

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015  
AT THE BLAKEHAY THEATRE**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roz Willis (The Mayor of Weston-super-Mare and Chairman of the Town Council), Peter Crew (Leader of the Council), Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, James Clayton, Clive Darke, Peter Fox, Jan Holloway, Cyril King, Michal Kus, Mike Lyall, Derek Mead, Frederick Parsons, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Len Purnell and Sonia Russé.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jocelyn Holder (Mayoress), Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Tania Middlemiss (Assistant Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Jennifer Lawley (Secretary to the Town Clerk), Chris Millard (Civic Officer), Sally Heath (The Blakehay Theatre Manager), Rob Heath (Theatre Technician), Kevin Lilwall (Senior Youth Work Officer Lead), Debbie Matthews (Love Weston Website Consultant), Ian Jefferies (Love Weston Website Assistant), Simon Parry (Photographer), Connor Bradley (Winner of Weston's Got Talent 2014), Street Pastors (10) (Mayor's Award recipients), Bert and Cynthia Filer (Mayor's Award recipients), Rosemary Dowie (Mayor's Award recipient), George Coles (Mayor's Award recipient) and 83 Parishioners.

The Mayor thanked and welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and invited Connor Bradley, the winner of Weston's Got Talent 2014 to perform and officially open the meeting.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Weston-super-Mare Town Council had been circulated. The Town Mayor informed that Councillor James Clayton had been elected as a Labour Town Councillor for Wyvern ward on a by election in 2014 to replace the late Councillor Tony Probert who had sadly passed away.

The Town Mayor wanted this year to be a celebration hence the invitation to former Borough Shield recipients to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the award and join her in a reception after the close of the meeting.

On arrival, electors had received a Public Consultation form of which the Town Council would be very grateful if they could fill in and leave with a member of staff.

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rose Warwick, Mark Canniford and Richard Tucker together with Joan Thompson (former Borough Shield recipient).</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Presentations</b></p> <p><b><u>Borough Shield Recipients</u></b></p> <p>The Town Mayor invited the current and all former Borough Shield recipients, including Alderman Ken Lacey, to come forward for a photo with herself and the Mayoress to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the award.</p>

**Town Mayor's Awards**

The suggestion of a Mayor's Award was first made in 1997 by Charter Trustee Mayor, Councillor Mrs Valerie McCann. Councillor McCann had suggested that an Award be introduced which could be presented to local people, organisations and/or schools, for their achievements in the town of Weston-super-Mare.

The Award would be presented at a ceremony to be held on an annual basis and could either be a single presentation, or extended to more than one recipient.

There were numerous people and organisations in Weston-super-Mare whose contributions to the town have gone unrecognised because of the restrictions imposed on the presentation of the Borough Shield, which was presented to only one person or organisation each year. During the course of a Mayoral year, the Town Mayor meets many people and organisations and from those people the Mayor would be able to identify fitting recipients of an Award.

The Mayor's Award was given to people who make an outstanding contribution to the local community and add significantly to the quality of life of those around them. The Mayor's Award formally acknowledges the positive difference made by those who live or work in the Town and was in recognition of their inspirational and dedicated work to the local community.

The recipients of the Town Mayor's Award were to be presented with a framed Weston-super-Mare Coat of Arms and their names would be recorded on the Town Mayor's Roll of Honour at Grove House.

The Town Mayor informed that her first Mayor's Award was to Bert and Cynthia Filer for their involvement in Weston in Bloom and other organisations in Weston-super-Mare which had not gone unnoticed. In particular for the last 3 years Weston-super-Mare has been awarded gold by the South West in Bloom judges. This was a reflection of the ongoing commitment they have both made. Their voluntary work to improve and regenerate our local environments had been a significant impact on making our Town a welcoming place for residents and visitors alike.

The Town Mayor invited Bert and Cynthia to receive their award.

The second Mayor's Award was to George Coles for his outstanding commitment and support of the TS Weston Sea Cadet unit over a period of some fifty years and has been an integral part of the many successes the Unit had achieved. Under his Chairmanship of the Management Committee for the past 35 years, the Unit had been awarded the Canada Trophy three times as 'Best Unit in the Country'. His devotion to TS Weston Sea Cadets had made a noteworthy contribution to the development of young people of our town.

The Town Mayor invited Mark to receive his award.

The third Mayor's Award was to Rosemary Dowie for her commitment to numerous organisations, initiatives and campaigns over many years for the good of Weston-super-Mare and had made a significant contribution to the development of our town. Additionally her willingness to take on many voluntary management and administrative roles within these

	<p>organisations in our town had allowed the members to successfully promote their aims and objectives in numerous aspects of the issues that matter to the wellbeing of our community.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Rosemary to receive her award.</p> <p>The fourth Mayor's Award was to the Street Pastors organisation that had made a significant impact to the wellbeing and care of the vulnerable young people who use the night time entertainment in our town. This caring work had complemented the role of other organisations that are involved in managing the safety of our young people. The commitment by the Street Pastors to voluntarily give their time during unsociable hours was a credit to them all. This work had a positive impact on the community and was very worthy of recognition.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited the Street Pastors to receive their award.</p> <p><b><u>Certificate of Thanks</u></b></p> <p>The Town Mayor wanted to present a Certificate of Thanks to Sayd Ahmed of Pappadoms Indian Takeaway in recognition of his financial support to the Mayor's Charity Ball.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Sayed to receive his award.</p> <p><b><u>Total Grants</u></b></p> <p>The Town Mayor invited all the Small and Voluntary grant recipients in attendance to come forward to receive a presentation cheque totalling £4,857 which represented the total grants awarded to several local organisations for the year 2014/15.</p> <p>The Town Mayor then invited all in attendance at the meeting to join her in a cheese and wine reception after the meeting.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014.</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor informed that she had sent her apologies for not attending the 2014 meeting which had not been recorded.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That with the above amendment the minutes be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Remarks by the Leader of the Council and Report from the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee 2014/2015</b></p> <p>The Mayor introduced the Leader and Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, Councillor Peter Crew.</p> <p>The Leader informed of how nice it was to see so many people in attendance and began by reporting on what a busy year the Town Council had had. He highlighted the success of the</p>

	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid for the Museum and also the Youth Services where the Town Council were continuing to work with its partners to deliver Youth Services which were going from strength to strength with outreach work in Worle and Bournville. The Leader was also pleased to report that the Town Council had come in under budget this year and that its finances had been well controlled which had allowed the Town Council to set a zero increase for taxpayers in the coming year. Love Weston continued to develop and had proved successful and was one of the busiest tourist destination websites available.</p> <p>Finally, the Leader reported that it had been a pleasure to lead the Town Council and took the opportunity to thank his fellow Councillors for working together to deliver the successes.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Leader of the Council for his report.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Report of the Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee 2014/15</b></p> <p>The Mayor introduced the Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee, Councillor Sonia Russè.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the Town Council could be proud of our town but needed the support of in resort marketing to support its Tourism aspirations. The Council had employed its own Tourism Consultant who was expert in Tourism websites and had progressed the growth of the Love Weston website by over 700%. The website's statistics were objective and the Town Council were working with North Somerset Council's Seafront Events Team on in resort advertising in the form of a 'Pocket Guide'. Our hotel/B&amp;B accreditation Scheme was affiliated to 'VisitEngland' and we were ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the South West for our social media and in the nationwide table Love Weston came 29<sup>th</sup> out of 126 destinations.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee for her report.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Report from the Chairman of the Community Services Committee 2014/2015</b></p> <p>The Mayor introduced the Chairman of the Community Services Committee, Councillor Lisa Pilgrim.</p> <p>The Chairman reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blakehay Theatre and the success of Weston In Bloom with the Gold Award won for the third year in a row. She took the opportunity to thank Bert and Cynthia Filer on behalf of the Committee for all their hard work and commitment to Weston In Bloom over the years. Finally she reported the success of the HLF bid for the Museum. The Council still needed to raise funds for the Museum and so if anyone present would like to 'Buy a Block' then it would be most appreciated.</p> <p>A question from the floor was raised, enquiring how much the blocks cost and the Chairman advised that a personal block was £30.00 and a business block was £120.00. Forms were available from a member of staff at the meeting.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Chairman of the Community Services Committee for her report.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Report from the Youth Council 2014/2015</b></p> <p>The Mayor welcomed Kevin Lilwall, Senior Youth Work Lead for the YMCA and informed</p>

	<p>that the Chairman of the Youth Council was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>The Senior Youth Work Lead for the YMCA reported that the business of the Youth Council had been primarily based around the move from Barcode to the YMCA and finding a new meeting place. A lot of work had been involved in fundraising for Crossroads where a number of event fundraising events had been held and gathering information on mental health issues had been a focus. They had funded and hosted a Christmas Party at the YMCA for its users and their other focus was to try and gain new members.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Senior Youth Work Lead for the YMCA for his report.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Matters raised by members of the public</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor then invited questions from members of the public.</p> <p>Dr Mike Kellaway-Marriott questioned whether after the refurbishment of the museum, the Town Council would offer free entry. The Leader of the Council informed that as part of the HLF Bid requirement the museum would be opened on a free entry basis.</p> <p>Richard Knowles, Chairman of Weston In Bloom, addressed the meeting by offering his thanks on behalf of the Weston In Bloom Working Party to Bert and Cynthia Filer for their hard work and commitment over the years. He also thanked the many other Weston In Bloom volunteers whom without Weston In Bloom would not be able to achieve what it has over the last three years, and finally commended the Town Council for its continuing support to Weston In Bloom.</p> <p>A question regarding the delay to the Dolphin Square development was raised. In response the Leader of the Council advised that Dolphin Square was under the jurisdiction of North Somerset Council.</p> <p>The Town Clerk added that although the planning application for the site had been considered at the Town Council's Planning Committee, the Town Council was only a consultee.</p> <p>The Town Mayor asked if anyone had any further questions to put to the panel and there were none.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Mayor, Councillor Roz Willis, closed the meeting at 8.00pm. She thanked those present for their attendance and invited them to join her in a cheese and wine reception and finally reminded everyone to please fill in the public consultation form.</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: .....</p> <p>The Mayor of Weston-super-Mare</p>