

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 21ST JANUARY 2019**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.40 pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Fiona Walsh (Finance Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer/Administrator), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplain), Colin Bradbury (Area Director North Somerset, NHS Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire CCG) and Vicky Angear (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplain, to say prayers, which remembered the late passing of Peter Lee a former employee of the Town Council. He was well regarded and would be sadly missed.

The Town Mayor invited members of the public to address the meeting.

Jeffery Pye a surgeon at Weston General Hospital addressed the meeting on behalf of the consultants' body. Consultants were aware of the changes and options approaching the hospital and were working with the CCG on their preferred proposals. There was huge anxiety around the withdrawal of services at the hospital which would have a knock on effect to other departments. Particularly the closure of the A&E department overnight. The Consultants body had come up with a proposal/model for keeping the A&E department open and detailed work was being undertaken to formalise the model.

Dr. Paraj Singhal a consultant at Weston General Hospital addressed the meeting and stressed the need for the word to be spread on the proposed model to keep the Accident and Emergency (A&E) department open. At least 30 other hospitals were at risk of losing their A&E departments and so the model could be potentially ruled out nationally to eliminate this.

Peter McAleer a parishioner stressed the strains and distress that people were suffering of as a result of the A&E closure. The inspections revealed that more staff were needed and no real dangers. The closure was a shock to all and only every supposed to be temporary. He stressed the need for having the Town Council's support and made reference to its Town Strategy 2016-2020 where it referred to supporting local businesses.

Porsha Wilson a parishioner gave a personal account of her experience being moved to another Hospital as a result of the closure. As an anxiety sufferer this was extremely traumatic for her.

Joshua Bell of Eagles Homeless Outreach which was a project that worked with and supported other projects such as Winter Warmth extended an invitation to all Councillors to accompany them on their night walks to experience and witness the work that they did supporting homelessness.

The Town Mayor thanked all for their address and welcomed them to stay for the rest of the meeting.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a letter of expression of concern from the Consultant body, Weston General Hospital, addressed to Ms Julia Ross, Chief Executive Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG was circulated to members.

304	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roz Willis and Steven Kane.</p>
305	<p>Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
306	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 26th November 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 Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.</p>
307	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor The Town Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended 29 engagements; the Deputy Mayor had attended 2 on his behalf and the Leader 0; which was a total of 150 to date.</p> <p>Significant events to report included:</p> <p>3 Blue Plaques – Hans Price at Weston College, Worle Village School & Captain Day at Anchor Head Hotel Christmas Lights Switch On Staff & Councillor Christmas Get Together Mayors Carol Service Visit to Hildesheim 17-20 December Mayors Children’s party at the Museum</p> <p>Upcoming events included: Saturday 16th March - Mayor’s Chosen Charity Evening at St Pauls Church – Foodbank. 22nd – 28th February Literary Festival – Please can Councillors encourage their friends and families to support.</p>
308	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meetings held on 25th September & 23rd October Notes of the Youth Council meetings held on the 25th September & 23rd October were available at the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Codling reported as Youth Champion that she had been working with them and meeting dates were being communicated to members who had attended meetings.</p> <p>Members of the Youth Council were very welcome and encouraged to attend Town Council meetings and report on behalf of the Youth Council.</p>
309	<p>Healthy Weston Initiative and Community Hub The Town Mayor invited Colin Bradbury (Area Director North Somerset, NHS Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire CCG) to present to the meeting. Colin thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them and explained that he was there in replacement of Glyn Howells who was listed on the agenda.</p> <p>Colin began by explaining that although the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) focuses on hospitals, the work was more widespread and looked at all primary care services as resources.</p>

	<p>He welcomed the comments made earlier in the meeting within public participation and looked forward to conversing with the Consultants' body on their proposal/model for keeping the A&E department open. The programme was clinically led and that clinicians were key to finding a solution. He reassured the Council that the CCG had not come up with a decision yet and that this was subject to full public consultation.</p> <p>Colin presented the Health Weston Vision via PowerPoint presentation and elaborated on various sections such as:</p> <p>The case for change and its four elements. The three programmes of work and the 6 models of care. Model 6 was no longer supported by national policy and no further analysis was being undertaken on it.</p> <p>A question and answer session then ensued.</p> <p>A member felt that it was clearly a case of management against practitioners and asked where the model suggested by the Consultants' body, featured in the 6 models.</p> <p>Colin explained that the CCG were meeting with the Consultants' body later that week to discuss their proposed model.</p> <p>The issue of frailty which was referred to within the presentation was raised. Colin was asked how the CCG were going to address the issue of the aging population? In reply Colin explained there was a difference between frail and elderly and that the current care system was too fragmented to address this.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that the consultation dates had already been set without prior discussion with the Consultants' body. A further member informed that she had attended a meeting on 3rd December where the CCG informed that they were ready for public consultation on 3 of the 6 care models. Colin Bradbury confirmed that the CCG were not ready to go out to public consultation at this stage.</p> <p>Members were frustrated to see that 5 out of the 6 models did not include a fully functioning A&E department when Weston has a larger population than other towns with A&E departments.</p> <p><i>At this stage in the meeting, The Town Mayor brought forwards item 10 for discussion.</i></p>
310	<p>Motion to Council under Standing Order 11 by Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Peter Fox to propose his motion as follows:</p> <p>‘Weston-super-Mare Town Council was addressed by James Rimmer, Chief Executive of Weston Area Health Trust on the 24th July 2017 about the closure of the Accident and Emergency ward overnight due to safety concerns as a result of staff shortages following recruitment difficulties. This Council sent a clear message that they were against the forced partial closure, however the department still remains shut overnight.</p> <p>This Council wishes to see the restoration of a 24/7 Accident and Emergency service at Weston General Hospital and share the concerns expressed by hospital clinicians about its continued closure. The Council urges the Clinical Commissioning Group to carefully consider the proposals from Adekoyejo Odutola (Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon) Chair of the Hospital Medical Advisory Committee at Weston General Hospital dated 21.12.18 and also ensure that there is meaningful consultation with this consultant body at Weston Area Health NHS Trust before any decisions on the future of Accident and Emergency provision are finalised.’</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Fox SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>Councillor Fox’s motion was congratulated as it was what the community wanted and desperately needed. The member speaking had been present at many campaigns/meetings and protests where appearances from other councillors was needed and very much lacking. The closure of the A&E department was putting pressure on surrounding hospitals which was unfair. There was a CCG meeting scheduled for the 5th February to which she would like to see all members attend, showing their support. The MP also needed to show his support on the subject and campaign on behalf of his constituency.</p> <p>It was suggested that this was even having an impact on the housing markets. There could be a potential 30,000 people coming to live in Weston and one of the factors they look at is hospital services. A town of Weston’s size and population needed a fully functioning hospital which would also attract doctors to come and work in Weston.</p> <p>Members felt that there was only 1 of the 6 models that needed pursuing, which was Option number 1 – a 24 hour 7 day a week Consultant led A&E.</p> <p>A Member asked for the proposal to be AMENDED to add the wording ‘and with the wider public’ after the words ‘NHS Trust’.</p> <p>The AMENDMENT was accepted by the proposer and seconder and a vote was then taken on the amended motion and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Weston-super-Mare Town Council was addressed by James Rimmer, Chief Executive of Weston Area Health Trust on the 24th July 2017 about the closure of the Accident and Emergency ward overnight due to safety concerns as a result of staff shortages following recruitment difficulties. This Council sent a clear message that they were against the forced partial closure, however the department still remains shut overnight.</p> <p>This Council wishes to see the restoration of a 24/7 Accident and Emergency service at Weston General Hospital and share the concerns expressed by hospital clinicians about its continued closure. The Council urges the Clinical Commissioning Group to carefully consider the proposals from Adekoyejo Odutola (Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon) Chair of the Hospital Medical Advisory Committee at Weston General Hospital dated 21.12.18 and also ensure that there is meaningful consultation with this consultant body at Weston Area Health NHS Trust, and with the wider public, before any decisions on the future of Accident and Emergency provision are finalised.</p>
311	<p>Political Balance</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained that he had brought the report as a result of Councillor Len Purnell transferring from the Conservative Group to the Labour Group on the Town Council. One seat also remained vacant following the resignation of Councillor Clive Darke.</p> <p>The Town Council’s political group balance was now therefore Conservative 18, Labour 7, Liberal Democrat 4, UKIP 1. A percentage calculation of political balance on committees and working parties had been calculated in the conventional way (to the nearest 2 decimal places) which was detailed in the report.</p> <p>Councillor Webb explained that it would be simplest to add a seat on two committees so that the Labour Group could take their extra place.</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>311.1 RESOLVED: To increase the committee memberships of the Policy & Finance and Community Services Committees to 13 members.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>311.2 RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Councillor Richard Tucker take a seat on the Community Services Committee. 2. That Councillor Alan Peak take a seat on the Policy & Finance Committee. 3. That Councillor Len Purnell remain on the Tourism & Leisure Committee.
<p>312</p>	<p>Play Areas – Planned Maintenance Programme</p> <p>The Minute Extract of the Tourism and Leisure Committee held on 3rd December 2019 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The decisions of the Tourism and Leisure Committee were noted and approved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the adoption of a EMRRP programme for the council’s 21 Parks and Play area provision. 2. Adopt the 5 year scheduled plan for the year commencing 1st April 2019. 3. Consider and set the annual budget requirements based on the plan for 2019 – 2024 of £260,656. 4. Agree that future annual reviews based on this system plan will be undertaken and received by the Tourism and Leisure Committee as per its terms of reference for the management of play areas.
<p>313</p>	<p>Town Council Budget and Precept for the year 2019/2020</p> <p>The proposed budget recommended by the Policy & Finance Committee at their meeting on the 17th December 2018 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>That the proposed budget recommended by the Policy & Finance Committee at their meeting on the 17th December 2018 by approved and adopted.</p> <p>Budget amendment proposals had been circulated by both the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>FIRST AMENDMENT</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor Denise Hunt</p>

