

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 24TH JULY 2017**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.11 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Jocelyn Holder (Town Mayor), Clive Webb (Leader of the Town Council), Raymond Armstrong, Mark Canniford, Mr. James Clayton, Robert Cleland, John Crockford-Hawley, Peter Crew, Mr. James Davis, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, Jan Holloway, Michal Kus, Richard Nightingale, Frederick Parsons, Alan Peak, Anita Spencer-Johns, Richard Tucker, Martin Williams and Roz Willis.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Mr. Rimmer Rimmer (Chief Executive Weston Area Health Trust), Colin Bradbury (North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group), Reverend Andrew Alden (Town Mayor’s Chaplain) and Brianna Millett (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

The Town Mayor invited Reverend Andrew Alden to say prayers. Derek Mead, a Weston-super-Mare Town Councillor who had sadly passed away 4th June due to a tragic accident, was remembered. The Council’s thoughts were with his family at this time.

The Town Mayor invited questions and observations from parishioners present.

Beth Milner-Simmons of ‘Eat Festivals’ addressed the council by asking for their enthusiasm and support toward a street trading event that was planned for 16th September 2017 9am-5pm in the High Street.

108	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Bailey, Sarah Codling, Clive Darke, David Hitchins, Michael Lyall, Steven Kane, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter and Len Purnell.</p>
109	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
110	<p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 18th May 2017</p> <p>Councillor Alan Peak advised that the number of mayoral engagements carried out by himself and the Mayoress was in fact 221.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved.</p> <p>It was noted that the wording on the minutes relating to the Mayor needed to be changed from ‘he’ to ‘she’ for future meetings.</p>
111	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that she and the Mayoress had attended 38 engagements to date and that the Deputy Mayor had attended 1 engagement on her behalf.</p>

	<p>The Town Mayor then highlighted the following significant events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Armed Forces Weekend events and receptions – truly a spectacular event accompanied by glorious weather. 2. 40 Commando Officers Annual Reception and 40 Commando 75th Anniversary Parade and Families Day. Hopefully they will be bringing some equipment for display in Weston.
112	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held on the 27th June 2017</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes be noted.</p>
113	<p>Future of Weston A&E department</p> <p>The Mayor invited Mr. James Rimmer, Chief Executive Weston Area Health Trust, to address the meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Rimmer gave a PowerPoint presentation on Weston Area Health NHS Trust which consisted of the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2017 CQC Report & subsequent issues for A&E • Trust Position 2015 • 2017 CQC Visit • New Position – May 2017 • CQC Comments • Overall position – May 2017 • Ratings for community health services for children, young people and families • Ratings for child and adolescent mental health community services • CQC Overall Summary • The temporary overnight closure of Weston A&E and system response • Weston ED Patient Flow – Mapped • System oversight • Baseline model – Scenario 1 • Mitigations 1 • Mitigations 2 • Mitigated position – Scenario 2 • Implementation Planning (4th July) • Next Steps • The long term future of services in the Weston area <p>Mr. Rimmer informed that by 2 am in the morning all A&E patients will have had specialist intervention.</p> <p>Safe staffing was one of the main areas of concern. The current staffing levels were that three of the six consultants were locums and two of the eight junior doctors were permanent. After the closure of the A&E department the hospital admissions were down by only 27 patients per day.</p> <p>Weston was the fourth hospital in the country to trial the closure of the A&E department and there has been no evidence that it was not working well. There had been no reported safety issues, however he was very aware of the inconvenience the closure was having on patients and their families.</p>

The hospital trust was the biggest employer in North Somerset with 17,000-18,000 employees.

A member voiced on behalf of the public their issues with Weston's ever-growing population and the already too small hospital being downgraded, rather than growing with population, while comparative surrounding areas were better resourced. This was not attractive to health professionals and what was the trust going to do about it?

In response, Mr. Rimmer explained the plans to rebuild services to replicate the needs of Weston which would then attract the appropriate staff. The hospital needed double the amount of doctors it had at present which was a national shortage problem and not geographical. The trust was working with other hospitals via partnership working to find out how Weston could best serve its community.

A member on behalf of a constituent asked why there had been no posts advertised for an A&E consultant at either Weston or BRI and what were the NHS's timescales for having consultants in place?

Mr. Rimmer advised that the trust had been actively recruiting over the past 18 months for two locum consultants, one of which would become a substantive and a locum Junior doctor. The closing date was 4th July and the post holders would be starting within 4-6 weeks.

A member asked if there was a timescale for the reopening of the A&E department to which Mr Rimmer informed that a new model for the hospital would be developed and obtained from the recruitment and focusing on Weston's specific needs.

A member asked how it would be known if patients had experienced problems traveling to other hospitals and Mr. Rimmer reported that there had been daily oversight meetings which were now moving to weekly meetings and that there had been no major reported issues.

A member enquired if the ambulance service was coping with the transfers Mr. Rimmer informed that they were, as a result of additional ambulances scheduled for the afternoons and overnight. A&E's target time to admit or transfer patients after the doors closed was 4 hours, which it was achieving.

A member's main concern was that the NHS had plans to close the A&E department before the issue of the report. Mr. Rimmer assured that this was not something that the trust wanted to do, but as the responsible person for patient safety, it had to be done. There were varying opinions from staff on the decision to close the department and the trust were constantly in discussions with the staff and partners regarding the future of the hospital. Even in Bristol not all patients were taken to the nearest hospital. They were taken to the one that was best resourced to deal with the nature of their illness.

