

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 18th JULY 2022**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.12 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Sonia Russe (Town Mayor), Dot Agassiz, Ray Armstrong, Gill Bute, Gillian Carpenter, James Clayton, Peter Crew, Ciaran Cronnelly, David Dash, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, Jan Holloway, Clare Morris, Pete McAleer, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Tim Taylor, and Richard Tucker.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk, Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Rebecca Saunders (Mayors Civic Officer/Committee Officer), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplin), Inspector Graeme Hall (Avon and Somerset Police), Sargent Gemma Harper (Avon and Somerset Police) (Alan Rice (member of the public).

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplain to say prayers.

The Town Mayor invited members of the public to address the meeting.

Alan Rice spoke in support of item 8 on the agenda – Somewhere To Go and reported how invaluable the service was in supporting homeless people. This services included a safe space to socialise, wash, meal provision, medical attention and provided advice and support on housing, working with the homeless prevention team. Alan gave examples of specific situations where Somewhere To Go had been able to help people beyond the shelter with section 21 notices now that the Town Hall was closed to homeless people to present themselves for interview and who most did not have access to a telephone or online services. The service was open throughout the pandemic and extreme weather periods such as the current heatwave and the beast from the east. The funding from the Town Council to retain these services was vital and a plea for members' consideration was made.

Councillor Jan Holloway joined the meeting at 7.02 pm.

87	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Roger Bailey, Mike Bell, Mark Canniford, Sarah Codling, John Crockford-Hawley, Dave Hitchins, Ian Porter, Helen Thornton and Roz Willis.
88	To receive Declarations of Interest Councillor James Clayton declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – Somewhere To Go as a Trustee/Director.
89	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on the 19th May 2022 An amendment to page 1, para 2 'his' was highlighted as should be 'her'.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak
SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

90 Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-Super-Mare

The Town Mayor welcomed Inspector Graeme Hall and Sergeant Gemma Harper to the meeting.

Inspector Hall introduced Sergeant Gemma Harper as Sergeant for the Town Centre team and gave a brief overview of the priorities since being in post since November 2021.

He reported that the some of the most vulnerable and biggest at risk were not always visible and priority areas for the police were:

- County Lines, exploitation of young children and violence associated with this
- Organised crime gangs
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual abuse
- Hate Crime
- Mental Health
- Missing persons and children
- Anti-social behaviour in the town centre

This was a very busy period for the Police with a total of 101 calls currently logged with the commanding control centre, 36 of which were emergencies and needed to be responded to within an hour.

Officers were retained back for neighbourhood policing duties under a new operation called 'Operation Insidious'. Sergeant Harper then explained that this consisted of 2 officers patrolling the town centre targeting youth antisocial behaviour and anti-social drinkers, working with various partner agencies to tackle.

A question and answer session was then ensued.

A member that worked with domestic abuse victims and young families reported that when using the 101 service to put report a marker on properties, the wait time was up to 5hours.

Inspector Hall would feed this back to the commanding control centre and but encouraged using the online reporting service as well.

In response to a query regarding the stationing of the Bournville policing team, Inspector Hall reported that the current premises above the Bournville shops, Alliance Homes had given 6months notice so another premises were needed. The intention was to keep the team on the estate and various premises were being explored.

It was questioned if there had been a recognised substantial increase in policing in the town centre over the last 2years to which Inspector Hall advised that there had been an uplift in policing generally, but there were problems with the lead times in getting officers trained and into post. This was a challenge and there were currently 6 officers in the town centre team.

It was asked if there was any more support the Police could provide in respect of the antisocial behaviour problems in Grove Park and especially the provision of the toilets which had suffered immense damage and cost to the council. Inspector Hall reported that the team did everything they could to increase visibility in Grove Park and 'Operation Insidious' now covered this area. The team were very aware of the problems there but were also very busy responding to other higher risk demands.

It was noted that a new unit at Worle Parkway had opened to work with young offenders and that there was a known premise on the Bournville that maybe suitable for the stationing of the policing team shared with another organisation, which may be grateful for the police presence.

Inspector Hall informed that he had attended the See Monster planning meetings and was relatively comfortable that the risk assessments in place that the impacts of the influx of people could be managed. It was a great attraction for families and although he had to survey the risks with a pessimistic approach, the pros outweighed the cons.

The Police response to a drug dealing problem in the lane between Colonel Stephens Way and Ashcombe Road was commended by a member. Graeme thanked the member and said the police were aware of the problems there.

The problems with drinking, drug taking and concealing in the town centre and particularly around the Cilica were highlighted and it was questioned if drinking in the town centre was permitted. Sergeant Harper advised that drinking was not an illegal offence until the offender had been asked to stop or cease the alcohol and officers had the powers to do this.

Inspector Hall would report the problems with drinking, drug taking and concealing back to 'Operation Insidious' to monitor.

