

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2015**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.12 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Roz Willis (Town Mayor), Peter Crew (Leader of the Town Council), Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, John Crockford-Hawley, Clive Darke, Peter Fox, David Hitchins, Jan Holloway, Cyril King, Michael Lyall, Michal Kus, Derek Mead, Frederick Parsons, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Len Purnell, Sonia Russé, Simon Stokes, Tim Taylor, Richard Tucker, Rose Warwick and Clive Webb.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayor’s Civic Officer), Jocelyn Holder (Mayoress), Joan Dunne (Deputy Mayoress), Reverend Keith Berry-Davies, Becky Parker (Weston & Somerset Mercury), Mandy Bishop (Assistant Director, North Somerset Council) (part attendance) Faye Powell (Community Response Team) (part attendance), Racheal Lewis (North Somerset Council) (part attendance), Tririlia Newbury (Chairperson of Multicultural Friendship Association) and 14 members of the public.

The Town Mayor invited Reverend Keith Berry-Davies to say prayers.

392.	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Keith Morris and Ian Porter.</p>
393.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
394.	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19th January 2015.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed and approved.</p>
395.	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor informed that she had to-date attended 317 engagements and was still receiving invitations for engagements before 21st May 2015.</p> <p>The Town Mayor announced that the winner of Weston’s Got Talent would be opening the Annual Town Meeting on 16th April 2015 and the meeting would be followed by a Borough Shield reception.</p> <p>The Mayor’s ‘In the Pink’ Charity Dinner was on 1st April 2015.</p> <p>The Mayor and Mayoress attended a Royal 40 Commando event on the 13th March 2015 which they found very moving and humbling.</p>

	<p>The Mayor's Charity Ball held on Saturday night was a very enjoyable evening. The funds raised were still to be counted and it was wonderful to host the Royal Marines that attended.</p> <p>395.1 Sky Lanterns</p> <p>The Town Mayor queried whether councillors had received a letter from Avon & Somerset Fire Brigade requesting support from the Town Council for a ban of fire lanterns. Sky lanterns were causing fires and problems for farmers and animals.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roz Willis SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Council supports Avon & Somerset Fire Services' request to ban the use of fire lanterns and that North Somerset Council be advised accordingly.</p>
<p>396.</p>	<p>To make amendments to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations</p> <p>Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been previously circulated by email.</p> <p>At the last meeting of the Town Council on the 19th January 2015 it had been resolved that both documents lay on the table for one meeting cycle to allow time for any changes to be considered prior to final approval.</p> <p>The Leader proposed that the following amendments be made to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To amend Officer spending limits and the threshold for three quotations to £7,500 2. To amend the threshold for tenders to £65,000 3. To amend the threshold for public advertisement to £95,000 <p>The amendments proposed appeared prudent in view of the plans ahead for Love Weston and the works at Hutton Moor Allotments.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: The following amendments be made to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To amend Officer spending limits and the threshold for three quotations to £7,500 2. To amend the threshold for tenders to £65,000 3. To amend the threshold for public advertisement to £95,000
<p>397.</p>	<p>The motion to vary the order of business (<i>Standing Order 10.1.1</i>) and bring forward agenda item 11 'To approve earmarked reserves for the year 2015/2016' was proposed by the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Roz Willis</p> <p>Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: Agenda item 11 'To approve earmarked reserves for the year 2015/16' be brought forward for debate.</p>

<p>398.</p>	<p>To approve Earmarked Reserves for the year 2015/2016</p> <p>The report of the Financial Officer was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Councillors were invited to approve the earmarked reserve (EMR) requirements for the year 2015/2016 (noting the final confirmation would be taken to Policy & Finance Committee on 20th April 2015) with consideration to the general reserves levels to be included with the Medium Term Financial Plan to be reviewed April 2015.</p> <p>In light of the reduction in the North Somerset Council grant, the Leader proposed that the £26,218 EMR be transferred back into general reserves.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The £26,218 EMR be transferred back into general reserves and to approve the earmarked reserve requirements for the year 2015/2016 at £383,85 with consideration to the general reserves levels to be included with the Medium Term Financial Plan to be reviewed April 2015.</p>
<p>399.</p>	<p>Museum - Heritage Lottery Fund Grant</p> <p>399.1 To formally accept the HLF Terms of Grant for the Museum</p> <p>Appendix 2: Additional grant conditions had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Museum Working Party thanked all his fellow councillors for their support towards the biggest project the Town Council had undertaken. He also thanked all the officers and external organisations involved in the project. The Town Council now faced the loss of the Museum building for 2 years and the collections being placed in storage. The Museum needed to be kept alive and so a temporary display and presence would be needed.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council thanked the Chairman of the Working Party for his commitment and hard work to the project and informed that although the grant had been successful there was still a lot of work to be completed. The Town Mayor concurred and gave thanks to all involved.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>RESOLVED: The HLF Terms of Grant for the Museum be accepted.</p> <p>399.2 To adopt the revised budget for the Museum</p> <p>The report of the Responsible Financial Officer and the revised HLF revenue budget for the years 2015/2016 – 2016/ 2017 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report requested members to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formally note the use of the revised HLF revenue budget (previously approved within the Business Plan) for the year 2015/2016. 2. Approve that the saving of £23,917 be placed in an EMR at the year ending 31.03.16 towards the Town Council's contribution to the project (total contribution approved at £200,000).

	<p>The Responsible Financial Officer advised that although the revised budget would enable the Town Council to deliver all it needed for the Museum which would result in a saving, there would still be a shortfall on income. This was the motivation behind the circulation of ‘Buy a Block’ forms at the meeting, and councillors being invited to pass the forms on to anybody who may be interested in buying a block.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the report of the Responsible Financial Officer that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formally note the use of the revised HLF revenue budget (previously approved within the Business Plan) for the year 2015/2016. 2. Approve the saving of £23,917 be placed in an EMR at the year ending 31.03.16 towards the Council’s contribution to the project (total contribution approved at £200,000).
<p>400.</p>	<p>To respond to the Weston-super-Mare Prospectus for Change Consultation</p> <p>The consultation document from North Somerset Council was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Rachael Lewis to present the Prospectus for Change consultation which had been circulated to councillors at the meeting.</p> <p>The aim of the consultation was to revitalise the town centre. North Somerset Council would be looking at ways of making the most of what was there in terms of heritage, transport links and education. The purpose of the document was to seek views and the consultation was available to view on North Somerset Council’s website. Councillors were asked to respond with their comments via the website in order for their views to be collated and recorded. All feedback would be used to address the issues together and deliver the project.</p> <p>The vision proposed new housing in the town centre; targeting young people and new businesses; developing leisure activities; a better retail offer; looking at the town’s heritage and digital opportunities i.e. online shopping and infrastructure. There would be a formal consultation period of one month.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that he had been contacted by Mike Jackson, Chief Executive, North Somerset Council, encouraging the Town Council to make a formal response on the consultation.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited councillors to ask any questions.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the images used in the document were not of the town and the question was raised regarding North Somerset Council’s vision for the town. In response, councillors were informed that the vision was to attract more people and businesses to live, work and attend college/university in the town centre.</p> <p>An update on the situation with Dolphin Square was requested. Councillors were informed that other than what had already been printed by the Mercury newspaper, which was that the delay had been held up by the deal with Cineworld, there was no further information.</p>

	<p>A councillor stressed that the style and build of the proposed housing was very important and that any accommodation needed to be modern, contemporary and upmarket to attract the right calibre of people into the town. In response this was confirmed that this was the vision.</p> <p>It was highlighted that there was no mention of how car parking was going to be addressed which was a fundamental issue that needed to be attended to before the introduction of any additional housing in the town centre. In reply, members were advised that car parking in the town was a significant problem which needed to be looked at and if the plans for accommodation did come to fruition, then car parking would need to be considered.</p> <p>The revitalisation of the town centre was welcomed by members and had been long overdue although it was a shame that these plans had only arisen as a result of the recent sale of the Winter Gardens. There seemed to be no financial commitment from North Somerset Council to the town centre and if the planned accommodation did come to fruition then there were concerns that there would be nowhere available for retail businesses to locate in terms of premises. In response, it was emphasised that any plans for housing needed to be employment led. There was no point in encouraging people to live in the town when there was no employment.</p> <p>The expansion plans for Hutton Moor were also queried and members were advised to speak to Russ Currie of North Somerset Council for more information on this aspect of the project.</p> <p>Plans for the proposed bus interchange were requested as there was no existing focal point. Councillors were informed that Alexandra Parade was another location being considered by the highways department for bus stops and parking.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked Racheal Lewis for attending the meeting and presenting the Prospectus for Change consultation document.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Town Clerk will collate all comments and questions raised by members and consult Group Leaders before responding to North Somerset Council.</p>
<p>401.</p>	<p>Community Response Project</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Mandy Bishop, Assistant Director, North Somerset Council, to present the Community Response Project to the Town Council.</p> <p>Faye Powell, Community Response Team was in attendance for the presentation.</p> <p>Since the relocation of the Police Station into the Town Hall there had been improvements in joint working with the Police to deliver on the ground services. There was room for further improvement and the aim was to look at how to develop the service. A report would be presented to North Somerset Council on the 24th March 2015 advising that an application had been submitted to the Chief Constable requesting that Community Response Team Officers be trained to help to support the Police. The team were also looking at the employment of officers for enforcement to deal with key issues.</p> <p>Issues reported and picked up by the community response team were, for example, parking issues, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour. All reported problems identified were being resolved jointly between North Somerset Council and the Police in the form of the Community Response Project.</p>

