

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT  
THE TOWN HALL ON  
MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.45 pm

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Julie Smith (Administration Officer), Jackie Peak (Town Mayoress) Reverend Julie Birkett (Town Mayor's Chaplain), Rachael Lewis (Regeneration Manager North Somerset Council), Brianna Millett (Weston & Somerset Mercury), Alan Rice (Chairman of the Graham Road Surgery PPG) and Steve Emery (Chairman of the Stafford Medical Group PPG).

The Town Mayor invited Reverend Julie Birkett to say prayers in which Mrs Sue King a former Mayoress, was remembered who had sadly passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 due to an incredible brave fight against cancer. The Council's thoughts were with her family and with her husband Cyril King a former Mayor of Weston- super-Mare.

The Town Mayor invited questions and observations from parishioners present.

Alan Rice, Chairman of the Graham Road Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) addressed the meeting in regards to agenda item 13. He stressed his grave concerns over the lack of health care provision in the town and the straining effects on the GP surgeries which were reaching crisis point. Graham Road had over 9,000 patients with an extensive waiting list which was only going to increase. He asked the Council for their help and to make their voices heard on behalf of the people of Weston.

Steve Emery of the Stafford Medical Group Patient Participation Group added to the plea by explaining that everybody at some point in their lives would need the services of a GP. There was incredible pressure nowadays for GPs to act as business managers when all they wanted to do was care for people. Stafford Medical Group had over 11,000 patients and was forced to use locum GPs to provide care which could cost surgeries up to £1,000 a day. Surgeries were held to ransom by these costs which were unsustainable and as a result there was no continuity of care. He had previously addressed North Somerset Council and was now looking to the Town Council for help to approach NHS England.

<b>185.</b>	<b>To receive Apologies for Absence</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James Clayton, Lisa Pilgrim, Len Purnell and Derek Mead.
<b>186.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Councillor Michal Kus declared a prejudicial interest in relation to item 13 and would leave the meeting while it was discussed.  Councillor Robert Payne declared a personal interest in item 8 as he resided within the SPD area.
<b>187.</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016.</b>

	<p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Richard Nightingale</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be signed and approved.</p>	
188.	<p><b>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</b></p> <p>A report detailing the Town Mayor's engagements undertaken between (25<sup>th</sup> September – 21<sup>st</sup> November) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended 36 engagements to date and that the Deputy Mayor had attended 2 engagements on his behalf.</p> <p>The Town Mayor then informed of the following up coming events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christmas Lights switch on ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 5.45pm (procession from the YMCA)</li> <li>2. Christmas Carol Service at St Johns the Baptist on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm</li> <li>3. Staff and Councillors Get Together at Grove House on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 5pm</li> </ol>	
189.	<p><b>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b></p> <p>The notes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Jan Holloway requested that Councillors needed more notice of meeting dates and cancellation dates for future meetings.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the notes be received and noted</li> <li>2. The Town Clerk would communicate that more notice was needed for any future meeting or cancellation dates.</li> </ol>	
190.	<p><b>Use of General Reserves – Blakehay Theatre</b></p> <p>The recommendation from the Policy &amp; Finance Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016, for the project based in the revised estimates of £55,000 received minute extract had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Leader proposed that the recommendation be voted on to enable the project works to commence.</p> <p>A member commented on the current balance of the Council's general reserves and in response the Leader explained that this would be a short term loan and that the general reserves would be replenished come April 2017.</p> <p>It was requested that a letter be written to the RAFA Band thanking them for their continuous support to the Theatre over the years.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p>	1.

