WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE BLAKEHAY ON MONDAY 6RD NOVEMBER 2023

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 pm Meeting Concluded: 9:01 pm

PRESENT: Councillors James Clayton (Chair), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, John Carson, Owen James, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk) Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee & Office Manager) John Penska & Fiona Cope (CAB), Wayne Hughes & Chrissie Simpson (CR) and Ali Waller (YMCA).

197	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions
	There were no apologies for absence received.
	It was noted that Councillors Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz and Joe Bambridge were absent from the meeting and that Ali Waller was on her way to the meeting.
198	To receive Declarations of Interest
	Councillor Robert Skeen declared a personal interest in item 12.3 grant application from the Donate for Defib.
199	To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 11 th September 2023
	The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated at the meeting.
	In reference to minute number 141.1 it was queried if the working group to discuss the Youth Services SLA had met and was there an update. The Chair informed that the group had met and an update would be covered under item 8.1.
	PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Owen James
	A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried .
	RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
200	References from other Committees:
	There were none received.

201	Citizens Advice North Somerset
	A presentation by Fiona Cope (Chef Executive) and Richard Penska (Deputy Chief Executive) was given to the meeting.
	Copies of the presentation were distributed as a handout. The following points were raised:
	 The CAB's projection was 14,000 clients. Statistics showed that 11.3% of households were deprived. Deprivation was not just a term used to describe income deprivation, this could also be emotional, relationship, educational. The CAB have handed out more foodbank vouchers in the last 12months than they have in the last 10 years combined. Weston was facing a housing crisis, there had been an increase in section 21 notices, mortgage repossessions, especially on interest only mortgages. Would be focusing on in person services, 18 locations were up and running since covid and the objective was to normalize the seeking of advice and get rid of the stigma. The statistics for the value of the service for the money were huge and comments received from clients that the service was invaluable and lifesaving in some cases. The CAB shares the values of the Town Council and its Strategy – community resilience and volunteering.
	An updated SLA would be submitted in due course.
	The Chair thanked both Richard and Fiona for their address and commended them on the invaluable, lifesaving service for some people, they and their orgaisation provided the community.
	A question and answer session then took place: What were the reasons behind the increase in client in the 60-64 age group? This was due to a rise in people who were not receiving pension credits.
	In light of the pension and housing crisis, had the CAB lobbied central government? Yes, they had and there was so much more to be done by tackling the roots of these problems.
	Had there been an increase staffing to provide the in-person locations and legal aid? Footfall had increased but the service had been tailored and clients triaged to ascertain level of need and preference in receiving advice. As a result of this, they are not seeing the ques they did. The CAB were funding legal aid and its general services through their contracts funding streams.
	Members felt the good work of the CAB should be advertised better throughout the community. The Town Clerk advised that the council could push this through its website and social media platforms. The purpose of the agenda item was to justify the expenditure and continue the SLA with the CAB, recommending to the Policy & Finance Committee for

the 2024/2025 budget.

	The Chair suggested post budget, that the council should do more to promote its SLA's. Fiona extended an invite to members visit the advice shop to witness the services they provided.
	RESOLVED: It was agreed that this invite would be sent formally to the Town Clerk for distribution to Councillors.
	The Chair thanked both John and Fiona for attending and the left the meeting at 7.37pm
202	To receive the report of the report from the Community Response Officers The report of the Community Response Officers had been previously circulated.
	Highlights of the reports were: South Wards estates - Lots of activity. CCTV was working well.
	Castle Batch – Regular patrols and an officer was planned to be working there after 5pm as a deterrent.
	Locking Campus – Have extended private security 5-10pm to tackle ASB.
	Italian Gardens & High Street – As seen a spike and was a hotspot for ASB. Police were struggling to tackle with lack of resources and CR were struggling to tackle with lack of powers. Street drinkers seemed to have dispersed due to weather conditions.
	Waterloo Street/Boulevard – ASB activity has decreased, however Tesco Express was a victim of high value thefts.
	Grove Park – Well patrolled, ASB has been minimal. The CCTV camera at Jill's garden had been replaced and should be back online the following week.
	Ellenborough Park – 4 tents removed and reports of a group of 6males drinking and being abusive and encouraged to report to the Police.
	Discussion ensued regarding tents and relocating the problem by moving people on. The YMCA were asking charities not to provide people with tents. there are stories behind these ppl. They have all been offered accommodation but can't retain due to their behavior/lifestyle. Building a repour is more effective.
	Councillor Caroline Reynolds declared a personal interest as as a trustee of Refuges NSC and therefore was very informed of the complex housing issues there were.
	The Assistant Town Clerk informed that Ellenborough Park West was a triple SSI of which the council were renting from the Catholic Church and so had a duty of a care to protect and maintain. There was a management plan in place for the site and events planned which may deter people from camping there.
	3

	The Chair thanked the CR Officers for their attendance and they left at 8.07pm
	RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
203	Review of the Youth Services Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the YMCA
	Unfortunately, the SLA had not been received by Town Clerk and therefore members were unable to scrutinize the document and make a recommendation to the Policy & Finance Committee.
	RESOLVED: That the SLA would be circulated to committee members and taken to Full Council on 20 th November for consideration.
204	Service Area reports: .1 Youth Services
	The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated.
	The Operations Manager informed that the YMCA had reviewed its Youth Services in the last 2months and it was interesting listening to the CAB & CR reports. It was good to hear that CCTV was helping with youth ASB in south ward. It was hoped that the reviewed service provision and replicating a 5day a week presence in the town center, would improve the youth ASB.
	Unfortunately, the Worle service had been forced to close due to a small youth group causing problems and intimidating young people and staff and a new location was being sought. A new group had started up where skills were being sharing amongst the young people and it was hoped that this would help with the ASB. There was a home education group – working with the educational welfare team and it has been identified across the groups that lots of young people were hungry/starving and so we were trying to provide food or snacks within the offer.
	RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
	.2 Grounds Management Report The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated.
	The Assistant Town Clerk reported that since the writing of the report Grove Park toilets had been vandalised 1&2 were now repaired and open but 3 was undergoing work and aimed to be up and running by Remembrance Sunday. It was noted that in recent months, the vandalism had been better.
	It was confirmed that as part of the leveling up fund, new toilets were to be installed in Grove Park by the café, to replace the existing block. The current block wouldn't be demolished until they were up and running and work was planned to start in December. The town council would probably be asked to take on these on at some point and it was noted that they should be lower maintenance.

	It was noted that a meeting to improve communications with the Allotment Club had been
	arranged and a report would be given at the next meeting.
	RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
	.2.1 Extension of Cremated Remain Deeds The report from the DTC / Amenities Officer had been previously circulated and was available at the meeting.
	PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Clayton SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey
	A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried .
	RESOLVED: To approve the principle and charges in 1.3 of the report to enable the extension of cremated remain plot deeds purchased prior to April 2019 (30 Years) to a maximum period of 80 years (in 10-year increments) to be in line with other burial deed durations at Milton Road Cemetery. (Charges will be reviewed annually in line with the budget setting process).
	.3 Community Events
	The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the Literary Festival event was awaiting a full evaluation and this would be brought to the next meeting.
	The council were involved in the Carnival this year with a flatbed truck advertising its services, The Knife Angel in May 2024 and events planned for Ellenborough Park West.
	It was reported that the Ade Bowan event in Ellenborough Park West went well with approx 100kids in attendance and the council would be happy to work with him again.
	RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
	.4 Community Resilience Update
	The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the new Well Being Officer had been in post for one month now and was actively picking up with the council's community engagement.
	Unfortunately, the council's Climate Change Officer would be leaving the council and moving on to pastures new. The post would be replaced subject to budget.
	RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
205	Street Art Trail 2021 'Weston Walls'
	The Deputy Town Clerk reported that a meeting was held and a proposal would be brought to a future committee for a future event. This year's event was extremally successful, feeding into the Spray Jams and engaging with the community. The proposal would request the same level of funding (20k) and would feed into the budget.

	It was noted that the artwork appreciated and not vandalised and considered a tourist attraction for the town.
	RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.
206	Budget Considerations 2024/2025 This was a standard item on all committees and an opportunity for members to propose budget items (if any) for consideration.
	Advertising opportunities for the council was requested.
	The Deputy Town Clerk informed that this had been picked up through service areas and there are plans to look into explore this via the communications/marketing and VIC. There was still a need for print in budgets and to look at the prominence of town centre and Worle noticeboards.
	RESOLVED: That advertising opportunities for the council be built into the council's budget.
207	Street Naming
	To note the allocation of a Street Name to Land Accessed from Bleadon Hill SNN4939
	RESOLVED: Noted.
208	Grant applications
200	
	The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.
	The Council's annual budget for small and voluntary grants is £12,500 with £2,500 already being approved in 23/24 with a £10,000 balance remaining .
	The Council's annual budget for Community Event Grants is £60,000 with £44,000 already being approved in 23/24 with a £16,000 balance remaining.
	The Council's annual budget for Youth Grants is £3,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a £3,000 balance remaining.
	.1 34 th Weston super-Mare Scout Group Grant Applied for £500.00 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137
	34 th Weston super Mare Scout Group
	The Scout Group were seeking financial assistance of £500 to purchase 25 meters of grids to create a suitable pathway in the carpark at The Scout Hut in Hutton, which was currently a gravel surface. This would enable wheelchair users to access the hut with ease. The pathway would be led by volunteers as not to incur a cost and could be taken with them if they were to move in future.
	It was identified that the application fell outside of the parish boundary and did not meet 2 out of the 3 criteria.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Owen James **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey A vote was taken and was **carried:**

RESOLVED: That the grant be refused on the ground that it was outside of the parish boundary and did not meet the council's grant criteria.

.2 North Somerset LGBT+ Forum Grant Applied for £1,000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

North Somerset LGBT+ Forum was a voluntary organisation whose aims were to provide a voice for the LGBT+ community of North Somerset. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help with the costs of the increase to their rent costs from December 2023. The rent for their HQ was being increased by 40% which equated to a total increase of £4560. They had also applied for grants from Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead Town Council.

The accounts were not clear and suggested that the rent would increase to £16k. Further information was needed in order to consider the application.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Standfield **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and was carried:

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred and further information requested.

Donate For Defib – working in partnership with Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC) Grant Applied for £1,000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Donate for Defib were a new project established in September 2023. The main purpose of Donate For Defib was to ensure that Public Access Defibrillators were available 24/7 and registered with the Circuit which was connected to both the local and national ambulances. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help towards the objectives of the project which was to provide defibrillators in every pub, club, school, college, public place and doctors surgeries. It was noted that Donate for Defib did not have a bank account due to being a new project and all donations were looked after by Great Weston Air Ambulance (GWAAC).

National funding for defibrillators was widely available and no accounts had been submitted.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Owen James

A vote was taken and was **carried**:

RESOLVED: To defer the application and invite the applicants to attend the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.01 pm.
Signed: Dated:
Chair of the Community Services Committee

Community Response Report January 2024

Written by Chrissie Simpson and Wayne Hughes for Community Services Committee

South Ward Estates

ASB AN011 Bournville last 3 months December 2023

Summary:

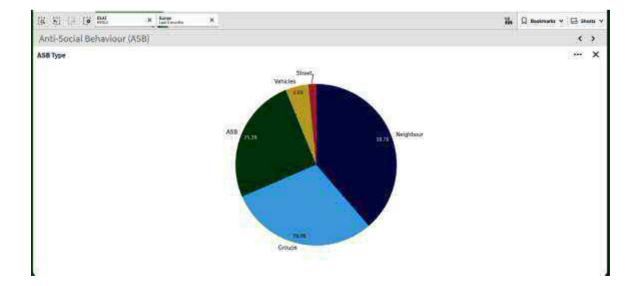
167 reported incidents of ASB.

Top locations: Winter stoke Road and March fields Way

Ongoing ASB themes:

- ASB nuisance Targeting by groups of youths of retail units March fields Way and Winter stoke Road causing general nuisance within the stores remains an issue – although reported numbers are down on previous months.
 - Groups of youths Aller Parade congregating and harassing shoppers/store staff
 - Damage to property and cars including stone throwing.

ASB personal – predominantly reports of neighbour disputes.



I put up a new metal CCTV sign on Aller parade and attended a coffee morning at the community hub on Aller parade and had some good engagement with the local residents and volunteers and staff who run it, they hold it twice weekly and hope the numbers will increase.

Castle Batch.

I have patrolled the park and play areas over the last couple of months, and spoken to the staff at the Centre, there haven't been any problems to report.

The Campus Locking castle.

There have only been a couple of incidents at the campus over the last 2 months, and the staff and security have been able to deal with them promptly, the security guard at the campus was extended to the end of January and their start time brought forward an hour and this seems to have been a huge success. The staff at the campus have returned to using the store net radio and been communicating with other local businesses that use it and have been letting CCTV control room know when there has been any issues.

<u>Queensway</u>

I held an engagement day at the end of November at Sainsburys supermarket which included members of my team and the local Councillor for Worle alongside the neighborhood beat team, which was a huge success with residents.

We also held a joint engagement with the police and did tours of the area engaging with staff and members of the public as part of our street safe initiative.

There have been a couple of incidents around the priory school area which the principal and police dealt with quickly and efficiently.

There has been a big increase in the number of Romanian beggars in the Queensway area for which I have reported as breaching the PSPO for begging and moved them all on.

Figures supplied to me by the local neighborhood police team indicate that there has been 57 incidents covering the areas of Worle including Matalan, Morrisons and boots at locking castle.

Dartmouth Close Play Area

There haven't been any incidents reported to me over the last 2 months.

Italian Gardens Weston Super Mare

The Italian Gardens has seen a quiet spell over the past two months. Both the weather and numerous police actions have helped to decrease the number of our street community using the Italian Gardens to drink.

However we have had upto 20-30 teenagers who use the open space of the Italian Gardens to congregate and use bikes and electric scooters for their pleasure. We have issued PSPO's to individuals for the ASB caused. However in-light of the issues with youths in the Town Centre and Worle. A review of the PSPO procedures has been conducted, and we await the new implementation soon.

Waterloo Street/ Boulevard Weston Super Mare

The Boulevard and Waterloo Street remain quiet in the ASB world. I have noticed that since mid-November 2023 several members of our street community sleeping on the frontage of The United Reform Church. They use the church frontage as it offers protection from the elements. Generally by 9am the following morning the persons have gathered up their belongings and made their way to Somewhere To Go. At this present time there has been no reports of anti social behavior.

Waterpark, Knightstone Road, Weston Super Mare

The waterpark remains quiet, with no issues reported since our last meeting.

Prince Consort Gardens

The park remains part of our patrol plan. Regular walk throughs have been made since our last meeting. Chrissie has spoken to one of the volunteers who looks after the park, a lady called Fran. No ASB has been reported

Grove Park

Since our last meeting, Grove Park has been quiet. We have had very little ASB reported. I have been told that in and around Jill's Garden, youths engage in smoking cannabis. This information has been shared with the police.

The CCTV camera covering Jill's garden is now working and will be used to identify any ASB offences.

Ellenborough Park

Over the past two months Ellenborough Park West has been relatively quiet. We do have two of our street community who regularly use the park for the purposes of sleeping in a tent. There have been no reported incidents of anti-social behavior. The occupants are engaging and in the main are very much aware of their presence in the park and their impact on the wider community.

We have had other persons using the park to sleep in. They have been dealt PSPO's, which have had the desired effect of moving the individuals on. Thanks to the continued support of the ground's team at The Town Council, staff have attended and the waste cleared.

Ellenborough Park East remains quiet at this present time.

Weston-Super-Mare YMCA and Town Council Partnership

Report for Community Services - written by Alli Waller , Youth & Community- Programmes Manager at YMCA Dulverton Group

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 2023 to the end of December 2023. This includes the development and progress of programme s 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 team have been reviewing the youth strategy over the last few months and has put forward a proposal to r einstate youth sessions at the Youth & Community Café once again. This would give the young people in the town centre an opportunity to attend open access youth sessions where they can meet friends, access support and engage with the youth team. The idea is to create a youth hub where all young people feel safe and welcome.

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:

- Home Education Network youth project, Every Friday.
- Young people with disabilities Meet once every term.
- Ups & Downs Southwest Youth Project- Every second and fourth 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 Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday afternoon

3. Work with Young People – Satellites and Outreach.

Our satellites continue to be well attended and we have conducted a survey across all our services in line with our youth service review . This was so we can evaluate our work a nd ensure it is what the young people what and need.

South Ward

Bournville youth club continues to support the young people of South Ward . As we continue to review our youth strategy, one of the key findings was the young people felt that the youth club

WsM YMCA Community Services Report – Last amended 04/01/2024 Item 7.1 was a lifeline, somewhere to go to forget about homelife or meet friends. They also felt that they had a trusted person they could talk with. We will be continuing our work on the survey during the first part of 2024.

On the last session of the year, the youth team was assisted by some of the senior group to cook a Christmas meal for the Bournville youth club members. The young people really enjoyed sitting down and eating together, something a lot of families do not do . The feedback from young people was-

This meal is amazing - RT

I can't believe you did this for us, epic, thank you - CL

I haven't had a roast in ages - CA

I loved sitting with my friends and having a laugh, while we ate -AB

This is the first time I have sat and ate in public – PL

I really enjoyed being able to help with the making of the dinner a nd seeing everyone enjoy what we cooked. JR

The leftovers were placed in foil dishes and the young people were able to take extra portions home to siblings.

The entire meal was funded by Milton Baptist church and we would like to thank them for their generosity. Not only did 35 young people get fed but it also helped some of the young people to get involved with the planning and buying and feel part of a project.

Our new 16- 21-year-old Senior group has started, and the sessions are well attended. We have met with the local schools to promote the group so young people can be signposted to the sessions. Other youth projects in the area are now aware of our sessions and can now signpost their older members into the group as they become to old for their sessions.

The overall aim of this new project is to give our service users the opportunity to discover passions and develop life skills to help them identify positive life choices and prevent them from becoming caught up in anti-social behaviour, unhealthy relationships, and potential criminal exploitation. Also so they have opportunities to look at returning to education or seeking employment with support. It has been great to also see friendships grow within the group and the young people are beginning to support each other outside of the group.

The young people have enjoyed learning how to make flat packed furniture, plan a meal on a budget as well as helping at the Christmas youth club meal. The young people are learning to become part of their community and lose the stigma of being in trouble or doing nothing.

Home Education

The home education group continues, and new members have been joining. The young people enjoyed the festive activities such as cooking, making Christmas cards and decorations, and then ending the year with a party.

We have supported a young person who had joined the group after being expelled from school. We worked with other agencies such as school welfare teams and the educational welfare officer to support a return to education, and they are now returning to education from January 2024.

Community Partnership work

During the last couple of months, the youth team have been working with the violence reduction partnership to look at what young people's needs are in the town. Two of our team went out on detached with the community response officer during December and met with over 30 young people to ask what they would like from a youth provision in the Town Centre.

We will be meeting ag ain in the new year to discuss how we can use this information to best

Youth Council

The youth council has grown, and we now have a regular quorum attending each meeting. In November six members attended the Council chambers where they got to see what a Town Council meeting is like. The idea was to give the members an insight into the different roles the officers hold, they could then look at the youth councils roles and apply for the vacant position that appealed to them most.

In December we held a vote and appointed a new chair, Vice Chair, along with several other officer's roles. The members are looking forward to starting 2024 with all roles filled. Their priorities for the coming year are to continue to promote the youth council, offer young people support and information about what is available to them and attend community events during the 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.

Community Service Committee 15th January 2024

Grounds Management Report

Report of the Grounds Manager

7.2.1. Public Toilets

The Maltings we have had a very serious arson attack at The Maltings toilets in Worle. The police are involved and have been looking at the CCTV footage from nearby shops in an attempt to locate the persons involved. WSM-TC are working with our insurance company with a view of getting the toilets back up and working as soon as possible.

Grove Park toilets have been closed due to the service areas being unsafe for the contractors to access, with asbestos ceilings coming down, tiles falling from the damp walls – injuring one of our contractors, luckily only a scratch to his head and water leaking close to the electrics.

Ashcombe Park Upper toilets are open and working, although some work is required to the drainage/ sewage pipework as it is deemed too small which is causing blockages – this is with John West to schedule in the works.

Clarence Park – has been the subject of recent vandalism to the hinges on the doors and graffiti. Healthmatics maintenance team are repairing the doors and the cleaning team have removed the graffiti. In a bid to try to prevent vandalism Healthmatics have proposed we close the toilets and hour earlier and see if this has any impact on reducing the amount of vandalism we are currently getting. **Uphill** Toilets no issues reported.

7.2.2. Cemetery

The team continues to be busy in the Cemetery keeping on top of the grass cutting, hedge cutting and general tidying and maintenance of the cemetery to improve the overall appearance and to make it a welcoming space for families and visitors. The team have been preparing areas for interments and ensuring families can visit graves safely.

We are opening the Chapel every Wednesday from 08:30 – 15:00pm to members of the pubic. This began during December and we will continue to do so throughout 2024 to enable families to enjoy the Chapel and to rest and reflect in this beautiful space.

The Cemetery Office also continues to be very busy with numerous deed transfers, plots being purchased, interment arrangements, memorial permits and family history requests.

7.2.3. Allotments

Rectors Way fence and Rhyne running adjacent to the fence line has not had any works carried out for some years and is now in need of attention NSC have been informed of this and provided pictures to assist them with this.

The team are continuing to look after our conservation areas at our allotment sites.

Members are requested to note the report.

Sharon Miles Grounds Manager 5th January 2024