The following amendments to the draft budget were proposed by the Labour Group:

1. £10,000 to ‘Somewhere to Go’ to enable it to open more than 3 times a week in order to be able to offer support to the NAC guests every day.
2. 2x £2,500 grants specifically for Social prescribing projects (such as Pimp my Frame, which has reduced the number of falls – a major cost to the NHS in terms of hospital admissions- in elderly/vulnerable people)
3. £10000 To provide litter bins at the WTC owned bus shelters
(based on bin cost of £250, emptying cost of £286 =£536 x 17 WTC bus shelters =£9112.00)
4. Raise the grant to Citizens Advice from £12,500 to £15,000
5. Reverse the £65,000 cut to the Parks and Play areas budget
6. Civic support – catering - reduce by £2950
7. Tourism & Leisure (Visit Weston advertising) - reduce by £15000
8. Cut central marketing £3,500
9. VIC training - cut £3,500
10. Reduce VIC advertising £2,500

Therefore, in total a budget increase of 7.19%.

The proposer of the amendment said in its support that the Town Council had one of the lowest precepts of larger town councils in the country.

Debate ensued on the amendment.

It was felt by some members that the suggestion of increasing the grants budget could not be supported. Also the provision of litter bins was a statutory duty of North Somerset Council and the proposal to fund ‘Somewhere to Go’ with £10,000 should be dealt with through the correct committee system and given further consideration. Although the Parks and Play areas budget as originally suggested had been reduced at Policy and Finance Committee, it was still larger than in the past.

A member argued that ‘Somewhere to Go’ was needed and should have positive support.

A vote on the **FIRST AMENDMENT** was then taken and **lost** (7 for; 16 against).

SECOND AMENDMENT

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford

The following amendments to the draft budget were proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group:

1. Remove all funding and income from the Visitor Information Centre (VIC), diverting £5,000 of this into the expansion of the tourism website and other online offer.
2. Adjust the play area maintenance and refurbishment programme to £170,000.
3. Reduce training by £2,500. Of this, £1,000 should be reduced from councillor training, and £1,500 to be spread across Blakehay, Museum and Grounds training at officers’ discretion.
4. Reduce civic support by £2,500, divided between catering, travel and miscellaneous at the civic officer’s discretion.
5. Invest £7,500 in investigating and introducing new technologies for the automated removal of dog faeces from public spaces.

	<p>The proposer said that the VIC was not a good use of taxpayers' money and gave no benefit to the community. The amendment would give a budget requirement of £1,951,338, and increase to the cost to a Band D tax payer compared to 2018/19 of 0.91%, lower than the budget proposed by the majority group.</p> <p>Debate ensued on the proposals to adjust the play area maintenance programme and to remove all funding and income from the Visitor Information Centre. It was argued by the Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee that tourism investment does pay off and creates job.</p> <p>The Leader of Council said that he would like to see some of the proposed reductions such as an alternative means of dealing with dog waste come through the committee system where they could be discussed with more due diligence.</p> <p>A vote on the SECOND AMENDMENT was then taken and lost (4 for; 15 against)</p> <p>A vote on the substantive motion was then taken and carried (16 for, 10 against) and it was therefore:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the revenue budget as set out by the Policy and Finance Committee for the year 2019/2020 at £2,007,277. 2. Accordingly, to approve the town precept at £2,007,277, for submission to North Somerset Council.
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Town Mayor</p>