

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2017**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Peak (Town Mayor), Clive Webb (Leader of the Town Council), Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Peter Crew, Sarah Codling, Clive Darke, James Davis, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, David Hitchins, Jocelyn Holder, Jan Holloway, Michal Kus, Michael Lyall, Derek Mead, Richard Nightingale, Robert Payne, Len Purnell, Anita Spencer-Johns, Richard Tucker and Martin Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayor's Civic Officer), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Jackie Peak (Town Mayoress), Reverend Julie Birkett (Town Mayor's Chaplain), Brianna Millett (Weston & Somerset Mercury), Becky Cordrum (Heart of Weston), Ann Bunn (Heart of Weston), John Bockshaw (Heart of Weston) and Robert Smith (Society of Local Council Clerks).

The Town Mayor invited Reverend Julie Birkett to say prayers

The Town Mayor invited questions and observations from parishioners present.

Becky Condrum, (Heart of Weston) and also part of Weston Super Mums explained that it had become apparent that there were many community groups all working and striving for the same aim, to help the communities of Weston and in particular central ward which desperately needs a community centre. As a result collaborative and cohesive working was taking place to develop the 'Heart of Weston' in the form of 'Mash ups'; other initiatives e.g. Incredible Edible, Weston Food Festival; working with the YMCA, Blakehay Theatre and the Museum. Becky asked the council to carry on supporting The Heart of Weston so that they can support the community.

Ann Bunn (Heart of Weston) had volunteered for the Heart of Weston initiative which was very inclusive and makes things happen. She encouraged members to visit the rockery in Grove Park to witness the work of the volunteers there.

John Boxhall (Heart of Weston) informed that the concept of Incredible Edible had taken off and was still growing thanks to the dedicated hard working volunteers. He wanted to report on the positive effects volunteers had had on the antisocial behaviour experienced in the town's parks and open spaces due to the effects of budget cuts within enforcement. He and a team of volunteers accompanied by representatives of Avon and Somerset Police had attended the park in the dark and engaged with some of the people visiting the park at night. Since this work had taken place and there was a 'presence' there had been a noticeable improvement with antisocial behaviour and there was huge opportunity to progress this further.

The Town Mayor thanked them for addressing the meeting and invited them to stay for the meeting.

307.	To receive Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Crockford-Hawley, Steven Kane, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter and Roz Willis.
308.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.

309.	<p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 23rd January 2017.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed and approved.</p>
310.	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended 168 engagements to date and that the Deputy Mayor had attended 13 engagements on his behalf.</p> <p>The Town Mayor then reported on the following significant events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Town Mayor's Dinner and Dance held on Saturday 18th March 2017, at the Royal Hotel had been a success and had sold out of tickets two weeks before the event. Approximately £3,000 was raised for the Mayor's Charity Fund and the Weston Lions Club was thanked for running the Fun Casino. 2. Attendance at the Legal Service of the appointment of the High Sheriff on Sunday 19th March 2017.
311.	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held on the 24th January 2017</p> <p>The notes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes be received and noted</p>
312.	<p>Designation of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2017-2018</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited nominations for the designation of Town Mayor for the year 2017-2018.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Jocelyn Holder be designated as Town Mayor for the municipal year 2017-2018.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited nominations for the designation of Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2017-2018.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Richard Nightingale SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>That Councillor Robert Cleland be nominated for the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2017-2018. He had 17 years experience in the public sector and had been involved with many community projects and was a pillar of the community.</p> <p>A further nomination was proposed.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor James Clayton</p>

