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>This agenda item was cancelled.</p>
<p>403</p>	<p>Town Council Strategy 2020-30</p> <p>This agenda item was postponed until the next Town Council meeting.</p>
<p>404</p>	<p>Options for Streamlining of Committees</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Mayor allowed a short debate on the streamlining of Committees, to enable possible agreement on the options in the Town Clerk's report.</p> <p>The Leader of the Labour Group preferred that the matter be held over until after</p>

	<p>the current Covid19 outbreak restrictions were lifted.</p> <p>The Town Mayor decided that as there was no consensus on the options in the Town Clerk's report, the matter would be rescheduled to the next Town Council meeting, to be held after the current suspension of meetings.</p>
<p>405</p>	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>The Town Clerk referred Councillors to consider the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, regarding the six-month period of recording non-attendance of a Councillor at meetings, in the light of the suspension of all Council meetings as agreed in agenda item 11.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on the various implications of the suspension of meetings on the recording of Councillors' attendances at meetings.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ian Porter SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the absences of all councillors from meetings as from today, until the Council was able to meet again.</p>
<p>406</p>	<p>Earmarked Reserves 2020-2021</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained the purpose of the report and referred to the filling of grit bins which had not been required due to two mild winters.</p> <p>The Town Mayor recommended that the current Civic Budget underspend be included in the earmarked reserves for the year 2020/2021. This amendment was accepted by the proposer and became part of the substantive motion.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Earmarked Reserves for 2020-2021, to include the current Civic budget underspend, be approved.</p>
<p>407</p>	<p>To approve a CCTV Preferred Supplier (NSC Procurement)</p> <p>The report of the Deputy Town Clerk had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Mr Chris Harrison, North Somerset CCTV Room Manager, was in attendance and answered questions that were raised by Councillors.</p> <p>The Town Mayor informed Councillors that North Somerset Council's directors had congratulated Weston-super-Mare Town councillors and officers on their professional approach in the tendering process.</p>

Because of this information an amendment was made to item 2: That the current group of working party councillors be nominated to oversee the specification details of the contract. This amendment was accepted by the proposer and became part of the substantive motion.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ian Porter

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

A vote was taken and **carried**.

RESOLVED:

1. To confirm the Town Council commitment to continue to support CCTV camera provision in Weston-super-Mare for at least the next five years, to 2025/26, to allow the contract to be awarded to Select Electrical Ltd by North Somerset Council.
2. The current group of councillors continue to oversee the specification details of the contract for CCTV cameras in the parish with the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.
3. Approve that the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Policy & Finance be authorised to approve the final contracted specification for the Town Council following final meetings to determine this.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Dated: