

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2018**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.00 pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer/Deputy Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Reverend Steven Christian (Town Mayor's Deputy Chaplain), Sarah Robinson (Weston & Somerset Mercury), Ann Bunn (Heart of Weston), Jonny Boxshall (Heart of Weston), Valerie Doneghen (WsM Homeless Group), Mrs Ann Nutwell, Mr and Mrs Gorton (Parishioners) and 6 members of the public.

The Town Mayor invited her Deputy Chaplain to say prayers.

The Town Mayor invited questions and observations from parishioners present.

Valerie Doneghan, organiser of the Weston-super-Mare Homelessness group wanted to thank Barry Edwards for opening the doors of the Friends meeting house over the recent severely cold periods. She directed two questions to Councillor Richard Nightingale. 1. Where and what was the £10,000 raised by local businesses in aid of homelessness spent and could he provide her with receipts of this? 2. Could he share this information with his fellow Councillors?

In response, Councillor Richard Nightingale would gladly oblige and provide the information.

Anne Bunn Chairman of the Heart of Weston group and also part of the Friends of Grove Park and Weston-super-Mare Homeless groups wanted to report the increase in usage of the food banks and that people were having to make the decision between eating and heating. She had been attending the Central Ward Working Group Party meetings where she hoped that they were helping to move things forward. She echoed the thanks made by Val and stressed that without the use of the Quakers over the cold periods, there would most certainly of been a death. Ann had a very good overview of what was happening within central ward as she sat on many groups including the Central Ward Deprivation Steering Group. She urged dual hatted councillors to take these comments back to North Somerset Council for some action.

Jonny Boxshall, also part of the Friends of Grove Park and Weston-super-Mare Homeless groups was concerned by the brokenness of the North Somerset Council structures in place for the town and used the refuse/recycling as an example. Weston should be run by Westonians who are affected by the systems. He pressed the town council to have an input on changing these systems.

The Town Mayor thanked those who addressed the meeting.

375	To receive Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Crockford-Hawley, Frederick Parsons and Lisa Pilgrim.
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376	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
377	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 22nd January 2018</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davis</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.</p>
378	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that she and the Mayoress had attended 180 engagements; the Deputy Mayor had attended seven and the Leader one engagement on her behalf, which was a total of 188 to date.</p> <p>The Town Mayor then highlighted her recent Charity Ball which was held on 17th March. An enjoyable evening had been enjoyed by all and over £5,000 had been raised for charity. The Mayor thanked all who had supported the event.</p>
379	<p>Designation of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2018-2019</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Councillor Mike Lyall be elected Town Mayor for the year 2018-2019 2. That Councillor Martin Williams be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2018-2019. <p>Councillor Mike Lyall thanked his fellow Councillors for his election as Mayor.</p>
380	<p>To approve the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2018 – May 2019</p> <p>The draft Calendar had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk highlighted and apologised for an error made with regards to a Community Services Committee date in September and confirmed that this should be 17th September 2018.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2018 – May 2019 be approved.</p>

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Central Ward Working Party

The Town Mayor invited Councillor Richard Nightingale to make his proposal to the council:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Richard Nightingale

SECONDED BY: Councillor Martin Williams

That Weston-super-Mare Town Council take the following initial steps in its battle against deprivation in Central Ward.

1. That the Town Council write to Laila Pennington Head of Primary Care for NHS England South West informing her that the mooted date of 2020 for a new health and community hub for Central Ward is too far away and needs to be brought forward.
2. Also to take on board the requests by Citizens Advice Bureau and Voluntary Action North Somerset, important potential future partners in the battle against deprivation, for a closer relationship by proposing that a nominated Town Councillor be appointed to the Board of both organisations.
3. To contact the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, acknowledging previous initiatives in tackling crime and poor housing conditions specifically at drug/alcohol support accommodation in Weston super Mare and asking that renewed focus is given to this issue.
4. Lastly write to North Somerset Council to support new proposals to give star ratings to drug/alcohol support accommodation in Weston super Mare especially those which are based in HMO's (Houses of Multiple Occupation). These ratings should be widely published.

Councillor Richard Nightingale offered a verbal update on the business discussed by the Central Ward Working Party. Deprivation was a large and complex issue. The Working Party was formed after the astounding findings outlined within North Somerset Central Ward Needs Assessment. At its first meeting, Helen Yeo (Advanced Health Improvement Specialist (Healthy Communities) People and Communities North Somerset Council) had been invited. The second meeting was attended by agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Voluntary Action North Somerset and the Heart of Weston group. The final meeting was held at ADDACTION and attended by officers from North Somerset Council. Supported accommodation was the area that needed addressing. The Town Council should play its part in actively tackling this area, hence his proposals.

Lastly, Councillor Nightingale read aloud an alarming account from a resident within a dry house on their personal experience of an aggressive social worker, when called for medical assistance.

Debate ensued. A member would have preferred a full written report. There had not been enough investigation for the proposals at this stage and there were other campaigns and issues out there such as Acorn and mental health that the Working Party needed to touch on.

In the presence of many of the volunteers in attendance at the meeting, members should be more positive. Deprivation was a 'town' problem and not just specific to central ward.

It was clarified that the comments made were by no means negative and just that there were other elements that had not yet been heard. The Working Party had done very well but more information was needed in order to make a proposal at this stage.

	<p>It was then proposed that recommendation .4 regarding dry houses should be more forceful. The Working Party had learnt that there was no monitoring of them and that some of the properties should be black listed. The regulations needed to be far more robust.</p> <p>The recommendation needed to be more robust and was worried that there didn't seem to be much emphasis on homelessness towards which the council had decided to earmark £25,000. The Council needed to urge North Somerset Council to financially support the issue.</p> <p>In reference to recommendation 4, a member felt that it should be delayed at this time and taken back to the Working Party for strengthening. It was suggested that the Working Party could look at an accreditation scheme for the supported accommodation/dry houses.</p> <p>Councillor Nightingale, summing up, had taken all of members comments on board, however time was of the essence and he did not want to lose the momentum of the issues.</p> <p>An AMENDMENT was</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor James Clayton</p> <p>That recommendation 4 waits a Town Council meeting cycle and be referred back to the Central Ward Working Party for further investigation and strengthening.</p> <p>A vote on the AMENDMENT was taken and accordingly it was carried (13 for : 4 against)</p> <p>The amendment therefore became part of the substantive motion which was voted on and carried and it was therefore:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Town Council write to Laila Pennington Head of Primary Care for NHS England South West informing her that the mooted date of 2020 for a new health and community hub for Central Ward is too far away and needs to be brought forward. 2. Also to take on board the requests by Citizens Advice Bureau and Voluntary Action North Somerset, important potential future partners in the battle against deprivation, for a closer relationship by proposing that a nominated Town Councillor be appointed to the Board of both organisations. 3. To contact the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, acknowledging previous initiatives in tackling crime and poor housing conditions specifically at drug/alcohol support accommodation in Weston super Mare and asking that renewed focus is given to this issue. 4. That the issue of star ratings to drug/alcohol support accommodation in Weston super Mare be further investigated by the working party before making a recommendation to the Town Council at its meeting in July.
382	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held on the 27th February 2018</p> <p>The notes were distributed at the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Jan Holloway highlighted that item 1. Apologies for absence needed to reflect that Mr. Aplin was not a councillor.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the notes of the Youth Council be noted.</p>
383	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk reiterated the seconded to last paragraph of the report that it was not anticipated that there was likely to be a very significant income to the Town Council from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) given that all existing permissions were excluded including the Airfield, the last major area of housing development left within the parish boundary. In addition in relation to residential development the entire Weston area was subject to a 50% reduction in the normal rates of CIL, and the entire town centre area was zero rated (to encourage residential development).</p> <p>It was questioned how the council would deal with monies received and the Town Clerk confirmed that these would be put in a separately identified fund.</p> <p>Disappointment was expressed that developments within the town centre were zero rated. It was suggested that as CIL was the replacement for 106, the council should spend any money received from developments within a ward to that ward only.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that any further information that came to light be reported to the Policy and Finance Committee.</p>
384	<p>Plastic Free Campaign The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk highlighted that discussion had taken place at the Leadership Team of key staff where there was a lot of enthusiasm to show leadership in this area. An audit was being undertaken of the use of single use plastics by council departments. The council's departments did not appear to be heavy users of single use plastics in most areas but a number of ways to replace or eliminate single use plastics had been identified. The objective must be for Weston to achieve Plastic Free Coastline accreditation hopefully by the summer of 2018. A number of beach cleans had taken place and the external steering group had already signed up a number of schools and businesses.</p> <p>Councillor Catherine Gibbons who had been appointed to sit on the steering group for the project informed that the group were very optimistic about achieving accreditation. The main focus was trying to sign up 18 further businesses to achieve the goal of 30. She asked each councillor to sign up a business in their ward. Sarah Robinson of the Mercury was developing a map to encourage businesses to sign up. Paul Batts, Chairman of the Business Improvement District, was working to sign up community spaces but any help with that would be much appreciated. Finally, seven schools had signed up and a further four or five were needed and so councillors' help with this was also requested.</p> <p>It was highlighted the fact that there were no plastic recycling facilities which the council needed to push for. There was also a need for the recycling crews to clear up behind themselves to avoid plastic gathering in the gutters. On the spot fines should be applied.</p> <p>Members thanked Councillor Gibbons for her work on the project and asked if all other towns and cities sited along the Bristol channel could also be encouraged to sign up to the project, to which Councillor Gibbons confirmed that they had been asked.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>

<p>385</p>	<p>Earmarked Reserves – Tourism Photography and Video</p> <p>The report of the Deputy Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the report set out the overall Earmarked Reserves for the year 2017/2018 for approval in principle and that the final figures would be submitted to the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting on 23rd April, including the Tourism requirement.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the recognised Earmarked Reserve requirements for the year 2017/2018 – noting confirmed final end figures for the Heritage Lottery Fund project, Planned Property Maintenance and month 12 confirmed at Policy & Finance Committee at 23rd April 2018 alongside all other final figures.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.00 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Town Mayor</p>