

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

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.55 pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Alison Ashford (Administrator/Secretary), Reverend Andrew Alden (Town Mayor's Chaplain), Sarah Robinson (Weston & Somerset Mercury), Cara MacMahon (Heritage Action Zone Project Officer, Development and Environment, North Somerset Council), David Stuart, Historic England Advisor, South West and Dr Mary Backhouse (Chairman of the North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group).

The Town Mayor welcomed Councillor Denise Hunt to the Town Council and the meeting and then invited Reverend Andrew Alden to say prayers.

The Town Mayor invited questions and observations from parishioners present.

Sarah Robinson local reporter for the Weston & Somerset Mercury addressed the meeting in support of agenda item 9 Motion under Standing Order 11 by Councillor Catherine Gibbons to support the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Coastline (PFC) campaign.

Sarah was accompanied by Debbie Apted, secretary of the Weston Chamber of Commerce who advised of the five objectives involved in supporting the campaign:

1. Local Governance

The first objective was to get the support of the local council:-

- i. through getting a PFC motion passed;
- ii. a councillor must be named on the steering group for the project; and
- iii. the council must lead by example through removing single-use plastic items from their premises.

2. Resistance Hubs (Local Businesses)

The idea behind the objective was to get local businesses to remove three or more single-use plastic items from their venue and replace them with non-plastic alternatives. The number of businesses that need to make these differences depends on the population of the local area, and for Weston-super-Mare this would be 30 businesses.

Once the changes have been made, all five objectives have been secured and PFC status had been awarded, the businesses would each receive a PFC approved window sticker / certificate to display and would be added onto the SAS online map.

3. Plastic Free Allies

Certain targets were outlined for the objective and they included getting

- 50% of community spaces on board with the project
- 30% of schools in the local area
- 50% of universities and colleges
- at least one community organisation on board

4. Plastic Free Rallies (on the ground action)

At least two community events arranged and made open for all to attend in one calendar year. Encourages everyone to get involved in the project and see what they can do to help.

5. Local Resistance Strategic Groups (Steering Group)

Local group of stakeholders to meet at least once per year to discuss the progress of PFC locally – a member of the town council must sit on this group; agreeing and setting direction, meeting objectives and completing application for official plastic free coastlines status.

Lewis Treloar addressed the meeting with his concerns for the future of the Worle Community Centre and urged the town council to help prevent the closure of this much needed and valued facility for the residents of Worle.

The Town Mayor thanked those who addressed the meeting.

230	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Porter, Roz Willis, Len Purnell, Mark Canniford and Steven Kane.</p>
231	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
232	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 25th September 2017</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.</p>
233	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that she and the Mayoress had attended 122 engagements to date and that the Deputy Mayor had attended 4 engagements on her behalf.</p> <p>The Town Mayor then highlighted the following significant events:</p> <p>Armistice Day Short Service Weston-super-Mare Remembrance Service which as a fabulous event. Worle Remembrance Service attended by the Deputy Mayor Wreath laying at Commonwealth Graves at the Cemetery by the Leader.</p> <p>The Mayor had attended the Fire Station that day and presented an officer with a silver axe to mark their retirement.</p> <p>The Town Mayor then informed of future dates for diaries: 30th November 2017 Christmas Lights switch on 21st December Mayors Carol Service at St Paul’s Church 17th March 2018 The Mayor’s Charity Ball</p>
234	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held on the 19th September 2017</p>

	<p>The notes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes be noted.</p>
235	<p>The Chairman brought forward item 8 to be discussed at this point in the meeting.</p> <p>NHS Healthy Weston Vision October 2017</p> <p>The Chairman invited Dr Mary Backhouse, Chair of the North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, to present to the meeting.</p> <p>Mary introduced herself as Chair of the North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and also as a General Practitioner in the Nailsea area. Mary advised of the two major challenges that Weston was facing, clinical sustainability and finances. Mary apologised that she was unable to present the document produced back in spring at the July Town Council meeting.</p> <p>The NHS Healthy Weston Vision October 2017 looked at the needs based on the population. The financial challenges and vulnerability of the population were significant. A report was circulated to members who highlighted the three groups identified who needed services the most. The vision concentrated on areas where change would be most significant and the three clear areas of change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong and vibrant future for Weston General Hospital. • The Care Campus model and making sure people were admitted correctly and not spending unnecessary time in hospital. • GP practices working together. <p>There had already been a noticeable change in the way that GPs in Weston were working ‘the Weston way’: access to services, primary care ‘at scale’ and continuity of care: enabling people to manage their own care in relation to diabetes and asthma.</p> <p>There would be an online survey for people to provide feedback live at the end of November, and local community meetings, co-designing future services together with clinicians and patients. Plans were to deliver the vision to be published by the CCG in the Spring of 2018.</p> <p>A question and answer session ensued.</p> <p>A member gave experience of a situation where a family member was taken to Weston in an ambulance at 10pm after suffering a stroke. If they had had to travel to Bristol, this would have been fatal and so what would happen to somebody in this situation considering the A&E closure. Mary advised that anybody with stroke symptoms would always be taken straight to Bristol via an ambulance where there were two centres of excellence. If the person was known to the NHS the risk factors would be addressed and they would be tracked out of hospital and into adequate care facilities/programmes promptly. Mary reminded of the reasons why the decision to close the A&E overnight had to be taken, due to inadequate staffing levels and to provide a safe service.</p> <p>A member made reference to the work going on amongst the CCG’s in Bristol and South Gloucestershire and the difference in population needs. Was Weston going to be a priority? Mary explained that GP surgeries in Weston and Worle will work together as will surgeries in the north of North Somerset to service its population which was very different to that of Bristol.</p>

