

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT  
THE TOWN HALL ON  
MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 7.48 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Raymond Armstrong (Town Mayor), Clive Webb (Leader of the Town Council), Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, David Hitchins, Jocelyn Holder, Jan Holloway, Steven Kane, Michael Lyall, Michal Kus, Derek Mead, Richard Nightingale, Ian Porter, Frederick Parsons, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Len Purnell, Anita Spencer-Johns, Richard Tucker and Roz Willis.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayor’s Civic Officer), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager), Father Andrew Hughes (Town Mayor’s Chaplin) and Becky Parker (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplin, Father Andrew Hughes to say prayers.

<b>60</b>	<p><b>To receive Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clive Darke, Roger Bailey, James Davis and Martin Williams.</p>
<b>61</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
<b>62</b>	<p><b>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting and Ceremony of Mayor Making held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be signed and approved.</p>
<b>63</b>	<p><b>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor informed that to date he had attended 25 engagements, 15 by himself and 10 by the Deputy Mayor whom he thanked for stepping in whilst he was away in Hildesheim.</p> <p>The Mayor reported that he had unfortunately been taken ill during his visit to Hildesheim but that he was now recovered. He had a very good trip and was one of the Mayors of the seven towns twinned with Hildesheim who had been invited.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor thanked the councillors who supported him over the Armed Forces Day weekend, in particular Councillors Jan Holloway and Roger Bailey.</p>

<p>64</p>	<p><b>Election of Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>The current Leader of the Council informed that he had made the decision to step down as Leader to avoid any conflicts of interest due to his appointment as Chairman of the Planning &amp; Regulatory Committee at North Somerset Council.</p> <p>Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor Clive Webb be elected Leader of the Council for the year 2015/2016.</p>
<p>65</p>	<p><b>Terms of Reference for Committees and Officer Delegations</b></p> <p>The revised Terms of Reference for Committees had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that it had become apparent over the last year that terms of reference were needed for the Allotment Management Sub Committee, Museum Working Party and Weston In Bloom Working Party. These had been incorporated within the Terms of Reference circulated.</p> <p>In 2011 the Leader of the Council at that time felt that the Planning Committee should be downgraded and that the transportation element should be delegated to the Community Services Committee. It had transpired that this decision was not working well as Community Services had long agendas without the addition of the transportation element. They also only met every 12 weeks which did not coincide well with North Somerset Council’s time frames. The Planning Committee met every four weeks and so it made sense to devolve the element of transportation back to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>The former Leader informed that the changes to the Town Council’s Terms of Reference had been approved by the Policy &amp; Finance Committee in June 2015. He advised, however, that a proposal should have been made for the increase of membership from 8 to 9 for both the Planning and Personnel Committee. He also proposed that Community Services, item no.6, should use the wording YMCA and Youth Services rather than ‘Barcode’.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roz Willis</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the circulated Terms of Reference for Committees and Officer Delegations with the following amendments (appended to these minutes):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That all the transportation elements of the Community Services terms of reference should be transferred to the Planning Committee.</li> <li>2. That both the Planning and Personnel Committee be increased to nine members.</li> <li>3. That the Community Services Committee should reflect the wording YMCA and Youth Services.</li> </ol> <p><i>It was announced at this point in the meeting that the following day was the Weston In Bloom judging day, and that volunteers would be preparing from 5.30 am in the morning. If any members wished to participate</i></p>

	<p><i>they should email the Community and Grounds Administrator.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor Ian Porter left the meeting at 7.16 pm.</i></p>
66	<p><b>Town Council Strategy 2016-2020</b></p> <p>Copies of the current Town Council Strategy 2012-2016 had been previously circulated and were available at the meeting.</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had also been previously circulated with the agenda which recommended that the Town Council set up a small Working Group of five or six members to discuss and agree the contents of a Strategy and report back to the Town Council.</p> <p>The Town Clerk reminded members that the Council budget would be set in January 2016 and so a Strategy for 2016-2020 needed to be considered within this year's budget setting process for it to be in place. This was an opportunity for members to express their thoughts. A strategy meeting could be scheduled either on Council premises or externally with the aim of drafting some recommendations in readiness for the next full Town Council meeting.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roz Willis</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council set up a Working Party of six members consisting of four Conservatives, one Labour and one Liberal Democrat, reflecting the political balance of the Council.</li> <li>2. On Cllr Catherine Gibbons recommendation, Cllr Mike Lyall would represent the Labour Group. The other two Groups were asked to choose their representatives as soon as possible and notify the Town Clerk.</li> </ol>
67	<p><b>Museum Project</b></p> <p>The report of the Responsible Financial Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda on the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Project. The report recommended that the Town Council retains oversight of the project and requests regular reports on its progress.</p> <p>The Chairman invited the Chairman of the Museum Working Party to elaborate on any part of the report.</p> <p>The Chairman took the opportunity to thank members of the previous administration for their far sighted decision to take on the Museum as a result of the cut backs made by North Somerset Council who otherwise would have closed it. The collaborative working of the Town Council together with local organisations and volunteers without political rancour or division had resulted in the success of the HLF grant for which he thanked the former Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Chairman thanked the Responsible Financial Officer and the Development Officer, the Museum Supervisor and staff and also the staff at Somerset County Council for their work towards the success of the grant. It had taken four years of hard work to reach this point and the Museum project has had to be adapted due to budget constraints. At present, the second courtyard does not feature in the project. However, it was hoped that if more</p>

	<p>funding were obtained, then it could be included in the second phase to the project along with Clara's Cottage.</p> <p>If any member wished to see the Museum before it was handed over to the builders, they were invited to contact the Museum Supervisor to arrange a visit.</p> <p>In conclusion, members were invited not only to 'Buy-a-Block if they had not already done so but to publicise the campaign. Funding was still very much needed.</p> <p>Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council retains oversight of the project and requests regular reports on its progress.</p> <p>The former Leader of the Council took the opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Working Party for his commitment to the project.</p> <p>Further debate ensued. Credit was due to the Town Council for the Museum's achievements in such a short time. It was questioned whether the possibility of publishing pictorial evidence in the Weston Mercury had been something that had been considered by the Museum Working Party? In addition and thinking forward to the re-opening of the Museum in 2017, the Hildesheim choir had expressed a desire to sing there as they were unable to do so on their last visit to Weston-super-Mare.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Museum Working Party informed that although the A1 Camera Club had been photographing every item of the Museum's collection, Weston Mercury were more than welcome to take pictorial evidence of the Museum whilst it underwent its refurbishment. In response to the request for the Hildesheim choir singing and the reopening of the Museum, he was unable to confirm any definite arrangements at this time.</p>
<p>68</p>	<p><b>Blakehay Theatre</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda which outlined a proposal for a resident production company at the Blakehay Theatre.</p> <p>The Town Clerk took the opportunity to advise members on Blakehay Theatre's background and included in his report income and expenditure figures from 2010 to date. While the Theatre was not a business, -it was important to operate it in a business-like way. The figures indicated that there had been a steady improvement in the income figures and a reduction in the subsidy required over the last five years. The Blakehay Theatre complements the Playhouse and does not compete with it. There had been a great improvement in the variety of shows produced at the Blakehay Theatre due to the good management of Theatre Manager.</p> <p>The Theatre Manager had worked on a proposal for Sunshine Productions to be the resident production company at the theatre. They were a local organisation whose members were selected on an invitation only basis to ensure a high quality of productions. They would produce at least one major week long production and four short productions per year which would bring new audiences and businesses into the Blakehay Theatre.</p>

	<p>The Theatre Manager was in attendance to answer any questions from members.</p> <p><i>Councillor Lisa Pilgrim left the meeting at 7.44 pm.</i></p> <p>The former Leader of the Council requested that members recognise that the Blakehay Theatre was a community facility and was not designed to make a profit. The Town Council had however made plans to decrease the subsidy to the Blakehay within its Annual Performance Plan and four year Strategy.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roz Willis</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To approve the proposal for Sunshine Productions to become the Resident Production Company at the Blakehay Theatre for a 12 month trial period with effect from September 2015.</li><li>2. To instruct the Town Clerk to finalise detailed terms with Sunshine Productions in accordance with the outline proposal as reported.</li></ol>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.48 pm</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: ..... Town Mayor</p>