

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016  
AT GROVE HOUSE**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.05 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Ray Armstrong, Mark Canniford, Sarah Codling, James Davis, Len Purnell, Richard Tucker, Michal Kus and Clive Darke

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Helen Morton (Finance Officer), Briana Millett (The Mercury Newspaper), Richard Tippett (Parishioner) and Jennifer Lawley (Committee Officer).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman invited questions and observations from parishioners present. (*Standing Order No:8*)

The Chairman welcomed Richard Tippett to the meeting.

Mr Tippett was in attendance to request a commemorative Blue Plaque for Richard Hugh 'Ritchie' Blackmore a songwriter and English guitarist. Besides other achievements, he was ranked number 16 on the Guitar World's 1000 greatest metal guitarists of all time in 2004. Ritchie formed Deep Purple (three silver discs, 18 gold discs and nine platinum discs), Rainbow (seven silver discs and five gold discs) and recently formed the traditional folk rock project, Blackmore's Night. He was constantly braving new pathways in the musical world. On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of the original members of Deep Purple.

Ritchie Blakemore was born at Allandale Nursing Home, Weston-super-Mare, on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1945 and was resident at Addicott Road, Weston-super-Mare until the age of 2 when he moved to Heston, Middlesex.

Mr Tippett circulated a hand out with more information about Mr Blackmore.

If approved, a member queried whether Allandale Nursing Home would be an appropriate location for the Blue Plaque. In response to another question, members were informed that Mr Blackmore had given his permission for the Blue Plaque and that his wife, Candice Knight, had responded by saying that Mr Blackmore would be more than honoured.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tippett for his attendance and advised that his request would be considered under agenda item 7. Mr Tippett was invited to remain for the duration of the meeting but Mr Tippett gave his apologies due to prior commitments.

*Richard Tippett left the meeting at 7.06.*

<b>169.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</b>
	Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor James Clayton, Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager) and Kevin Lilwall (YMCA).
	Councillors Steve Kane and Robert Cleland were not in attendance.
	<b>RESOLVED:</b> That apologies be received and noted.

170.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> (<i>Standing Order No:30</i>)</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest received.</p>
171.	<p><b>Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Ray Armstrong  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
172.	<p><b>References from other Committees</b></p> <p><b>Weston in Bloom Working Party (WIB)</b>  The minutes of WIB held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 (approved) and 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Members were informed of the repeated success of WIB's achievement in gaining a South West in Bloom (SWIB) Gold Award again.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the minutes be received and noted.</li> <li>2. That WIB Gold SWIB Award 2016 be noted.</li> </ol> <p><b>Museum HLF Working Party</b>  The minutes of the Museum Working Party held on the 15th September 2016 (approved) and 13th October 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It was envisaged that the Museum's Learning and Development Officer's hours would be increased. The increase in hours had been put to the Personnel Committee and approved in principle subject to the budget being provided. The proposal would need to go to the Policy &amp; Finance Committee for approval.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received and noted.</p> <p><b>The Events Working Party</b>  The minutes of the Events Working Party held on 14th September 2016 (approved), 4th October 2016 (approved) and 18th October 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda. The notes of the 1st November 2016 (unapproved) were tabled.</p> <p>Members were advised that the recommendations made at the last meeting of the Events Working Party were referred to full Town Council for resolution.</p> <p>In the event of the recommendations being adopted, a member queried timescales and when they might be implemented. In response the Chairman of the Events Working Party advised that ratification of the recommendations by full Town Council might include a resolution to implement the changes in the middle of a Mayor's term of office. The recommendations were for the Mayor's and Civic Officer's benefit. The Events Working Party were reinstating the duties and responsibilities of the Civic Officer as described in his job description and the Mayor's civic expectations as stated in the Mayor's Protocol. The Working Party were conscious that public money was</p>

	<p>being spent in terms of officers' extra hours when covering some events.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received and noted</p> <p><b>The Blakehay Theatre Working Party</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Blakehay Theatre Working Party held on the 22nd September 2016 (approved), 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (unapproved) and a Marketing Strategy had been previously circulated with the agenda. The minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> October were reissued and tabled as they had been sent out in draft form mistakenly.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Blakehay Theatre Working Party was present and he informed members that he had managed to obtain permission from North Somerset Council to use 20 hoardings for advertising and posters, free of charge. The theatre's manager had previously received quotes of £500 per poster if displayed on seafront hoardings. Members were also advised that the 'Blakehay' would be rebranded as the 'Blakehay Theatre' and the design of the graphics and typefaces was currently in hand.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received and noted.</p>
173.	<p><b>Management Reports</b></p> <p><b>173.1 Youth Services</b></p> <p>The report of the North Somerset Director of Operations (YMCA) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>In response to a member's query regarding the Youth Council and how it was progressing, members were informed that it was struggling to gain Youth Council members and the push for new members continued.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be received and noted.</p> <p><b>173.2 Blakehay Theatre</b></p> <p>The report of the Blakehay Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A member voiced his disquiet at the RAFA band having taken exception to the refurbishment of the Blakehay Theatre and the request for them to relinquish the storeroom in the Upper Studio. On a positive note, however, members agreed that the Blakehay Theatre was going from strength to strength. It was anticipated that the refurbishment work would start in January 2017 providing the procurement of the work was acceptable to the Town Council. In terms of the complaints of it being too hot in the theatre, officers were investigating the procurement of air conditioning.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be received and noted.</p> <p><b>173.3 Grounds Service Management Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Although the Grounds Manager's report was self-explanatory, he wished to highlight a number of positive issues. As the Chairman had already mentioned, WIB had gained a further South West In Bloom gold (SWIB). The Grounds staff too had received an award and were very pleased to receive an outstanding for 'It's Your Neighbourhood Award' for the cemetery.</p> <p>In response to members being informed of the successful work to exclude badgers</p>

from the entrance to Hutton Moor Allotments, the cost of the work was queried. The Grounds Manager gave an estimate of £7,000.

The Grounds Manager advised that the Devolved Allotment Management Agreement between the Allotment Club and the Town Council was now due to be signed by both parties in December.

He further reported that a request had been received for waste bins to be installed in two of the three public convenience cubicles in Grove Park. A quote had been tabled, received from the current cleaning contractor which quoted the cost as £72.00 + VAT per bin with the installation cost of £26.85 + VAT. The third of the public convenience cubicles already had a waste disposal chute.

In response to a member's question regarding the cemetery wall and the progress of its reconstruction, the Grounds Manager was able to confirm that a low wall was now being built and a fence would be installed on top of it.

Members wished to thank the Grounds Team for their work towards helping WIB gain a further SWIB gold award for the town.

Debate returned to the subject of waste bins for Grove Park's public conveniences. The Grounds Manager advised that the cleaning contractor had recommended their installation due to 'sharps' being left on the floor and other people leaving waste strewn around the unit. It was very difficult to pick up 'sharps' from the floor which was a health and safety issue and it was hoped that the presence of waste bins would encourage people to be tidier. The waste bins were metal and would be secured to the walls of the unit. It was suggested that the cleaning contractor should install and pay for the waste bins as the company had a duty of care to their employees but others felt that the bins would also benefit the public.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Len Purnell

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That the procurement of two waste bins for two Town Council owned public convenience units in Grove Park be taken forward for consideration at a future Policy & Finance Committee meeting.

**173.4 Weston Museum**

The report of Museum Services had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Members were aware that there was no Weston Museum Manager currently employed. However, the Chairman of the Museum HLF Working Party was in attendance and would answer any questions he could. He confirmed that the refurbishment of the museum was going very well, was on budget and timescales were being met. The Working Party were now formulating the Business and Education Plans which were also going to plan. A member noted the tremendous number of volunteers and their contribution and stated that Weston Museum's 'Outreach' work had been a fantastic idea.