	<p>A member stressed the importance of primary care in central ward and that the ward could not afford any more cuts in services. Mary was very aware of the specific needs in central ward and its grim statistics for shorter life expectancy due to drug/alcohol/smoking related illnesses. Local services needed to be accessed and utilised properly in order to help address this.</p> <p>In response to a question regarding the use of patient public participation groups Mary confirmed that they were used and the CCG was working closely with Healthwatch.</p> <p>A member raised concern over the issue of people being stranded at hospitals in the middle of the night with no way of getting home. Mary informed there were alternative pathways such as out of hours GP clinics that were used and after speaking with nurses at a recent homeless summit there had been no complaints received of people being stranded after being taken to hospital during the night.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked Mary for attending the meeting.</p>
236	<p>Presentation by Cara MacMahon, Heritage Action Zone Project Officer, Development and Environment, North Somerset Council</p> <p>The Chairman invited Cara to address the meeting.</p> <p>Cara introduced herself and David Stuart, Historic England Advisor, South West and had provided members with a handout on the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone (HAZ). A handout paper had been circulated to members.</p> <p>Cara advised that the HAZ was a three year initiative that focused on engaging with Weston's heritage as a way to support growth. Historic England were working in partnership with North Somerset Council and key stakeholders. Comments from stakeholders and residents were key and this would be the tenth initiative in the country and the first in the south west.</p> <p>There were over 100 buildings which were important to the character of Weston town centre and were indicated on the map which had been previously circulated to members. There were five conservation areas in proximity to the town centre. The HAZ would be a real driver for growth. Over the three years the aims were to boost economic growth and keep Weston on the map as a great place to live, work and visit. 59% of people visit places for its heritage. It would help unlock the economic potential of historic sites in Weston by encouraging local partners to make use of their resources in a creative and focussed way. The HAZ will also provide an in-depth understanding of Weston including community engagement with conservation areas and their management. It also acts as a driver for informing how the town could develop, putting heritage and constructive conservation at the heart of the town centre regeneration. The HAZ has money to invest in Weston by way of grants to improve the public realm, shop signs and shopfronts, and aims to achieve improved design standards and quality in conservation areas and surrounding areas. There would be a local listing project, heritage walks and initiatives to encourage appreciation of Weston's heritage.</p> <p>Cara concluded by asking the town council four questions to think about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the Town Council's aspirations for the town? 2. What additional activities/initiatives does Weston Town Council wish to explore over and above those currently planned for the HAZ? 3. How can complementary support be identified and secured? 4. How does the Council see its aspirations working/aligning with HAZ objectives? <p>A member felt that the Town Council should congratulate itself on its involvement with and promotion of heritage by providing the Museum, Blakehay, Cemetery and its Blue Plaques Scheme. He felt the Council had played its part and could not do justice to answering the four</p>

	<p>questions during the forum of a full council meeting and therefore proposed to defer the questions to the Museum and Heritage Sub Committee. Cara welcomed this proposal.</p> <p>A member made reference to the poor state of the town's roads and overgrowing vegetation and North Somerset Council's lack of interest in addressing these issues which would hinder the work of the HAZ. Cara understood the member's concern and reported the opportunity the HAZ gave to work with volunteers like the Friends of Grove Park, who did a marvellous job maintaining Grove Park.</p> <p>A member felt the HAZ was an exciting and great opportunity for intergenerational work. Cara agreed and elaborated by informing of good working examples with the college and Walliscote school developing an APP for a treasure hunt around Weston.</p> <p>A member asked what influence the HAZ would have on the introduction of modern buildings and what the overall vision was? David took the opportunity to respond by saying that it was a useful point, and that access to the best design quality was key to regeneration of the town. Historic England were keen to see the very best of modern design sitting alongside historic architecture. They can channel money into this but it needs collaborative support and partnership working to create a legacy and needed a holistic approach.</p> <p>A member was pleased to see that North Somerset Council were taking an interest in heritage and asked whether there were any plans to involve the Tropicana within the project. Cara explained that both the Tropicana and Birnbeck Pier were outside of the HAZ footprint and because of their size would drown the HAZ project.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davis</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the four questions posed to the council by Cara on behalf of the Heritage Action Zone be deferred to the Museum and Heritage Sub Committee for consideration.</p> <p>Both Cara MacMahon and David Stuart left the meeting at 8.17 pm.</p>
<p>237</p>	<p>On Street Parking and Enforcement and Residents' Parking</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report reminded members of the resolution passed at its Town Council meeting on the 25th September 2017 and provided the response received from Allan Taylor, Parking Services/Civil Enforcement manager, Development & Environment, North Somerset Council. Members were asked to consider the response.</p> <p>A member read aloud guidelines from central government where it clearly stipulated that people should have a 10min window to return to their car, which was not being adhered to by parking enforcement attendants. She reported an incident where a poppy collector had parked in a loading bay with the hazard lights on, displaying the official badge and was fined. The parking enforcement officer told her that she should have left her boot open. This was not possible due to the poppy boxes she had in the boot of the vehicle. On a second appeal process the fine was dropped. Some common sense needed to be applied when issuing fines and it was felt that there had been no progress with this.</p> <p>Another member thanked all who came to the meeting held on 17th November to be educated in car parking enforcement. Where the concerns with ticketing and being able to park outside of your property were aired, the Parking Manager felt that his team were acting professionally</p>

	<p>and had invited any member to go out with a member of his team to witness this.</p> <p>Further debate ensued. It was felt it would have been more appropriate for Councillor Elfan Ap Rees to have responded. Monitoring parking from the CCTV control room had show blatant parking abuse. The zero tolerance policy had been pushed for by local businesses.</p> <p>The Town Mayor, speaking in her capacity as a ward councillor, raised her concerns as to how the policy was affecting residents in her ward. Illegal parking was not the issue, it was the fact that people could not park within the vicinity of their house.</p> <p>Views were expressed that the policy had been introduced without a review of the current 25 year old scheme of road marking in place and without regard to the changes of use within the town. Councillor Elfan Ap Rees will not accept a residents' parking scheme and therefore should be invited to the next full council meeting to address members' concerns. There were two elements: one of which was the parking scheme which Councillor Elfan Ap Rees needed to be pursued; secondly, the conduct of the parking enforcement attendants to which Allan Taylor needed to address. There was an element of education and understanding needed between the attendants and the public.</p> <p>Members were disgruntled that a response had not been received direct from the Chief Executive when the Town Clerk had written to him specifically. They felt that the town council had been fobbed off and requested that Elfan Ap Rees and his colleagues attend the next Town Council meeting.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Davis SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To invite Councillor Elfan Ap Rees to attend the next Town Council Meeting to address members and explain North Somerset Council's parking enforcement policies.</p>
238	<p>Motion under Standing Order 11 by Councillor Catherine Gibbons</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Catherine Gibbons to present her motion to members.</p> <p>Councillor Catherine Gibbons was very pleased and proud to present the following motion to the town council:</p> <p>‘That this Council supports the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Coastline (PFC) campaign in an effort to reduce the use of single use plastics (eg cutlery, straws, cups, fish & chip boxes etc) in the town which, in turn, contribute not only to the plastic pollution epidemic in our waters, but also to the litter problem on our streets.</p> <p>This Council notes that achieving this accreditation requires 5 objectives to be met and that this Council will lead by example.’</p> <p>Councillor Gibbons said that it was in the Town Council's best interest to pass this for the future of the town and make it a better place. The Council would be only the second council in the south west to do so and she therefore proposed the motion.</p> <p>Other members were happy to support the motion and felt it was good timing with the introduction of public protection orders. It was then proposed that Councillor Catherine Gibbons be nominated for the steering group for the project of which the first meeting was arranged for the 28th November. Councillor Gibbons was happy to take this on board as an amendment to the motion.</p>

	<p>Members were very much in support of the motion and felt it was an educative process much like the plastic carrier bag charging initiative, which had reduced production of bags by 80%.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor Michael Lyall</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) That this Council supports the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Coastline (PFC) campaign in an effort to reduce the use of single use plastics (eg cutlery, straws, cups, fish & chip boxes etc) in the town which, in turn, contribute not only to the plastic pollution epidemic in our waters, but also to the litter problem on our streets. <p>This Council notes that achieving this accreditation requires 5 objectives to be met and that this Council will lead by example.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2) That Councillor Catherine Gibbons be nominated for the steering group for the project of which the first meeting was arranged for the 28th November.
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.55 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Town Mayor</p>