

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON  
MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.03 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.27 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ciaran Cronnelly (Town Mayor), Ray Armstrong, Joe Bambridge, Roger Bailey, Mike Bell, Gill Bute, Mark Canniford, John Carson, Annabelle Chard, James Clayton, Jemma Coles, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Catherine Gibbons, Simon Harrison-Morse, Hugh Malyan, Robert Payne, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Marcia Pepperall, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen, John Standfield, Timothy Taylor, Helen Thornton, Richard Tucker, and Martin Williams.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Pearse (Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk-Op Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee & Office Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Inspector Lee Kerslake (Avon & Somerset Police), James Padgham (North Somerset Council) and 2 members of the public.

<b>373</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Peak, Charlie Williams and Owen James.
<b>374</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b>  There were none received.
<b>375</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024</b>  The minutes had been previously circulated.  It was noted that minute number 310 needed to reflect the date 2030.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Hugh Malyan <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting.
<b>376</b>	<b>To receive announcements and communications from The Town Mayor</b> The Mayor's announcements and communications had been circulated prior to the meeting.  There had been 38 engagements attended by the Mayor and 2 by the Deputy Mayor; which was a total of 229 to date.  <u>SIGNIFICANT EVENTS included:</u> <u>27<sup>th</sup> January-Annual Braille Chess Competition</u> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Feb-Axe District Scouts Gang Show</u> <u>8<sup>th</sup> Feb-Notable Club Visit</u>

16<sup>th</sup> February-Old Manor Inn reopening

2<sup>nd</sup> March-Mayor's Marathon – Thanks were given to all who supported, especially to the local businesses and sports/fitness groups. The event raised £2,500 for the Mayors Charity Food Bank.

10<sup>th</sup> March-RNLI Weston Freedom - This was a very well received event which was well attended by a RNLI. Thanks, were given to all who were involved in making the event happen and to the RNLI. Members were encouraged to visit the RNLI's Facebook page to view the drone footage of the event.

12<sup>th</sup> March MFA Lunch

16<sup>th</sup> March Hildesheim Exchange – The visitors had arrived safe and well with a full programme and the Mayor had hosted their welcome lunch earlier that day.

17<sup>th</sup> March High Sherriff Legal Service @ Wells cathedral

UPCOMING EVENTS including:

19<sup>th</sup> March Ramadan Celebrations

21<sup>st</sup> March Legally Blonde Production @ Blakehay Theatre

24<sup>th</sup> March RNLI Charity Half Marathon

5<sup>th</sup> April WODS Oklahoma performance

21<sup>st</sup> April St George Parade

2<sup>nd</sup> May Impaired Vision Bowls Tournament

4<sup>th</sup> May Mayor's Volunteer thank you reception

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Mayor's report be noted.

### **377 Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-Super-Mare**

The Town Mayor welcomed and introduced Inspector Lee Kerslake, to address the meeting

The Inspector updated on the followings:

- Staff resourcing was stable.  
Following the recent announcement that PCSO's would be frozen until 2025, this would not really affect Avon & Somerset as there were already committed PCSO's. in place and there was a push to fill beat manager positions within the force.
- It was reported that Grahame Hall would not be returning to the role and it would be confirmed soon who the new permanent post holder will be.
- There had been a rise in violence against the person in the last 3months (14% on last year). There was still a youth ASB issue, however this had improved in the last few months in the town centre. Improving the town centre and people's perception of it was one the forces main priorities.  
Youth ASB in the town centre was down by 24% as a result of dispersion, spreading to other areas or being taken off the streets with the intervention of Youth Services. Worle had seen an increase which was due to effective reporting. Any public concerns were encouraged to be directed to the Inspector. It was noted that there had been a 50% clean up rate for targeting of ASB in the town centre through Positive Outcomes.
- The Street Safe App was a great way to engage with people who felt unsafe and allowed the force to allocate resources.