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

<b>174.</b>	<p><b>To determine Grant Applications Including Youth Grants</b></p> <p>The report of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The current balance of the Town Council's grant budget was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small and Voluntary Grants: £5,174</li> <li>• Youth Grants: £3,210</li> <li>• Tourism Grant: £0</li> <li>• CAB Grant: £10,000</li> </ul> <p><b>174.1 The Weston of England MS Therapy Centre</b></p> <p><b>Grant applied for: £500</b></p> <p>Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The grant requested was for the cost of physiotherapy exercise classes.</p> <p>The application and accounts had been checked. Cash at the bank on the balance sheet for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 showed a credit balance of £73,087.</p> <p>A grant of £500 had been requested in order to provide 15 members from Weston-super-Mare with 4 physiotherapy exercise classes a week. The grant would be restricted for the sole use in providing treatment and therapies for members from Weston-super-Mare and not put into the general fund for use across the country. The organisation had also applied to other Parish and Town Councils in North Somerset and Bristol.</p> <p>Grants to the Charity by the Town Council had been awarded in previous years and attention was drawn to the £73,087 held in the bank. Debate ensued during which the principles of grants being awarded and becoming a regular yearly award was questioned. Members recognised, however, the severity of this disease and acknowledged the value of the Charity. It was suggested that the grant be awarded this year but that the criteria for reoccurring yearly requests should be reconsidered for next year.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To award this grant application £500 this year.</li> <li>2. To review the principles and criteria for awarding reoccurring yearly grant applications at a future Group Leaders' meeting.</li> </ol> <p><b>174.2 North Somerset Arts</b></p> <p><b>Grant applied for: £1000</b></p> <p>Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 145</p> <p>The grant requested was for art workshops and open art exhibitions.</p> <p>The application had been checked by the Finance Officer and the bank balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 was in credit to the amount of £10,250.</p>
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The group was organised by local volunteers with over 33 registered members from Weston-super-Mare engaged in art associated events. The grant requested this year, was for help towards costs for art events in 2017 and specifically towards costs of employing a project co-ordinator to undertake the planning and co-ordinating of events and venues.

A committee member advised that the organisation came under the umbrella and area of North Somerset. Members were also advised that the organisation did not appear to have a permanent base.

Debate ensued. The criteria for awarding recurring grant applications were once again questioned.

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

**RESOLVED:** That this grant application be declined.

**174.3 Axe District Scouts**

**Grant applied for: £1633.75**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

This is a Youth Council grant application

The grant requested was to purchase a display stand and branded gazebo.

The application had been checked. However, the audited accounts were not available as the district consolidates its accounts from the 16 different scouting groups and this was still being processed for the year end 2015.

Axe District Scouts were currently setting up two new groups within the parish of Weston-super-Mare. The first group was due to be based in Grove Village at All Saints Church Hall enabling scouting to have a presence in the town centre and a further group was planned to open in Haywood Village based at the new school.

This was a Youth Council grant application that had gone to the Youth Council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting was not quorate and, therefore, no decision was made. The Finance Officer advised that the Youth Council were enabled to approve grants up to £500. However, anything up to £1000 or exceeding that sum was taken forward to the Community Services Committee.

In response to members' questions, the Finance Officer confirmed that fully audited accounts were not yet available which some members found unacceptable. They felt that the award should not be approved without first seeing the accounts. It was pointed out, however, that if the Youth Council meeting had been quorate the organisation would probably have already received an award of £500.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Mark Canniford

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor James Davis

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

**RESOLVED:** To award this grant application £1000.

**174.4 Soroptimists International of Weston-super-Mare**

**Grant applied for: £500**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The grant requested was for printing costs for posters and book marks for a ‘Skirting Science’ event.

The application had been checked and most recent audited accounts as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 showed a bank balance of £1,868. This included £1,350 ring fenced for a Skirting Science event that the group puts on each year.

Last year the cost of printing was met by Sidcot School who would be approached again. They were also applying to the Quartet Foundation in Bristol for support.

Debate ensued when it was noted that the grant in total would only be used to cover printing costs.

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

**RESOLVED:** That this grant application be declined.

#### **174.5 SouthWest Activity Network (SWAN)**

**Grant applied for:** £1248

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

This is a Youth Council grant application

The grant was requested for the continuation of support for youngsters.

The application had been checked and the most recent accounts as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 showed an unrestricted funds bank balance of £4,218.

