

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES WORKING PARTY  
HELD VIA ZOOM  
MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.18 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sarah Codling (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox and Pete McAleer.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcom Nicholson (Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Public Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Zoe Scott (Grounds Coordinator) Ali Waller (Youth Services) and Reece Evans (Community Response Officer).

<b>198</b>	<p>The Chairman announced that the meeting was inquorate and therefore items requiring a decision would be deferred.</p> <p><b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roz Willis and Helen Thornton with no substitutions.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly would be late to the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor John Crockford-Hawley was absent from the meeting.</p>
<b>199</b>	<p><b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
<b>200</b>	<p><b>References from other Committees:</b></p> <p>It was noted that there were none.</p>
<b>201</b>	<p><b>Grounds Management Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) had been previously circulated earlier that day and was available at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Public Toilets</b></p> <p>The team continue to work with Healthmatic across all of the toilet sites. The same ongoing issues were happening at Grove Park and the team were actively working with the Police, NSC and other agencies to address the issues, along with working on a proactive plan to improve the facility for the future.</p> <p><b>Cemetery</b></p> <p>There had been many interments and burials and funeral directors had been very complimentary about the cemetery. The team had been very busy over the past few months. The grass cutting season was coming to an end and so they would be compiling their winter work programme to include topple testing.</p>

The three newly recruited Community Rangers had fitted into the existing Grounds Team well. They had been supporting the existing team with ground works across all sites that would have been carried out by agency staff, this was an area where there was great difficulty in recruitment and retention through the agency used. Grounds work had also been carried out at the Quarry as interim care takers of the outdoor areas.

The whole of the grounds team had been working together to ensure the formal planting in Grove Park and Clarence Park was completed as well as supporting WIB in planting the features.

### **Allotments**

The council continues to have a good working relationship with the Allotment Club and has had several site meetings, addressing a number of issues to include; a water leak, overgrown vegetation/trees and sites that have been subject to vandalism and theft.

### **Bus Shelters**

The Community Rangers had produced a list of all the works needed for bus shelters, such as repairs and graffiti removal which would form part of the winter work programme. The council were working with NSC Highways to assist in the installation of a new bus stop on Locking Road.

*Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly joined the meeting at 7.10 pm.*

*As the meeting was now quorate the Chairman said she would move on to the decision items.*

It was noted that the toilet door at Uphill could not be locked.

In response to a point raised regarding the closure of the coin operated cubicle at Grove Park, the Grounds Coordinator explained that this was due to the door release button which had now been replaced 3times.

The Grounds Manager confirmed that the three new members of the team were working very well and that a fourth position was hoped to be filled with a kickstarter.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **202 To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Working Party meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that an amendment to page 6, minute number 128 'buy' was needed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peter McAleer

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

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

**RESOLVED:** That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

**203 Report from the Community Response Officer**

Reece reported that:

A Community Protection Warning (WPA) had been served on a property in Alma Street.

There had been problems with gangs setting fires at the Campus, Worle. Ali advised linking up with the Healthy Living Centre as there had been similar problems with gangs experienced on the Bournville.

The 'Angela scheme' was looking at being launched at Weston's nighttime accommodation to try and tackle the drink spiking issues.

There were problems with tents pitching at the Emmanuel church and action would be taken.

4/5 tents over time had pitched on Ellenborough Park East and had been successfully moved on using the links a resources, which had resulted in £13k saving in legal costs. Somerset Wood Recycling were due to clear the park in order to help expose the site and tackle the issue.

The Grounds Manager reported the that the tools and powers that Reece had were an advantage to the council.

It was noted that Healthmatic were very helpful when tackling any antisocial behavior problems at toilet sites.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted.

**204 Service Area reports:**

**.1 Youth Services**

The report of the Youth Worker lead had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Ali reported that a meeting place for Uphill had not yet been secured due to retention of staff throughout the pandemic and would be pursued as soon as able.

It was reported that Councillor Ella Sayce had resigned and therefore there was a vacancy on the Youth Council which would be reported to the next Town Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted.

**.2 Community Events**

The Grounds Coordinator reported that the Wellbeing Event held at Ellenborough Park East went well and thanks were given to the Theatre Manager for her support in managing the event in her absence due to sickness. The event attracted local residents and it was good to see a variety of generations enjoying the activities and the park. A meeting to discuss future events, sharing resources and collaborative working would be arranged in the near future and members' ideas on any initiatives/themes would be welcomed.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted.

	<p><b>.3 Weston in Bloom</b></p> <p>The Grounds Coordinator reported that Weston In Bloom had been awarded ‘GOLD’. A meeting with the Judges and Chairman of Weston In Bloom had been held to discuss modernising WIB and taking it forward, establishing more sustainable projects and ‘pocket projects’. A meeting with the Volunteer Coordinator was due and a report would be brought back to a future meeting in time.</p> <p>It was noted that the Royal Horticultural Society were widening the categories and future proofing ‘In Bloom’. Weston in Bloom was already ticking a lot of the boxes which was an advantage for the following year.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p> <p>Councillor Gillian Carpenter’s apologies were noted at this point in the meeting.</p>
<p><b>205</b></p>	<p><b>To receive an update on Grove Park Public Toilets</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that a meeting with NSC/Healthmatic/Police had taken place and the Police had been challenged on their response to the problems at Grove Park toilets. The option of relocating the toilets and the café to Grove House was discussed.</p> <p>A member who attended the meeting was disappointed with the outcome of the meeting and reported that the design of any new toilets and CCTV was paramount for discussions.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p><b>206</b></p>	<p><b>Community Resilience Update</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that good work was continuing with the Food Clubs and the Community Fridge Project which was due its soft launch that week with a formal launch opened by the Mayor at the end of the month. The Anti-Racism Groups were operating well meeting once a month and the Museum had organised events during Black History Month.</p> <p>The Chairman requested a report on evaluation of progress against the Framework at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted and a report on evaluation of progress against the Framework be reported at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>207</b></p>	<p><b>Street Art Trail 2021 ‘Weston Walls’</b></p> <p>In the absence of the Deputy Town Clerk it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To defer an update on progress from the Deputy Town Clerk / Culture Weston following site visit with Upfest and Culture Weston.</p>

## 208 Grant applications

The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda. The remaining budget for small and voluntary grants was £6,050.

The remaining budget for Community Event Grants was £49,000.

### **.1 Weston PRIDE**

**Grant applied for £1,000**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The purpose of the grant was for sound, lighting, entertainment, Santa and his Grotto for their festive event to be held at the Tropicana on December 21. A family event which was hoped to become an annual festive winter event.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Peter McAleer

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** That £1,000 be granted from the 2021/2022 Community Grants budget.

### **.2 The Priory Learning Trust**

**Grant applied for £4,700**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The purpose of the grant was seeking financial aid for the “Community Art Connected to a School” fund. The grant would be used to paint the underpasses that lead under the Queensway and Wansborough Road which were in a bad state of repair and covered in graffiti. The Priory Learning Trust had already commissioned a local artist and the theme of the artwork will be the natural world and nature.

Members requested clarity on what the “Community Art Connected to a School” fund was and were unsure of the purpose of the grant and that the project was retrospective. It should also be noted that the maximum grant award was £1000.

**RESOLVED:** That the grant be deferred pending clearer information.

### **.3 Worle Community Association**

**Grant applied for £1,000**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The purpose of the grant was to upgrade the present temporary ramp between the two main halls of the community centre. The present arrangements were inadequate and did not meet current legal requirements. Approximately an average of 250 persons used the space on a weekly basis.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Peter Fox

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** £1,000 be granted from the 2021/2022 small and voluntary grants budget.

**.4 Wellspring Counselling**

**Grant applied for £1,000**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The purpose of the grant was to sustain counselling sessions to people across North Somerset - In 2021, to date 270 clients, of which 35 were from Weston super Mare have been helped. There were currently 17 people from Weston super Mare whom were awaiting Counselling, some under the age of 18.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Sarah Codling

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

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

**RESOLVED:** That £1,000 be granted from the 2021/2022 small and voluntary grants budget.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.18 pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

**Chairman of the Community Services Committee**

## **5. Grounds Update Report**

Report for Community Services - written by Fay Powell Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services

### **1. Public Toilets**

A decision was taken to close Grove Park Toilets from December 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 due to ongoing vandalism at the site. Our other toilet locations have been ok with no significant issues reported by Healthmatic.

Discussions are still taking place with North Somerset Council to work on finding a better solution to Grove Park Toilets. (Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services will give a verbal update regarding most recent meeting held after the time of this report written)

### **2. Cemetery**

The team are currently working through their Winter Maintenance Programme and are tople testing memorials throughout the Cemetery. The Yew trees that line the top of the Cemetery are due to be cut back and shaped by in the next couple of weeks.

Maintenance of benches and planters will be done at our Rectors Way site during this period of wet weather. Daisy our Cemetery and Conservation Officer will be planning our rewilding and grass cutting programme for the year ahead.

A variety of new bird and bat boxes decorated by the community have been put up by the team these are located in the Cemetery and Ellenborough Park West.

Our 5-year tree works plan has been signed off by North Somerset Council allowing the Grounds Team to carry out minor tree works at our WSMTC sites. A meeting will also take place in February 2022 between NSC Tree Officer and our Arboriculturist to sign off larger works that will need to be carried out by a contractor.

Our Grounds Coordinator has been completing feedback sheets for our Volunteer Supervisor. The Volunteers have been a valuable resource to the team and we hope to expand on this in the coming year.

### **3. Allotments**

We continue to have a good working relationship with the Allotment Association and have had several site meetings, addressing a number of issues. These include overgrown vegetation/trees and a depression in the drive to one of our sites which has been resolved.

**Recommendation** – Members please read and note the report

## **7.1 Weston-Super-Mare YMCA and Town Council Partnership**

Report for Community Services - written by Alli Waller, Senior Lead Youth Worker at YMCA Dulverton Group

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### **1. Purpose of report**

This report covers services and work delivered and supported by YMCA in the Weston-super-Mare areas, from the beginning of November 2021 to the end of December 2021. This includes the development and progress of programmes and services for young people and the community at YMCA Weston-super-Mare, 2 Bristol Road Lower and Weston Youth and Community Centre, Coleridge Road.

### **2. Work with Young People – Youth & Community Café**

#### **a) Open Access:**

The Youth & Community cafe provides a youth focused, free, well-appointed space for young people after school with additional opening during school holidays.

Through this service we aim to ensure that every young person should:

- Feel safe and welcome.
- Have someone they can talk to and access to support.
- Have the opportunity to make friends, socialise and be active.
- Feel more connected with their community.
- Have the chance to achieve and challenge themselves to reach their full potential.
- Have fun.

The Youth & Community Café has welcomed back more community groups over the last couple of months from college groups to St John the Baptist Church community coffee morning. Although we have not returned to full services due to the pandemic, the team is also offering various targeted groups a safe space for those communities to offer more one – one support to those in need.

#### **b) Targeted Work:**

We recognise that for some individuals or groups what we consistently offer may not be easily accessible to them. So, we look at targeted work to support people to access our facilities and services who might not otherwise be able to. This work is predominantly carried out in partnership, and we currently work with:

- Young Carers – Junior & Senior sessions, Every first Tuesday of the month.
- Home Education Network - youth project, Every Friday.
- Young people with disabilities – Meet once every term
- Ups & Downs Southwest Youth Project- Every second Tuesday of the month
- Mental health support group for young men – Every Monday.
- College Neet support group – Every Wednesday
- Church Community coffee morning – Every Friday
- YMCA Residents engagement sessions- Every Tuesday & Thursday afternoons

### **3. Work with Young People – Satellites and Outreach.**

The past 18 months have certainly been a challenge with the ever-changing guideline's; however, the Youth & Community team have continued to support young people within the Weston-Super-Mare Town catchment area. When we reopened services in September it was clear that our numbers had decreased, and mental health & anxiety was a big factor in young people's lives. We are happy to report numbers are continuing to rise in all our satellite sessions and the team is working to provide more support for young people in these areas. Young people have taken the

restrictions we have had to implement in their stride, and we have been able to adapt our services to still offer a varied programme of activities in a safe environment.

### South Ward

The Bournville youth club has been the slowest to rebuild after the pandemic. Many families are still worried about Covid, and many young people do not want to meet in big numbers. The team adapted their delivery to combat this change and are working with smaller groups to help young people feel safe within the peer groups again. By offering sessions around coping with anxiety and free play, helped young people re-connect safely. One small group helped to put together Christmas boxes for local families, some even went shopping to buy the supplies. One young person commented that by helping others, helped them forget about their own problems. The Youth & Community team continue to build on these small groups to rebuild the main youth club again.

### Worle

Our partnership with the Big Worle Hub continues. The number of members has grown to over 30 again and the young people have enjoyed activities such as cooking Christmas treats and making cards as well as topical debates around gender and crime. Just before Christmas the Youth & Community team took 20 of the young people for a trip to Clip & Climb in the town. Young people got the chance to push themselves out of their comfort zone and test their fear of heights. One young person told the team they had never been on a trip as school would never let them go because of their behaviour. This young person feared heights but spent time with one of the team and even managed to get to the top of one of the climbing walls, a great achievement. It was amazing to see this young person conquer their fears and open up to the team about their challenging behaviour.

### Home Education

The Home Education group has grown to over 20 members, the highest it has ever been. Young people find the group a welcome addition to their home-schooling programme as it gives them a chance to meet with other young people who are also home-schooled. Feedback from the young people has been very positive-

SG- I find it very difficult to mix with others, but youth club gives me a chance to make friends at my own pace. I now have a couple of friends.

IS - I was frightened when I first came, I am not good at socialising, but the youth workers helped me to feel comfortable and safe and I now enjoy taking part in activities.

HC – I never really talk to others but the youth club has given me the opportunity to meet with others and learn to cook and discuss things that interest me. It has really helped me with my anxiety.

### Social Media

Our social media platforms continue to play a big part of our delivery. The Youth & Community team posted every day in December offering support, activities and what's on in the local area. Young people are still struggling with their mental health and our one-one service is still being accessed regularly. Even over the Christmas period, the team offered support to one young person who was struggling with their mental health. We were able to signpost them to a support helpline where they were able to seek profession help.

### Instagram

Reporting Period	Total Account Reach	Total Interactions	Total Followers
01/11/2021 to 31/12/2021	202	119	315

## WsM YMCA Community Services Report – Last amended 07/01/2022

The data shows an increase in followers subsequently followed by an increase in account reach and user interaction. This can be attributed to the increased volume and consistent content created by the YMCA youth team, tailored to reach the target groups.

### Facebook

Reporting Period	Total of New Likes	Total Reach	Total Engagement
01/11/2021 to 31/12/2021	33	741	163

The data shows an increase of 7 new followers for the YMCA DG Youth Clubs Facebook page. Total reach and engagement are positive following an increase of creative content from the youth team.

### Community Partnership work

The Youth & Community team continue to work with partners such as South Weston Activity Network to provide support for young people & families in the south Ward area. The team helped put together 150 Christmas boxes. Each year the South Weston Activity Network fund this project to help families with the cost of Christmas. The boxes contained food for a Christmas lunch, a meat voucher and a booklet of family games and recipes, designed by the South West Youth Forum. Young people from the youth club gave up their free time to help with the packing of the boxes. The boxes were then distributed to the families in time for Christmas.

### Youth Council

Weston-super-Mare Youth Council Continues to meet each month, although due to the rise in covid cases the December meeting was cancelled. The Youth council were looking forward to meeting with the Mayor and discussing their plans for 2022. This has been rescheduled for the new year.

### Links to Town Council Strategy

The work being undertaken always strives to meet the presented needs of the community, whilst building the quality of provision for young people, and developing the scope of the work that the Town Council supports with young people. We are always keen to look at addressing the needs of young people across the area and are happy to look at establishing any new work, or work in new areas, that there is an identifiable need for.