	<p>In response to questions from members, The Inspector advised that:</p> <p>80 PCSO's would be lost across the constabulary over 1 year, accounting for natural wastage which was comparative with other areas. Redundancy assurance was given and it was noted that this was affected by the election and the public sector funding picture.</p> <p>The effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Talk Sessions, was dependant on delivery, the majority were well attended but if members had other experiences, please inform.</p> <p>With regards to the Street Safe App and number of reported crimes, it was advised that statistical information was 2/3 months delayed and members were encouraged to request more information on statistics, as this would give a better picture.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Inspector for his address and he <i>left the meeting at 7.38 pm.</i></p>
<p><b>378</b></p>	<p><b>North Somerset Council proposed plans for the Queensway traffic improvement plan</b></p> <p>Presentation by James Padgham, North Somerset Council, which would be circulated to members.</p> <p>Questions were raised in regards to improving traffic flow and impacts on car users' journeys.</p> <p>Concerns of providing value for money and introducing bus lanes in certain areas were raised. The timetabling of works needed to be managed very carefully and members encouraged lots of thought around this.</p> <p>Members requested if they could be notified of when works were about to take place?</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked James for his presentation and highlighted the need for public engagement around the works.</p> <p><i>James left the meeting at 7.48 pm</i></p>
<p><b>379</b></p>	<p><b>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meetings held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b></p> <p>The notes of the meeting had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Members noted the comments made about the Town Council meeting attended by Youth Council members. The Mayor advised that he had spoken to them on this and attended their latest meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Noted.</p>
<p><b>380</b></p>	<p><b>To receive and approve changes to the Committee Membership &amp; External Liaison Bodies</b></p> <p>A draft for approval had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Martin Williams</p>

	<p>It was noted that all current Chair and Vice Chair were men and that the placement of the Climate Change Working Party needed to be reviewed.</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That inclusive of changes, the Committee Membership &amp; External Liaison Bodies be approved and reissued.</p>
<p><b>381</b></p>	<p><b>Committee Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk / RFO outlining recommendations for approval to include (but not exclusive to):</p> <p><b>The Reference from the Policy &amp; Finance Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b></p> <p>To recommend the forming of a Grants Sub Committee. Minute Extract and report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Suggestions to accept the amended terms of reference, with the exception of the Grants Sub Committee for further scrutiny and that the Mayor should be consulted on the element of Christmas Lights were made.</p> <p>Concern was raised regarding the Climate Change Working Party and its current position reporting to the Expenditure &amp; Governance Working Party.</p> <p><i>Councillor Catherine Gibbons left the meeting at 8.15 pm</i></p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the need to review the council's committee structure in its entirety to include membership sizes and remit.</p> <p>Members noted that the council's Expenditure &amp; Governance Working Party had recommended accept a Peer Review to review the Council's Decision-Making process from no earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.</p> <p>In view of the Climate Change Working Party struggling to meet, a decision was made for it to report to the Expenditure &amp; Governance Working Party for the time being to avoid it falling off the radar.</p> <p>It was suggested that Weston In Bloom was also currently reporting elsewhere to the Community Services Committee which should also be reviewed.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To formally adopt the amended Terms of Reference for use with immediate effect with the exception of the Grants Sub Committee for further scrutiny.</p>
<p><b>382</b></p>	<p><b>Approve the Earmarked Reserves for the Year 2024/2025</b></p> <p>The report for approval had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Tim Taylor</p>

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

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Earmarked Reserve estimates for the year 2024 / 2025 at this point in time, approving further that any final adjustments to the figure could be approved by Policy and Finance Committee at its first meeting in the new financial year (April 2024).

**383 To Adopt the Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The report of the Town Clerk/Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated and the Green Infrastructure Strategy recirculated.

It was noted that since the initial circulation of the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Climate and Community Development Officer post has been removed and should be taken into consideration in relation to ongoing officer support required.

Members were given until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 to provide feedback on the strategy and none known feedback had been received.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Helen Thornton  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Tim Taylor

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Green Infrastructure Strategy be approved and adopted.

**384 Designation of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2024/2025**

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Robert Payne  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **UNANIMOUSLY** carried:

**.1 RESOLVED:** That Councillor John Crockford-Hawley be designated Town Mayor for the year 2024/2025.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Gill Bute  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Marc Aplin

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **UNANIMOUSLY** carried:

**.2 RESOLVED:** That Councillor Martin Williams be designated Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2024/2025.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.27 pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

Town Mayor