A member referred to the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) and Mr. Rimmer advised that this would be redeveloped off the back of the 'model'.

At this point in the meeting, Colin Bradbury of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) advised members that the CCG were fully supportive of the Trust in making the hospital safe.

A member reminisced of the huge step forward Weston had made when the General Hospital was built and was aggrieved with the major step back it had taken to now close the A&E department and abandon its 'general' hospital status. From her personal experience, 40 minutes travelling to Bristol with a heart problem was too long a time.

A member asked would the hospital be a more attractive place to work if Weston was to team up with Bristol hospitals. Mr. Rimmer felt that working with Bristol hospitals and the university would help with this, however it would not have a bearing on the national shortage

	<p>of health staff.</p> <p>A member asked: how long after the decision to close the A&E department was made was it announced and the MP informed? Mr. Rimmer advised that the decision was made on 12th June and it was announced and the MP informed on 13th June. The trust wanted to remain transparent and so a public discussion was held and minuted, which led them to the decision to close the A&E department.</p> <p>James raised the importance of working closely with local NHS organisations and other partners through the Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships process. A member referred to James's comment and added that while he would agree that the STP process was the most likely way of finding solutions to Weston's A&E and other issues. Could James please comment on NHS England's recently published STP Progress Dashboard which rated the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire STP in the lowest category - 'needs most improvement'?"</p> <p>James explained that working with NHS organisations had been a challenge, as there were three CCG's working together as one organisation with a new Chairman who had transferred from Devon. Weston Area Health Trust were looking to change the dynamic of the partnership working as they were not comfortable with how it was working.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked both Mr. Rimmer and Mr. Bradbury for attending the meeting.</p> <p><i>James Rimmer, Colin Bradbury and Brianna Millett left the meeting at 7.56pm</i></p>
114	<p>Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations</p> <p>Both documents for approval had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that it was best practice to regularly review the documents but that no changes were proposed.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.</p>
115	<p>Final internal Audit report for the year 2016/2017</p> <p>The report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was taken carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the final Internal Audit report for the year 2016/2017.</p>
116	<p>Risk register for the year 2016/2017</p> <p>The risk register had been distributed electronically to members.</p> <p>A member highlighted that there had been a significant number of new reported risks, many of which were I.T related. The members suggested that the I.T. Working Party be reinstated to deal with these risks.</p>

	<p>The Responsible Financial Officer reported that the new risks were due to the increase in services and activity the council provides. In respect of the I.T issues being discussed by the I.T Working Party, this would be welcomed by staff.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reinstate the I.T Working Party to review the I.T risks highlighted within the register. 2. That the report be approved.
<p>117</p>	<p>To approve the Safeguarding Policy</p> <p>The policy had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the policy was an overarching policy and that the council would have further specific service area policies. In each service area a designated child protection officer would be assigned. All Managers had recently received relevant safeguarding training.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Safeguarding Policy be approved and the designated Child Protection Officers for each service area be reported back to members.</p>
<p>118</p>	<p>Report on Armed Forces Day</p> <p>Councillor Mr. James Davis, the newly appointed Armed Forces Champion, reported via a PowerPoint presentation to members.</p> <p>He thanked Councillor Jan Holloway for passing him the privilege of Armed Forces Champion and expressed what an exceptional event Armed Forces Days 2017 had been with an estimated 100,000 + visitors EACH day.</p> <p>The event brought both the old and young generations together with various parades, exhibitions and demonstrations.</p> <p>The Armed Forces Covenant exists to redress the disadvantages that the Armed Forces Community may face in comparison to other Citizens, and to recognise sacrifices made</p> <p>The Armed Forces Covenant Partnership was explained and help was there for everyone from the Armed Forces Community and various organisations and associations were listed.</p> <p>The next major event was the Laying Up of the “Burma Star Standard” on Sunday 20th August</p>

	<p>2017 at St John Parish Church commencing at 1030hrs.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked Councillor Davis for his presentation.</p>
119	<p>Special Expenses Review</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report and letter from North Somerset Council had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The letter informed that Portishead Town Council had raised concerns with the inconsistent way the costs of special expenses were treated and accounted for between the four towns in the area. Currently two town councils were billed by North Somerset Council for the costs of three services previously charged as 'special expenses' which the town councils included within their precept. In the other two towns the equivalent amounts were collected by way of special expenses charged directly on the taxpayers of the town. Portishead Town Council would like special expenses to be treated uniformly across all four town councils and North Somerset Council would be happy to support this.</p> <p>Whilst North Somerset Council were able to impose a method of treatment they would prefer it if all four town councils reached a consensus on their preferred method which could be implemented from the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>North Somerset Council had suggested that the best way forward would be for each town council to initially let them know which treatment they would prefer going forward and if all four councils were in agreement then that method would be implemented. The options available for the sums required were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be billed by North Somerset Council and to include within the town precept • To be collected by way of a special expense levied on taxpayers of the town <p>If a consensus was not reached then a meeting would be arranged for all four town councils to attend and discuss their views and issues, both amongst themselves, and also with North Somerset Council would be held.</p> <p>The deadline for a decision was 18th August 2017.</p> <p>The Town Clerk hoped his report was self explanatory and felt it was inappropriate to make a recommendation to members.</p> <p>Members were unanimous that they did not want to see a return to special expenses and therefore:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley</p> <p>A vote was taken carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: To not reinstate special expenses in Weston-super-Mare.</p>

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.11 p.m.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Dated: