



**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2026**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.09 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Martin Williams (Town Mayor/Chair), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mike Bell, Gillian Bute, Annabelle Chard, James Clayton, Jemma Coles, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Catherine Gibbons, Simon Harrison-Morse, Hugh Malyan, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, Caroline Reynolds, John Standfield, Tim Taylor, Helen Thornton, Richard Tucker and Charlie Williams.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk), Helen Morton (Director of Finance and Resources), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Civic Officer & PA to CEO/Town Clerk), Warren Parker-Mills (Communications and Marketing Manager), Inspector Lee Kerlake, James Davis (Armed Forces Parade Master), Darren Fairchild (Town Centre Partnership Manager) and 3x members of the public.

The Chair invited James Davis, the Armed Forces Day Parade Master to address the meeting in relation to agenda item 11 Armed Forces Day 2026. Mr Davis spoke in support the report's recommendations and the need for a fresh approach as the programme current programme was stale, emphasising rising complexities and costs and national operation realities. He added that the Armed Forces Committee really enjoyed the strong civic support from the Town Council and encouraged councillor participation at the event.

275	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Peter Crew, Robert Skeen, Owen James, John Carson, Mark Canniford, Joe Bambridge and Marc Aplin.
276	Declarations of Interest There were none received.
277	To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 24th November 2025 The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. Some grammatical amendments were noted, which would be communicated to Officers after the meeting.

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Charlie Williams SECONDED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the inclusion of grammatical amendments, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p>
278	<p>To receive a request for Amendment to the Approved Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 24th March 2025.</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk/CEO outlining a request received from a member of the public for an amendment to the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 March 2025 and to seek Council’s determination, had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly SECONDED: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the request for the Amendment to the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 24th March 2025 be approved as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>“Martin was neutral towards the motion but was against the process of the motion and was extremely disappointed to hear of it at such short notice...”</i> 2. <i>A minor typographical correction from “understanding order 11” to “under Standing Order 11” is also requested.</i>
279	<p>To receive the Minutes of the Youth Council Meetings held in November and December 2025.</p> <p>The minutes of the meetings had been previously circulated.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p>
280	<p><i>At this point in the meeting, the Chair proposed item 11 Armed Forces Day 2026 for discussion and it was agreed that :</i></p> <p><i>Standing Orders should be suspended at 7.05 pm to allow questions to be answered from attendees (James Davis and Darren Fairchild- Town Centre Manager).</i></p> <p>Armed Forces Day 2026</p> <p>The Town Centre Manager and Civic Officer presented a revised proposal for the future delivery of Armed Forces & Emergency Services Day, seeking approval for a refreshed 2026 model and endorsement of a longer-term direction (2026–2028) aligned with the Town Council’s Strategy and Armed Forces Covenant. It was noted that the Appendix contained ideas for future years, not for 2026 delivery.</p> <p>The Armed Forces Champion spoke in support of the recommendations, highlighting the need to modernise the event while maintaining strong civic and veteran involvement. The proposed three-year approach aims to refresh the event in 2026, expand its profile in 2027, and achieve sustainability and flagship status by 2028.</p>

In response to questions, the Town Centre Manager explained that the three-year timeline reflected the scale of planning required, rising costs, and the need to rebuild confidence with partners. Councillors discussed costings and practicalities, including concerns about public expectations and the feasibility of aspirations such as a military fly-past or beach landing.

The CEO/Town Clerk clarified that the formal recommendation was set out in point 11 of the report, with point 14 for councillor consideration, and that the Appendix represented early suggestions only for longer term direction of the event. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that the 2026 focus was on improving the family offer and generating income, noting any flight activity would be subject to further exploration and realistic viability talks.

The CEO/Town Clerk confirmed the Town Council's budget for the event is £9,000, with an MOD funding application submitted (typically £4–5,000). If external funding is not secured, the event will be scaled to the £9,000 budget or within total combined budgets available.

General debate followed with regard to the proposal (detailed in section 6.2 of the report).

Standing Orders were resumed at 7.24 pm

PROPOSED: Councillor Catherine Gibbons

SECONDED: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried. (1against; 1abstention).

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the revised Armed Forces & Emergency Services Day delivery model for 2026, as set out in this report section 6.2;
2. Endorse the longer-term strategic aspirations for the event covering the period 2026–2028;
3. Authorise officers to progress a detailed event management plan to include partner engagement, funding applications and operational arrangements for June 2026;
4. Note that future refinements and annual delivery plans will be reported back to Members as appropriate (within the committee terms of reference).

James Davis and Darren Fairchild left the meeting at 7.25 pm.

281 Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-super-Mare

The Town Mayor welcomed and introduced Inspector Lee Kerlake to address the meeting.

Inspector Lee Kerlake attended the meeting to provide an update on neighbourhood and response policing.

Policing Overview

Inspector Kerlake reported that 8 of 18 Beat Officer posts were currently filled, with PCSO staffing at full capacity. He summarised crime data for the latest tactical period, noting national reporting methods could inflate figures. There had been an increase in successful court outcomes, more proactive drug searches in the town centre, a focus on robberies, and a reduction in hate crime.

Operation Anomic

	<p>Operation Anomic had been running since 9 December alongside Operation Glitz, with continued funding and resources to target criminal activity.</p> <p>Councillor Discussion Councillors acknowledged ongoing ASB issues and praised the work of Sergeant Pitman and the team. The Inspector welcomed the feedback and confirmed continued focus on ASB. Clarification was provided on reporting processes, and crime statistics would be circulated to councillors. A small number of repeat offenders were monitored through a dedicated system. Recruitment concerns were raised; the Inspector explained the staffing model and emphasised the importance of context when interpreting statistics.</p> <p>Responses to Pre-submitted Questions No current ASB was reported at Castle Batch, the lane behind Priory School, or the area near Asda/Iceland/McDonald's. Councillors were encouraged to report any future issues.</p> <p>Additional Questions The Inspector confirmed all officers are fully vetted under the national model, which was undergoing renewal. A request was made for trend lines in future statistical reports.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Inspector Kerlake for his attendance. <i>He left the meeting at 8:03 pm.</i></p>
282	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor.</p> <p>The announcements and communications from the Town Mayor were previously circulated.</p> <p>There had been 219 engagements attended by the Mayor; 23 by the Deputy Mayor and 3 by the Leader which was a total of 245 to date.</p> <p>The Mayor added the following dates for diaries as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14th March - Mud Run – The Mayor and a team would be taking part in the challenge to raise money for his chosen charities. • 28th March – Mayors Charity Ball – Councillors support would be much appreciated and please purchase tickets. <p>RESOLVED: That the announcements and communications from the Town Mayor be noted.</p>
283	<p>To approve the Calendar of Meetings for the year 2026/2027.</p> <p>The calendar of meetings had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Amendments were recorded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spelling of Mayor Making. • Devolution S&FG meeting date 6th May 2027 was a Thursday and the day of the 2027 Town Council Election. It was noted that Wednesday 5th May was not suitable as the day before the election and should be rescheduled to an earlier date. • Blue Plaques S&FG meeting date of 20th May 2027 was a Thursday. This should be changed to Tuesday 18th May 2027. <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendments, the calendar of meeting for the year 2026/2027 be brought back to the next meeting for formal approval.</p>
284	<p>To approve Town Council Budget and Precept requirement for the year 2026/2027.</p>

The Town Council Budget and Precept requirement had been previously circulated.

The Director of Finance and Resources advised that a supplementary report had been produced, which was circulated at the meeting, explaining that an error had occurred which changed the precept value but not the budget value, which still stood at 0%.

The Leader clarified the budget process for context and advised that for accuracy, the proposed budget was a 0.08% increase.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly
SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

RESOLVED: To approve:

1. The net revenue budget for the year 2026/2027, as reported, at **£4,465,654**. This was an **annual council tax band D increase of £ 0.14** which equated to an **£0.002** increase per week and a 0.08% overall budget increase.
2. The Town Council precept requirement value at **£4,465,654** for submission to North Somerset Council.

285 To approve Final transfer of Silica from North Somerset Council.

The report of the CEO/Town Clerk had previously been circulated, which noted the previous resolutions of the Council in relation to the transfer of the asset known as The Silica, Regent Street, Weston-super-Mare. As a result of this and having worked through the legal needs with NSC there was now need to formally approve, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, the execution of a Statutory Declaration required to complete the final asset transfer.

PROPOSED: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse
SECONDED: Councillor Catherine Gibbons

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the previous resolutions of the Council relating to the transfer of The Silica, Regent Street, from North Somerset Council to Weston-super-Mare Town Council;
2. To approve, in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 23.1, the execution of the Statutory Declaration attached as Appendix A;
3. To authorise, the CEO/ Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Orders 23.2 or 23.3 (as applicable), to sign the Statutory Declaration, in the presence of a suitably qualified independent person (Councils Solicitor), to enable the final transfer of the Silica to be completed.
3. To authorise the Chair and Vice Chair of Amenities Culture and Leisure committee to act as signatories to complete the necessary lease documents and finalise the asset transfer.

<p>286</p>	<p>To receive North Somerset Council's Community Governance Review – Final recommendations.</p> <p>The review had been previously circulated which advised of the final recommendations approved by the Planning and Regulatory Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 17 December.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the North Somerset Council's Community Governance Review – Final recommendations be noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final recommendation 1: That parish council sizes be revised to closer align with the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) recommended councillor numbers, where supported through the second-stage consultation. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1.6Reduce Weston-super-Mare town council to 29 seats (currently 31), to be achieved by reducing representation in the South Worle and Milton wards from four councillors to three each.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final recommendation 5: That the parish ward names in Weston-super-Mare are renamed to better reflect local identity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5.1That the Weston-super-Mare Bournville ward is not renamed Weston-super-Mare South ward. ➤ 5.2That the Weston-super-Mare Worlebury ward is not renamed Weston-super-Mare Worle West & Worlebury.
	<p>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.09 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p>