	<p>To approve the use of General Reserves for the project based in the revised estimates of £55,000 received.</p> <p>2. That the Town Clerk write to the RAFA Band on behalf of the Town Council thanking them for their continuous support to the Theatre over the years.</p>
191.	<p><b>Civic Events and Annual Town Meeting</b></p> <p>The recommendations from the Events Working Party meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Events Working Party was invited to present the recommendations.</p> <p>A member felt that the Working Party had strayed from its original agenda which was to discuss events and that a Town Council meeting was not the correct forum for these matters to be discussed. It was therefore proposed that item 4.1-5 should be delegated to the Civic Consultation Group and that 5.1-6 be delegated to Policy &amp; Finance Committee.</p> <p>It was challenged as to why the recommendations could not be discussed at the meeting and the Town Clerk was asked whether it would be unconstitutional to discuss it. He confirmed it would not be and that members had the option of where they wanted to discuss them.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>12 For; 3 Against; 10 Abstentions</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That item 4. 1-5 of the Events Working Party recommendations be delegated to the Civic Consultation Group.</li> <li>2. That 5. 1-6 of the recommendations be delegated to Policy &amp; Finance Committee.</li> </ol>
192.	<p><b>North Somerset Council's supplementary planning document (SPD) proposals for the Town Centre of Weston</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk's report advising the Council that instruction was needed on how it wished to respond to the consultation by the deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> December had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Rachel Lewis to present the proposals for the Town Centre of Weston (SPD) to the Council.</p> <p>Rachel advised that the consultation process was well underway and confirmed that the deadline for comments was 12<sup>th</sup> December. Members were encouraged to visit the website link (listed within the Town Clerk's report) and make their direct comments. The SPD set out a master plan for the town centre and a map indicating the SDP area and over arching principles and priorities were viewed.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members voiced their support and praise for the SPD.</p> <p>Concern was raised over the reality of what could be achieved Weston seemed to be taking the bulk of the district's housing requirements and for the extra 1,000 dwellings</p>

**proposed** there seemed to be no infrastructure to complement it. North Somerset needed to consider the types of housing they wanted to introduce in the town and consider starter homes for families. Also the rental market on Locking Road needed to be targeted and regenerated.

In response to a question asked regarding the proposed plans for the T J Hughes building, Rachel reported that the owner of the building had shown an interest in putting it forward for housing but was also exploring other options.

Concern was raised that as the town centre became gentrified there would be a loss of community services, such as the CAB moving from the Badger Centre.

Concerns were also raised over the lack of jobs in the town and that this would need to be addressed if more homes were being planned. This would also have a further impact on junction 21 if more people were travelling out of Weston to work elsewhere. Weston's retail market was dying with nobody wanting to trade here.

Rachel reported that assessment had shown that many people did not currently shop or spend leisure time in Weston and that the Dolphin Square development would bring with it 360 jobs and provide a state of the art cinema and accompanying restaurants. This would target people who travelled elsewhere for the cinema. There were also creative hubs that were helping people develop their businesses and opening up many other opportunities to potential business owners to attract them to set up in Weston.

Parking provision needed to be considered to accompany any housing. Rachel informed that a parking strategy was being prepared. Parking needed to be commercially viable and would not be practicable for all redevelopments such as the old library building where outside space was limited.

A view was expressed that the Council should embrace the SPD, as for the first time ever the government had recognised that Weston was in need of regeneration. The types of housing proposed would be a mix and not just student accommodation and affordable housing but also properties that would attract a young up and coming business person. The private rental market and targeting particular landlords must be addressed to achieve a change in the demographics of the town centre.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Mark Canniford

A vote was carried and accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council broadly supports the supplementary planning document (SPD) proposals for the Town Centre of Weston. Whilst the Council welcomed North Somerset Council's investment in the town and plans for regeneration, concerns were raised that if new residential properties were created it would need to be quality housing that would attract families and professionals to live in the town centre, and there would also need to be jobs and infrastructure to support this development.

193.	<p><b>Name of the Blakehay Theatre Upper Studio</b></p> <p>The minute extract (66.4.3d) of the Town Council Meeting Minutes held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 was circulated to members at the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Policy &amp; Finance Committee requested that the minute be rectified to record that the options for the Blakehay Theatre (4.3) were ‘RESOLVED’ (not ‘RECOMMENDED’) and that minute number 4.3d (To re-name the Upper Studio as the Jill Dando Suite with the two separate spaces to be named) be deleted.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That in minute number 4.3 of the Town Council Meeting Minutes held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 the word ‘RECOMMENDED’ be rectified to ‘RESOLVED’ and that minute number 4.3d (To re-name the Upper Studio as the Jill Dando Suite with the two separate spaces to be named) be deleted.</p> <p><i>Rachel Lewis left the meeting at 8.20 pm</i></p>
194.	<p><b>Site Allocations Plan – consultation</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk’s report which gave 3 response options had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that the report indicated 3 policies for members to peruse and that it was down to members to individually respond with their comments if they wished.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>It was requested that members who sat on North Somerset Council’s Planning and Regulatory Committee should use their influence to urge that any developments associated with policy SA12: A370 Corridor into Weston do not affect the surrounding villages.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Council’s comments from April as set out within the report be resubmitted and that members were invited to make their individual comments directly via the website indicated within the report.</p>
195.	<p><b>West of England Strategic Plan and Transport Study consultation</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk’s report which indicated the consultation deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> December and suggested that members may wish to delegate consideration of the item to a small sub-group of interested members was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p>

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To delegate the West of England Strategic Plan and Transport Study consultation to the Planning Committee for consideration.</p>
196.	<p><b>Payphones - Consultation on proposed closures by BT</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda. The report indicated that the Council needed to decide whether it objected to the removal of any of the payphones listed within the report, and if so which ones.</p> <p>Debate ensued over the business sense of payphones, and whether the Town Council objected or not the payphones would most likely be removed. It was the view that if the phones were to be taken out then they should be totally removed to avoid them becoming unsightly and so not to attract anti social behaviour.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that it was possible for Parish Council's to adopt community assets of which a red telephone box would be considered. A member then asked if this option could be explored.</p> <p>Another member advised against adoption, as in their experience as an ex BT Engineer, it would prove costly and the Council would encounter high levels of user problems.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Fox  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p> <p><i>Councillor Michal Kus left the meeting at 8.30 pm</i></p>
197.	<p><b>Motion to the Council under Standing Order 11 by Cllr Richard Nightingale.</b></p> <p>"Weston-super-Mare Town Council are extremely concerned at the limited health care provision in the area. To express these concerns and in particular support of the Clarence Park, Graham Road and Stafford Place surgeries, this Council proposes to write to NHS England to demand a plan of action."</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Richard Nightingale to address the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale added by stressing that with the 1,000 proposed more houses in the town this would only add to the issue of limited health care provision and push the surgeries from crisis to breaking point and he therefore moved the motion.</p> <p>It was reported that NHS England would be releasing an SDP the following day and urged that once it had been released the Council needed to also respond in conjunction with the demand for a plan of action.</p> <p>A member reported that they had fought for years for a children's centre in Ashcombe Ward which finally came to fruition and served thousands of families. Another campaign for a health centre in the central ward was also successful but regrettably it had closed leaving an overwhelming void for a replacement centre in the town. Certain areas within the town including the central ward were among some of the worst deprived areas in the country and so NHS England and the government must take notice and the Council must take action.</p>

	<p>Debate ensued regarding certain areas of the town being considered as some of the worst deprived areas in the country. Not enough money was being spent on the NHS as a nation and unfortunately this was unlikely to change unless there was a change in administration. It was very difficult to attract doctors to Weston, not only because of financial reasons but they did not favour it as a career choice.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Fox <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Weston-super-Mare Town Council are extremely concerned at the limited health care provision in the area. To express these concerns and in particular support of the Clarence Park, Graham Road and Stafford Place surgeries, this Council proposes to write to NHS England to demand a plan of action.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: ..... Town Mayor</p>