	<p>That Councillor Michael Lyall be nominated for the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2017-2018. He was a lifelong resident of Weston-super-Mare and had served on the Town Council for eight years. He had worked tirelessly for the people of his Ashcombe ward to open a children’s centre which had finally come to fruition. He had also persistently canvassed for a medical centre in central ward which happened although due to funding cuts it was later closed. He continues to campaign for a central ward community centre and was a pillar of the community.</p> <p>A member requested to know how long Councillor Robert Cleland had served on the Town Council, of which the answer was 12 years.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that if there were only two nominations then the vote could be taken as a straight vote between the two candidates.</p> <p>A vote was taken of 7 votes for Councillor Robert Cleland and 14 votes for Councillor Michael Lyall and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Michael Lyall be designated as Deputy Town Mayor for the municipal year 2017-2018.</p>
<p>313.</p>	<p>Community Resilience in Weston-super-Mare</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Hannah Brown the Resilient Communities Support Officer to present to the meeting via a powerpoint presentation.</p> <p><i>Councillors James Clayton and David Hitchins left the meeting at 7.31pm and re joined again at 7.36 pm and 7.37 pm.</i></p> <p>The presentation reminded members of the types of emergencies that could, and have happened such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm damage • Flooding • Bomb discoveries • Power outages • Train fires <p>The importance of ICE ‘in case of emergency’ contact number stored in mobile phones was stressed.</p> <p>Being prepared for any type of emergency the factors to consider were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlines • Home Plan • Grab Bag • Flood Warnings Direct • Red Cross App <p>Slides presented the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Resilience • Why it is important • Emergency Response • Community Resilience – NSC model

	<p>Local Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources • Resilience Direct • Stakeholders • Working Together <p>A film featuring local communities such as Cleeve and Congresbury was viewed.</p> <p>A town pilot scheme for Clevedon had been launched in October 2016.</p> <p>A meeting was to be held on 22nd March to which all members were invited and encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Hannah reported that the next steps for Weston was to urge people to get involved and encourage volunteers for the Community Resilience Programme and thanked the Council for the opportunity to present.</p> <p>A member thanked Hannah for the presentation and commended her on by far the most coherent presentation on Community Resilience that the Council had ever had.</p> <p>Hannah invited and answered questions from the floor.</p> <p>Hannah confirmed in response to a member that the Community Resilience Programme ran parallel to what was the Sole Defensive Organisation and that the main source of funding for the programme was from North Somerset Council.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that a supplementary document was available which detailed all contact information should members want to enquire in the programme.</p>
<p>314.</p>	<p>To approve the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2017 – May 2018 (attached)</p> <p>The draft calendar of meetings had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2017 – May 2018 as circulated be approved.</p>
<p>315.</p>	<p>To approve changes to the Allotment Management Sub-Committee Terms Of Reference</p> <p>The Town Clerk apologised that the changes had not been circulated in writing to members and explained that the changes had arisen from the Expenditure & Governance Working Party’s review of the allotment’s annual performance plan performance indicators. The change was simply to include within the Sub-Committee Terms of Reference responsibility for oversight of the Management Agreement with the Allotment Club and he requested members to approve this change.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: To include within the Allotments Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference responsibility for oversight of the Management Agreement with the Allotment Club.</p>
316.	<p>To Create a Museum Sub-Committee in place of the Museum Working Party</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda. The report advised and outlined the Museum and Heritage Sub Committee Terms Of Reference and recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To replace the Museum Working Party with a Museum Sub-Committee, reporting to the Community Services Committee, with the terms of reference set out within the report. 2. The Sub Committee to consist of 6 to 8 elected members of the Council who may co-opt such additional non-voting members as they may consider appropriate. 3. Meetings of the Sub Committee to follow a normal bi-monthly meeting cycle, with the ability to call additional meetings if required. <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michael Kus</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To replace the Museum Working Party with a Museum Sub-Committee, reporting to the Community Services Committee, with the terms of reference set out within the report, with effect from May 2017. 2. The Sub-Committee to consist of 6 elected members of the council who may co-opt such additional non-voting members as they may consider appropriate. 3. Meetings of the Sub-Committee to follow a normal bi-monthly meeting cycle, with the ability to call additional meetings if required.
317.	<p>Public Space Protection Orders</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda. The report outlined the details of the consultation, what public space protection orders were proposed including parks and open spaces which included beaches, common land etc., specific types of property and specific PSPOs affecting Weston-super-Mare. The report included the Town Clerk's comments on each section to aid debate and suggested that the Council may wish to base their responses on the 'comment' sections with any amendments and additions elected members considered appropriate.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the subject was an important matter and maybe helpful to the council in respect of the reopening of Weston Museum under the Public Space Protection Orders within public buildings.</p> <p>Debate ensued. A member concurred with many of the proposed orders. However he was perturbed by the fact that some of the new orders such as 'urinating or defecating in any public place' were already illegal and offenders should be prosecuted but this was rarely pursued due to the cuts in resources. There were also some orders that were considered too authoritarian such as 'skateboarding, inline roller skating and scooters will not be allowed in Princess Royal Square (even if the person is not causing any nuisance or annoyance to anyone)' and he questioned why this location had been chosen.</p>

