

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2015
AT GROVE HOUSE**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.49 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Lisa Pilgrim (Chairman), Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Clive Darke, James Davis, Catherine Gibbons, Michal Kus, Robert Payne and Clive Webb.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Helen Morton (Finance Officer), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager), Katherine Bell (Museum Supervisor), Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Tricia Brabham (Committee Officer), Paul Davis (The North Somerset Bridge Project), and Becky Parker (Weston Mercury).

	<p>Public Participation (Standing Order No:8)</p> <p>The Chairman invited public participation at this point.</p> <p>Paul Davis from the Carlton Centre, was in attendance to support the The North Somerset Bridge Project application for a grant from the Town Council. The grant request of £1000 would be used to help those with mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and mild learning disabilities re-engage with society. The project had 10 allotments at the Rectors Way site which provided 3 sessions a week for 30 individuals to learn about horticulture. The vegetables grown on the allotments were taken home by individuals or donated to food banks. The allotments needed to be maintained outside of the 3 sessions a week and this was carried out by volunteers. A funding application had been submitted to Quartet Community Foundation and longer term funding options were being investigated.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Davis and advised that grant applications would be presented to committee members later in the meeting.</p> <p><i>Mr Paul Davis from the Carlton Centre left the meeting at 7.10pm.</i></p>
185	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Bailey, Alan Peak and Steve Kane.</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bailey was substituted by Councillor Clive Webb.</p> <p>Councillor Alan Peak was substituted by Councillor Catherine Gibbons.</p>
186	<p>Declarations of Interest (Standing Order No:30)</p> <p>Councillor Robert Cleland declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 'To determine Grant Applications including Youth Grants'. The Birnbeck Regeneration Trust had submitted an application for a grant and Councillor Cleland was a Trustee.</p>

	<p><i>Standing Order 30.1 If a member has a non pecuniary interest as defined by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 2nd July 2012, then he/she shall declare such interest as soon as it becomes apparent, disclosing the existence and nature of that interest as required.</i></p>
187	<p>Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on the 7th September 2015.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
188	<p>References from other Committees</p> <p>188.1 Weston in Bloom Working Party</p> <p>The notes of the Weston in Bloom Working Party held on the 8th September 2015 (approved) and 13th October 2015 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes of the Weston in Bloom Working Party be received and noted.</p> <p>188.2 Museum HLF Working Party</p> <p>The notes of the HLF Working Party held on 17th September 2015 (approved) and 15th October 2015 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes be received and noted.</p>
189	<p>Management Reports</p> <p>189.1 Youth Services</p> <p>The report of the YMCA Senior Youth Work Lead had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>189.2 The Blakehay Theatre</p> <p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Theatre Manager reported that the theatre was getting busier. When questioned, the Theatre Manager advised members that the tills installed at the theatre had been previously used at the Museum.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that Songs from the Shows had brought in a net profit of £3,697.33</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.</p>

189.3 Grounds: Cemeteries, Allotments and Bus Shelters

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman advised members that agenda item 11 'Bus Shelter Repairs' be considered alongside the report from the Grounds Manager.

The Grounds Manager informed members that since the report had been written, a Health and Safety review of all equipment had been conducted and the blowers had been identified as a bigger cause for concern than the trimmers in terms of noise and vibration. The Grounds Manager requested the recommendation made in the report be amended so that blowers were considered the priority equipment for replacement.

Debate ensued. When questioned the Grounds Manager advised that the Council had four blowers of which two would need to be replaced and provided an indicative retail cost of £900 per blower. The life span of the equipment was 2-3 years, although trimmers were slightly longer at 3-4 years. The new equipment would not have additional cost for petrol and servicing associated with them.

Members discussed the possibility of using contractors. The Grounds Manager advised members he did not have comparative costs but the cemetery was a difficult area to maintain. The Town Clerk advised members that since Town Council had decided to employ its own grounds staff, the cemetery had been maintained at a higher level. Members expressed their desire to see costs included in reports in future.

RESOLVED:

1. That future reports to committee include costs
2. That the replacement of blowers be treated as a priority over trimmers
3. That the replacement of blowers be recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee

The Grounds Manager advised members that John West had been commissioned to do a survey of the bus shelters and had provided a cost for works of £15,292. North Somerset Council had also surveyed the bus shelters and provided a cost for the works they would like to implement of £9,656.78 in relation to repairs and replacements of nine shelters and requested that the Town Council make a contribution.

The Town Clerk thanked North Somerset Council for agreeing to part fund the repairs and replacements of the Town Council's nine shelters.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus

SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb

RESOLVED:

1. That North Somerset Councils offer to repair/replace identified bus shelters be accepted and that the Town Council utilise the current £1000 maintenance of bus shelters and £3,500 new shelter budget to contribute towards the cost of £9,656.78
2. That the Community Services Committee resolve that a budget increase be recommended to allow proactive management and maintenance of bus shelters.

	<p>189.4 Weston Museum</p> <p>The report of the Museum Supervisor had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>When questioned, the Finance Officer advised members that after costs and VAT £1900 had been made from the eBay sale.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report of the Museum Supervisor be noted and received.</p>
<p>190</p>	<p>Grant Applications</p> <p>The report of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Finance Officer advised members that applications totalling £7615 had been presented for consideration at the meeting and there was £4,500 in the budget until March 2016.</p> <p>The North Somerset Bridge Project Grant applied for: £1000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The application and accounts had been checked by the Finance Officer.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members were supportive of the aims of the projects but concern was expressed over funding of employment costs.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Darke SECONDED BY: Councillor James Clayton</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To award this grant application £500.</p> <p>Pathways Support & Community Association Grant applied for: £2,000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The application and accounts had been checked by the Finance Officer.</p> <p>The organisation provided housing and support for people who were in recovery from substance misuse. The CRIB project was a hub where people could go for support. However £2000 was unaffordable given the limited budget available.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To award this grant application £500.</p> <p>The West of England MS Therapy Centre Grant applied for: £500</p>

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The application and accounts had been checked by the Finance Officer. The Finance Officer advised members that money awarded would be used to benefit those living in Weston-super-Mare.

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED: To award this grant application £500.

KeySteps

Grant applied for: £2000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

KeySteps supported homeless people in Weston-super-Mare. The application was for help with the running costs of its drop-in centre

Debate ensued. A member commented that they would like to see an outreach project and not just a drop-in centre for the homeless. However £2000 was unaffordable given the limited budget available.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus

SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling

MOTION: To award this grant application £500.

An **AMENDMENT** was proposed to award this grant application £750:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Darke

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford

A vote was taken on the amendment and **carried**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED: To award this grant application £750.

Worle Operatic and Dramatic Society

Grant applied for: £565

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The application was for 10% of the cost of a new microphone.

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED: To award this grant application £250.

WorleWind Band

Grant applied for: £550

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The application was for the purchase of folding chairs particularly for outdoor concerts at a cost of £200, a PA system again for outdoor concerts at £250 and £100 for promotional paperwork.

	<p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To award this grant application £200 for the purchase of folding chairs.</p> <p><i>Councillor Robert Cleland having made a declaration of interest under agenda item 2 left the meeting at 8.05pm for the duration of the debate on the subject of the Birnbeck Regeneration Trust grant application.</i></p> <p>Birnbeck Regeneration Trust Grant applied for: £1000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The application was for the purchase of a £400 laptop and £330 printer for an office and information centre in pier view next to Birnbeck Pier.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members expressed concern that as the pier was in private ownership the Trust were limited as to what they could achieve.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That this grant application be declined but a letter of support be written by the Town Clerk to the Birnbeck Regeneration Trust.</p>
<p>191</p>	<p>Museum HLF Project</p> <p>Two reports of the Responsible Financial Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that the first report concerned the procurement of Structural Engineering services to support the delivery of the project at the Museum.</p> <p>The second report concerned the removal of display cabinets, ceilings, walls and strong room. There had been a large amount of asbestos identified in the building. This had been known from the outset and a one off payment of £100,000 from North Somerset Council towards the costs of the project had been negotiated at the time the Museum had been acquired.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Mann Williams be appointed Structural Engineer for the Museum HLF project. 2. That the quote from Chedvale Construction be accepted, subject to available funds, checking of the priced specification and a pre-contract meeting arranged to discuss the scheme and to confirm start dates, the extent of the works and Health & Safety Proposals.

<p>192</p>	<p>Community Events</p> <p>192.1 Weston in Bloom The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p> <p>192.2 Weston’s got Talent The report of Councillor Sarah Codling, Councillor Roger Bailey and the Community and Grounds Administrator was tabled at the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Codling advised members that the Community and Grounds Administrator and the Responsible Financial Officer had reviewed the costs in the report.</p> <p>Debate ensued. When questioned Councillor Codling advised members that the possibility of using schools for the heats, discussed at the last meeting, had not been investigated. The Town Clerk advised that allocating the underspend from the events budget for an event in the next financial year would require agreement from Town Council.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a recommendation be put to the Town council for the 2015/2016 underspent events budget of £1,000 be allocated for 2016/17 in order to increase Weston’s Got Talent’s budget to £2,000. 2. That with the assistance of Councillor Codling and Councillor Darke, sponsorship be investigated to cover the shortfall in the budget.
<p>193</p>	<p>Dog Bins</p> <p>The report of the Secretary to the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that dog bins 45 and 47 were to be relocated as resolved at Community Services Committee meeting on the 7th September 2015. When North Somerset Council were consulted they had advised that they were not happy with the proposed relocation of dog bin 45 although agreeable to the proposed relocation of dog bin 47. North Somerset had proposed an alternative location for dog bin 45 on Sunnyside Road.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that there was no budget for dog bins this year so requests for new bins would need to be part of budget considerations for 2016/17.</p> <p>Debate ensued. The Town Clerk advised members that there would be a presentation at the next Town Council meeting from Mandy Bishop, Assistant Director (Operations), Development and Environment Department, in relation to the enforcement of dog control.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the recommendation to move dog bin 45 from the Drove Road Recreation Ground location to Sunnyside Road be supported. 2. That a budget for new dog bins be requested during budget considerations.
194	<p>Allotments</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that following the badger undermining of the access route to Hutton Moor allotments, having been initially identified in 2014, various options had been investigated and lengthy discussion had taken place with North Somerset Council. A licence had been granted by the Drainage Board for the current option being pursued but which required a more expensive culverted crossing. The ecology report required the route to be moved further away from the trees into the rugby pitch. The Heads of Terms received from North Somerset Council requested that Weston Town Council indemnify North Somerset against the cost of dealing with travellers if they gained access to rugby pitches from the access road. The Town Clerk advised members that this was a huge risk to the Town Council and not one that the Town Council or North Somerset Council Insurers were willing to insure against as it was almost inevitable to happen. There was also the possibility that the road would have to be rerouted or removed if the playing fields were redeveloped into housing in the future.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Councillor Darke expressed his disappointment with the situation and announced his resignation from the Allotment Management Sub-Committee.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That quotations and a licence be sought to excavate and lay a reinforced track the whole length of the access, designed to be badger resistant but accepting some risk of badger undermining incurring further costs in the future. 2. To make enquiries to Natural England about a licence for the badgers to be completely removed and relocated 20km away from the site.
195	<p>Grove Park War Memorial</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that English Heritage were proposing that Grove Park War Memorial be added to The National Heritage List for England. It was designed by renowned sculpture Alfred Briscoe Drury. Although the memorial was owned by North Somerset Council, English Heritage had invited Weston Town Council to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To investigate replacing the olive branch that should be in the statue's right hand.2. To support the proposal to add the War Memorial to The National Heritage List for England.
196	<p>Budget Considerations.</p> <p>The Chairman asked whether members had any further items for budget considerations not already identified in the discussion at the Community Services Committee Meeting of the 7th September.</p> <p>A member raised that investment in The Blakehay Theatre was required and quotes were being sought.</p> <p>A member enquired if something could be done to support children and young people specifically.</p> <p>A review of the amount of budget given to community grants was discussed as members felt the amount they had to allocate in the current financial year had been inadequate.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49 pm</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p>Chairman</p>