



**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2025**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.52 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Martin Williams (Town Mayor), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Joe Bambridge, Mike Bell, Mark Canniford, Annabelle Chard, Jemma Coles, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Catherine Gibbons, Owen James, Hugh Malyan, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen, John Standfield, Tim Taylor, Richard Tucker and Charlie Williams.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Civic Officer & PA to CEO/Town Clerk), Alison Garner (Democratic Services Officer), Inspector Lee Kerslake, Oliver Masley (Youth Council), Alexa Lewis (Youth Council), Martin Slade (Member of the public) and 3 other members of the public.

The Town Mayor informed that the meeting would be filmed and available for viewing the following day.

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

Martin Slade addressed the meeting raising concerns regarding how policy that directly affected Weston, appeared to have taken place without proper consultation, comment or debate within full council or with its residents. Making reference to agenda item 3 approving the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting and making reference to the petition against the Council of Sanctuary and the published white paper "TIME FOR CHANGE" - Developing an Anti-Racism Strategy for Weston" that was causing concern.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr. Slade for address.

238	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Thornton, Simon Harrison-Morse, Gill Bute, James Clayton and John Carson. It was noted that Councillors Mark Aplin and Marcia Pepperall were absent from the meeting.
239	Declarations of Interest

	<p>There were none received.</p>
240	<p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The following amendments were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min no 161 – remove ‘Suspended’ from the beginning of the 3rd to last paragraph. • Min no 162 – Resolution – the spelling of ‘Councillor’. • Min no 168 – 4th to last paragraph ‘not’ to replace ‘nor’. • That Councillor Mike Bell was present at the meeting. <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly SECONDED BY: Councillor Charlie Williams</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendments the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p>
241	<p>To Receive Announcements and Communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The mayor’s announcements and communications had been previously circulated.</p> <p>There had been 171 engagements attended by the Town Mayor; 16 by the Deputy Mayor and 2 by the Leader which was a total of 189 to date.</p> <p>Dates for diaries were highlighted as follows: <u>1st December Weston Hospice care Light up a life service</u> <u>2nd December MFA Christmas Lunch</u> <u>3rd December Lord Lieutenant Christmas Carol Service</u> <u>5th December St Martins Church Christmas Tree Festival</u> <u>10th-14th December Hildesheim Annual Visit</u> <u>17th December Carols by Candlelight at All Saints Church</u> <u>18th December staff, Councillor and Volunteer Christmas Lunch</u> <u>20th December 6th Battalion, The Riffles Christmas Service</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Mayor’s report be noted.</p>
242	<p>To receive the verbal report of the Youth Council (YC)</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Oliver and Alexa, members of the YC to come forward and make a verbal report to the meeting.</p> <p>Accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, Oliver and Alexa highlighted on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the YC had partnered with the college, who would be helping them with the technical side of their upcoming youth talent show and their newsletter. • The YC had seen a large increase in their social media presence of which they were keen to develop further.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At their recent meeting, awarded a £1,000 grant to 1st Uphill Scouts through the youth grants system. • Hosted a visit from Crewkerne Youth Council in the summer which was very beneficial. • Attended the following events representing the YC: Mayor Making, RESET Youth Awards, the Quarry opening, Carnival where the YC hosted a drop in before the event, Remembrance where the Chair laid a wreath and Xmas Lights switch on. • Lastly, they ended with their plans for their Youth talent show event 'Next Gen Spotlight' which would be held on the 25th January at the Blakehay Theatre. Councillors were encouraged to support with advertising and purchase ticket for their event. <p>The Mayor thanked both Oliver and Alexa for their address and encouraged Councillors to support the YC at their monthly meetings and help with engaging with secondary schools and other youth-based organisations to recruit new members.</p> <p>.1 To receive the Minutes of the Youth Council Meetings held in July, September, October 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the meetings had been previously circulated.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p>
243	<p>Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-super-Mare</p> <p>The Town Mayor welcomed and introduced Inspector Lee Kerslake to address the meeting.</p> <p>Inspector Lee Kerslake gave an overview of the current policing situation across Weston-super-Mare via PowerPoint including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic Model • Overview of the last 'Tactical Period' – 23/08 – 22/11 – in NSC and Weston - showing seasonal snapshot figures highlighting how the recording of data had changed and as a result of this figures were now, showing an overall decrease in all areas, apart from burglary and how shoplifting offences had been profoundly affected, which was appreciated but was not perceived as being the case in reality • NTT summary • Additional Information – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Community Tensions ➢ Graffiti – Marine Lake – Enquiries ongoing ➢ Ongoing work around understanding levels of unreported hate crime ➢ Winter Safer Streets ➢ Op Scorpion ➢ Op Glitz ➢ Op Artemis <p>The Inspector asked for Councillors feedback on what they would like to see in future reports in order to make them as useful as possible and asked that this be submitted to the CEO/Town Clerk for forwarding to him. A Q&A session then took place where Councillors raised the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoplifting in Supermarkets was an ongoing problem, which was not always being recorded should be encouraged to report, to target repeat offenders. • A presentation on safety for members at a future meeting would be useful. • Concern regarding the handling of the recent suspicious package incident at West Street, in particular associated costs and evacuation procedures. • More understanding regarding the data recording issues and accuracy was needed. How could this be improved and what needed to be done to achieve this? • What were the plans for more police visibility and how to tackle this? • How effective were the activism awareness events on reporting crime? <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Inspector for his report and <i>he left the meeting at 7.44pm</i></p>
244	<p>To receive the Approved Standing Orders (Sept TC)</p> <p>The approved Standing Orders had been previously circulated which were for noting as standing approval.</p> <p>Clarity was sought on point 26.1 from the CEO/Town Clerk</p> <p>RESOLVED: To receive the Approved Standing Orders (Sept TC)</p> <p><i>Alexa Lewis (YC) left at 7.46pm</i></p>
245	<p>Visit Weston</p> <p>The report of the Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Councillors were asked to approve the recommendation from the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee, regarding the Visit Weston Website Procurement as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the appointment of Plaster as the contractor to undertake the Visit Weston Website requirements (noting they were the highest scoring overall) as agreed by the Amenities Committee 10.11.25. 2. To approve the issue of the Purchase Order for this contracted works, in recognition of Budget provision being in place 01.04.26 to allow the build to commence and be completed prior to the current website contract ceasing mid-May 2026 <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the order to be issued to Plaster £33,750 for the design and build (noting £4,800 for annual maintenance for future years) of the Visit Weston Website to be raised, whilst recognising that the budget provision for the works has been included within the 2026/2027 budget setting process to allow the build to commence and be completed prior to the current website contract ceasing mid-May 2026.</p>

246	<p>Armed Forces Covenant</p> <p>The report of the Civic Officer including the recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th October 2025 and recommended Armed Forces Covenant had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Catherine Gibbons to address the meeting as Armed Forces Champion who delivered a supporting speech and therefore proposed</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly</p> <p>It was noted that the approved Covenant for signing needed to include the Kings Crown.</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Weston-super-Mare Town Council adopts its own Armed Forces Covenant, reflecting its continuing commitment to the Armed Forces community as previously considered and agreed by Finance & General Purposes Committee 13.10.25; 2. That the Town Clerk/Chief Executive Officer be authorised to finalise the wording of the Covenant in consultation with the Chair of Council and relevant partners if required; and 3. That arrangements be made for a formal signing ceremony with local Armed Forces representatives and community stakeholders. 4. That the approved Covenant include the Kings Crown.
	<p>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.52 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p>