SWAN was the Local Commissioning Network for South Ward, Weston-super-Mare, which aimed to provide activities that were stimulating and accessible for 0-17 year olds and their families living in the area. Children and the youth in South Ward faced disruptive behaviours and influences.

Debate ensued during which a member referred to the Town Council’s own support of youth with the YMCA. Another member felt the application was rather vague and that before an award could be considered, more information was required and a representative from SWAN should be invited to attend a future Community Services Committee.

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

**RESOLVED:** That this grant application be declined.

#### **174.6 XTND**

**Grant applied for:** £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The application and accounts had been checked. The accounts as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 showed an unrestricted funds bank balance of £70,715.

The grant if awarded would be used towards creating a community hub on the Bournville Estate.

Debate ensued. A member suggested that this application be declined in view of the balance of funds already held in the bank.

	<p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Ray Armstrong  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Len Purnell</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That this grant application be declined.</p>
175.	<p><b>Blue Plaques</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda. The Town Council's Blue Plaque Guidelines were tabled.</p> <p>Prior to Mr Tippett's request for a commemorative Blue Plaque for Ritchie Blackmore, a Blue Plaque request had been received from Mike Coles to commemorate Paulo Radmiovic the gold medal winning Olympic swimmer who lived in the town. It was suggested that with the permission of the current owner this plaque could be erected on the Imperial Hotel where Paulo Radmilovic was licence holder for many years after his retirement from the Olympics. In 2012 a similar discussion had taken place but at that time the request could not be pursued as the Imperial Hotel had been closed down and had become unoccupied.</p> <p>The Town Clerk suggested that these requests could be a catalyst for a wider Blue Plaque scheme to commemorate famous people from, or connected with the town. He had obtained a quotation from a company that could manufacture a cast iron Blue Plaque for £282 plus £15.00 delivery. In addition there would be the cost of erecting the Blue Plaques. The Town Clerk had also produced suggested guidelines regarding eligibility, location, ownership and a proposal for the formation of an Appraisal Panel to consider any requests received.</p> <p>Debate ensued. There was agreement that a Blue Plaque scheme for the town would be interesting and also a tourist attraction. It was suggested that the Blue Plaque scheme should not only commemorate the sons and daughters of the town but buildings of historic value too. The Town Clerk's draft guidelines proposed that an Appraisal Panel be formed to consider any requests received. It was suggested that the Museum Working Party could undertake this role. There was also the query of whether to grant commemorative Blue Plaques whilst the person was still alive.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Mark Canniford  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To approve in principle the adoption of a Blue Plaque scheme for Weston.</li> <li>b) To request the Museum Working Party to develop and administer the scheme.</li> <li>c) To request the Policy and Finance Committee to identify a budget for future years.</li> </ul>
176.	<p><b>Grit Bins</b></p> <p>The report of the Secretary to the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>An application for a grit bin to be located at the end of Oakdale Gardens, Worle, had been received for the financial year 2016/17. North Somerset Council and Ward Councillors were consulted. Although Ward Councillors had raised no objection, North Somerset Council stated that any grit bin application was subject to their final</p>

	<p>approval and this grit bin would not meet North Somerset Council's criteria. Therefore, they would not supply or install this grit bin.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that it was rare for North Somerset Council to decline a grit bin application.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be received and noted.</li> <li>2. That the applicant be advised that the application for a grit bin was declined.</li> </ol>
177.	<p><b>Review of Notice Boards</b></p> <p>The member who had requested this agenda item was not present and due to lack of information no useful debate was possible.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That a member who requests an agenda item needed to be present at the meeting or submit a report for debate to take place.</p>
178.	<p><b>Public Consultation – Public Place Protection orders</b></p> <p>The member who had requested this agenda item was not present due to the anticipated consultation not having been commenced by North Somerset Council.</p>
179.	<p><b>Budget Considerations – Birnbeck Pier</b></p> <p>The member who had requested this agenda item was not present.</p> <p>The Committee noted their earlier resolution which was that a member who requests an agenda item needed to be present at the meeting or submit a report for debate to take place.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: .....</p> <p>Chairman</p>