The Town Mayor thanked both Inspector Graham Hall and Sergeant Gemma Harper for attending *and they left the meeting at 7.42 pm.*

91 To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor

The Mayor's announcements and communications were circulated prior to the meeting.

There had been 37 engagements attended by the Mayor, by the Deputy Mayor, which was a total of 37 to date.

Significant upcoming events reported were the:

2nd June-Uphill Jubilee Beacon Lighting

5th June-Mayor's Jubilee Picnic in the park

12th June-Eid Celebration

16th June-Weston College Art Festival

22nd June-Weston College Governors Summer Dinner

25th-26th June-Armed Forces Weekend

2ND July-Weston Pride Opening

The Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor highlighted on how wonderful it was to be part of the Jubilee Beacon lighting events at Uphill hillside and the Grand Pier.

<p>92</p>	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meetings held in March, April & May 2022</p> <p>The notes of the Youth Council meetings had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes of the Youth Council meetings for March, April 7 May 2022 be received.</p>
<p>93</p>	<p>NSC Planning Consultation on Travel Plans</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The consultation will close on Monday 1st August 2022 at 12pm</p> <p>The Town Clerk commented was that there may be concern that the changed SPD would add to the burden on developers and businesses with potentially substantial fees. The minimum requirements were perhaps quite demanding for some of the smaller businesses affected such as retail, cafes and hotels and perhaps should be reconsidered so as not to place an undue burden on economic development.</p> <p>However, travel plan statements for the smallest businesses were free apart from the time and effort required to produce one and both NSC and the town council had declared a Climate Emergency. The lower thresholds were probably necessary to progress action on this and the fees presumably reflected on the amount of officer time involved rather than any profit element. The Town Clerk therefore expected the council would probably be supportive of the new Travel Plan requirements overall but invited views. He added that members could individually respond directly also.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That members provide the Town Clerk with their comments for him to collate a response on behalf of the Town Council by a deadline of 1st August.</p>
<p>94</p>	<p>Somewhere to Go</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the report outlined a summary of the specification of services. He added that a comment had been received from a member that work needed to be done on more measureable outcomes before entering into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) and pointed out that the town council did not have professional expertise in housing and homelessness so some help would be needed.</p> <p>Somewhere to Go had communicated that they would be happy to defer the SLA until the September meeting in order to firm up the specification.</p> <p>A member hoped that all councillors recognised the importance of the service and advised that meetings and progress of the board of trustees had been affected by covid. Two new trustees had now been appointed and so regular meetings could resume and progress on the specifications could be made.</p>

	<p>Members were in support of the SLA in principle and agreed that the £50,000 budget was safely earmarked for this, subject to it being fine-tuned.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Payne</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the entering into a Service Level Agreement be deferred until the September Town Council Meeting, to allow time for the specification to be fine-tuned with the addition of measurable outcomes.</p>
<p>95</p>	<p>Waterloo Street Progress</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated and the Town Clerk added that he was pleased to confirm that the purchase had been completed earlier that day and he had taken possession of the key at 6pm.</p> <p>There was work to be completed on the ground floor and to the front reception area to include an accessibility ramp. Planning Officers had confirmed that they were broadly happy with the plans for this.</p> <p>With regards to the procurement of M&E and internal works he handed over to the Deputy Town Clerk report.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that there were seven procurements out for the works and expressions of interest had been received. It was recognised that there may be an overlap with the M&E and refurbishment works and so it was suggested to send the specification for all works to each contractor. The works would need to be phased, but this should help save on cost. Unfortunately, this would cause a delay in the procurement process and would therefore need to be reported to the Policy & Finance Committee in October.</p> <p>It was suggested if the procurement could be dealt with at earlier meeting to which the Town Clerk informed this could be at the Town Council Meeting in September if quotes were in by then.</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Town Council notes the completion of the conveyancing of the building and the proposals in relation to accessibility. 2. To send the specification of both the M&E and Internal works to all contractors for quotes to be received and approved by either the Policy & Finance Committee in October or the Town Council in September.
<p>96</p>	<p>PWLB Loan for HQ Purchase</p> <p>The report of the Deputy Town Clerk (confirming prior resolutions) which had been written in order to formally approve the wording required by the Secretary of State and to confirm EIP as chosen repayment method was circulated at the meeting.</p>

It was noted that amendments to the dates within the report should be amended to reflect 22nd November 2021.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

At the Weston super Mare Town Council meeting of 18th July 2022, it was

RESOLVED:

1. To seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £200,000 over the borrowing term of 20 years. The annual loan repayments will come to around £13,791. It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

2. The Council resolves to take out a PWLB loan for £200,000 to support the purchase of 32 Waterloo Street, Weston super Mare. This will be taken on a EIP loan basis following reports received on 22nd November 2021 for a period of 20 years.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.12 pm.

Signed: Dated:

Town Mayor