	<p>The team were very keen to involve Ward Councillors in the two year project and welcomed any comments.</p> <p>The Town Mayor advised that a presentation handout had been emailed to the Town Clerk and was available to members.</p> <p>A councillor advised that parking and school patrols in his ward were a serious issue and requested that this be looked into as soon as possible. Councillors were informed that the team would respond to town councillors and would be happy to meet with the Town Clerk on a regular basis to communicate on the project. The Leader of the Council suggested the Town Council might be able to help with signage to address dog fouling and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>A councillor in response to the plans for on the spot fines for dog fouling felt that the situation needed to be handled by way of education in the first instance and to give people the opportunity to pick up the faeces before the fine was imposed.</p> <p>It was queried how the Community Response Officers would operate and be identified? North Somerset Council needed to demonstrate to the Police the advantages of the team's support which would necessitate a range of powers. In exercising these powers the Community Response Officer would be identified by a uniform and vehicles would be marked.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked Mandy Bishop and Faye Powell for attending the meeting.</p> <p><i>Mandy Bishop, Faye Powell and Rachael Lewis left the meeting at 8.10 pm.</i></p>
<p>402.</p>	<p>Role and Work of the Multicultural Friendship Association</p> <p>The Mayor invited Trilina Newbury, Chairperson of the Multicultural Friendship Association, to give her PowerPoint presentation on the role and work of the organisation.</p> <p>A handout reflecting the PowerPoint presentation had been circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The presentation provided an insight into the work of the organisation, and four members of the association gave personal accounts of how they had benefitted as a member.</p> <p>Councillors were informed that the association were happy to help anyone from any community or culture.</p> <p>The Town Mayor informed of how the association had helped and made a huge difference to her in her personal experience and how their friendship had been humbling.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Chairperson and members of the Multicultural Friendship Association for attending the meeting.</p>
<p>403.</p>	<p>To agree the 2015-2019 Councillors Induction Process and Training</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report outlined the process of the members' induction programme and requested councillors to approve that the Members' Training Day on the 13th June 2015 be mandatory</p>

	<p>The Town Clerk informed that approval of the report would help with the induction process of newly elected Town Councillors.</p> <p>Councillors were of the opinion that the training day on 13th June 2015 should not be a mandatory requirement and that Chairman training should be delivered in-house and not by an external body.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roz Willis SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Town Clerk’s report be approved with the removal of the word ‘mandatory’ and that the Chairman training should be delivered in-house.</p>
<p>404.</p>	<p>Achievements of Weston-super-Mare Town Council 2011-2015</p> <p>The Town Clerk’s report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that councilors might wish to be reminded of the Town Council’s achievements recognising that councillors of all groups had worked well together since May 2011. The report outlined the main achievements. The Town Clerk felt it appropriate to write this report as an historic document and thanked councillors on behalf of the staff for a very co-operative Town Council during the 2011-15 administration.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for his report.</p>
<p>405.</p>	<p>Designation of Mayor 2015 – 2016</p> <p>One nomination for the position of Mayor 2015-2016 was made and voted upon.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Payne</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillor Raymond Armstrong be designated Mayor for the year 2015-2016.</p> <p>Designation of Deputy Mayor</p> <p>One nomination for the position of Deputy Mayor 2015-2016 was made and voted upon.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Simon Stokes</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillor Alan Peak be designated Deputy Mayor for the year 2015-2016.</p>
<p>406.</p>	<p>Motion to Council – To support placement of The Winter Gardens Pavilion on the Statutory List of Protected Buildings</p> <p><i>"This Council supports moves to place the Winter Gardens Pavilion on the Statutory List of Protected Buildings, not in order to frustrate plans for educational expansion on the site, but to enable the structure’s architectural quality to be more fully recognised and appreciated at national level. This Council instructs the Town Clerk to write accordingly to English Heritage. This Council also believes that Weston’s quality buildings of Victorian / Edwardian and 1920s / 30s provenance could play a significant role in raising the town’s image"</i></p>

	<p>The Mayor invited Councillor John Crockford-Hawley to add further information in support of his motion to the Town Council.</p> <p>Councillor John Crockford-Hawley said that the Winter Gardens should be listed because it was a good 1920's design. Weston College intends to restore the frontage, and listed building status would mean that any buildings attached to the Winter Garden Pavilion needed to be of high architectural quality.</p> <p>Rachael Lewis representing North Somerset Council informed that part of the Prospectus for Change consultation was to recognise the town's historic buildings.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>RESOLVED: This Town Council supports the move to place the Winter Gardens Pavilion on the Statutory List of Protected Buildings, not in order to frustrate plans for educational expansion on the site, but to enable the structure's architectural quality to be more fully recognised and appreciated at national level. This Town Council instructs the Town Clerk to write accordingly to English Heritage. This Council also believes that Weston's quality buildings of Victorian/Edwardian and 1920s/30s provenance could play a significant role in raising the town's image.</p>
	<p>The Town Mayor took the opportunity to thank the Town Council for its co-operation and respectfulness over the past four years and wished all well with the forthcoming election.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.12 pm</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Town Mayor</p>