	<p>In response, it was said that local government would take over enforcement responsibility for the orders and that all comments needed to be submitted to North Somerset Council to be discussed at their next meeting on 3rd May. With regard to the ‘no skateboarding etc., in Princes Royal Square’ order, this was because the square was considered a highway.</p> <p>It was suggested that there should be an order expressing zero tolerance to any form of drug taking or dealing.</p> <p>Another view was expressed that some of the orders were too dictatorial such as ‘Posting a notice or sign on a public property without the written permission of the Council’. Other orders were too vague and needed to be more specific such as lighting an open fire without the written permission of the Council. A small fire on the beach such as a barbecue was unlikely to cause any serious harm and should not be made a criminal offence.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was carried and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report encompassing all comments by the Town Clerk and comments raised in debate, form a response and be submitted to North Somerset Council.</p>
318.	<p>Motion to the Council under Standing Order 11 – Heart of Weston</p> <p><i>I Councillor Richard Nightingale propose that ‘Weston super Mare Town Council write to the newly established Heart of Weston residents group, offering support and praising their commitment and dedication to the local area and its community.’</i></p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Richard Nightingale to present his motion to the council.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale thanked members of the Heart of Weston who were in attendance and reported that he had been working hard to gain recognition for the Heart of Weston and wanted continual encouragement and support. He therefore proposed his motion.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Richard Nightingale SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>Debate ensued. A member was pleased to see that there was recognition and support for the community initiative and reminded members that the origin of the initiative was started by a former Councillor, Mike Bell, back in 2014. It was felt that the Town Council should support all community groups of this nature and should show its support and recognition by offering financial help to these groups.</p> <p>An amendment to the motion was requested that the Town Council offer £5,000 from its general reserves to the Heart of Weston.</p> <p>In response, the proposer of the motion did not feel that a financial offering was needed at this time and that it would take a lot more financial aid to take on the deprivation issues with central ward. This was why he had previously voted against the Town Council solely taking these issues on. Therefore, the amendment to the motion was not accepted.</p> <p>Concern was raised that the Town Council should not show favour to just one of the many community groups in the central area of the town and therefore a formal amendment was put forward:</p> <p>AMENDMENT</p>

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford
SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Payne

The Town Council will allocate £5,000 from its reserves to be awarded under the Community Services grants system to community groups which are trying to start up to compensate for the lack of community resources provided for the town.

Debate ensued.

A member concurred with the amendment and felt that a financial offering was far more recognisable.

Opposing members felt that the amendment was duplication of the £7,500 small grants system that the Council already had via its Community Services Committee.

A vote was taken and the amendment was **Lost** 7 for; 14 against.

The substantive motion stood, a vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED: That Weston super Mare Town Council write to the newly established Heart of Weston residents group, offering support and praising their commitment and dedication to the local area and its community.

The Town Mayor reported that it was his last Town Council meeting before Mayormaking and took the opportunity to thank his fellow members for their conduct and support during his Mayoral term.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.35 p.m.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Dated: