

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2017
AT GROVE HOUSE**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.43 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Ray Armstrong, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, Clive Darke, James Davis, Denise Hunt, Michal Kus, Len Purnell,

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer), Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager), Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Administrator), Helen Morton (Finance Officer), Damien Erangey (YMCA), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Vicky Angear (Weston Mercury)

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

222	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>There were no apologies of absence received.</p> <p>Councillor Martin Williams was not in attendance.</p>
223	<p>Declarations of Interest (<i>Standing Order No:30</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>
224	<p>Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on the 11th September 2017</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michael Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davies</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
225	<p>References from other Committees</p> <p>225.1 The minutes of Weston In Bloom 18th July 2017, 19th September 2017, and 17th October had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p> <p>225.2 The minutes of the Museum HLF Working Party 20th July 2017 and 12th October had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p> <p>A member requested an update on the War Memorial restoration referred to in the minutes.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that grant applications had been made to the War Memorial Trust. The World War 1 and World War 2 Memorials had been surveyed, costing £300 cost, half of</p>

	<p>which was paid for by North Somerset Council.</p> <p>The grant application had been approved in principle by the War Memorial Trust, and a full application including three quotes for the work had to be submitted.</p> <p>The survey had reported that the bronze needed patinating on both War Memorials. The cost of the work would be £30,000, 75% of which would be covered by the War Memorial Trust if the bid was successful.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that in addition to the work on the Grove Park War Memorial the Museum and Heritage Sub Committee had requested that the Worle War Memorial be looked at. The quote for surveying the Worle Memorial was £3,000 so this would go back to the Museum and Heritage sub-committee for consideration.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that budget pressures next year meant that caution was needed. The Council would be looking at finding funding of £7,500 for the Grove Park Memorial restoration. The Town Clerk was talking to North Somerset Council and community groups to see if they would contribute. Listed Building consent would also be needed.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members discussed that the original focus of the restoration had been restoring the olive branch, and there was a danger that by looking at a more extensive restoration of both memorials and potentially Worle memorial as well, that the restoration would not happen at all. Members stressed the importance of the restoration of the olive branch before the 100 year anniversary of the ending of WW1 in 2018.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p>RESOLVED: That restoration of the olive branch be concentrated on as the priority.</p>
226	<p>Management Reports</p> <p>226.1 Youth Services</p> <p>The report of the YMCA Community and Hub Worker had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report covered the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Café & Community Use and Youth Programme • Weston-super-Mare Youth Council • Weston Youth Centre • Friday Night Project • Uphill Youth Project • Links to Town Council Strategy <p>The Chair thanked the Community and Hub Worker for his report and noted the success for the Uphill Youth Project.</p> <p>The Community and Hub Worker advised that the YMCA received funding from the Town Council and through government. The funding for the Uphill Youth Project had been through the government funding stream.</p> <p>A member congratulated the representatives from the Youth Council on the job they did at remembrance, and noted that the LGBT forum were delighted with the work the YMCA were doing.</p>

The Community and Hub Worker advised that they were looking to put on a weekly drop in Worle starting at the end of the year. They had also met with Friends of Grove Park to look at reducing anti-social behaviours.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

7.15pm DE left the meeting

226.2 The Blakehay Theatre

The report of the Blakehay Theatre Manager had been previously circulated.

The report covered the following aspects:

- General update
- Re-launch 9th September 2017
- Events, Shows & Classes at the Theatre
- Buying Shows
- Studio Daytime Classes
- Marketing & Publicity
- Theatre Review update

The Theatre Manager advised that the Made in Dagenham show had sold out. Many audience members had never visited the Blakehay Theatre before, with people travelling from Bristol to see the show.

The Theatre Manager advised that since North Somerset Council had agreed to the Blakehay Theatre displaying posters on their poster boards, they had seen an increase in ticket sales. The Theatre Manager thanked Councillor Darke for arranging this.

The Theatre Manager advised that she spent about an hour a day on social media and the website. She had recently attended Google Training, and other social media sites were sharing Blakehay updates.

A member enquired about the Theatre Manager's meeting with the Princess Theatre. The Theatre Manager advised that she had discussed working together to buy-in shows. The Princess Theatre had a budget of £65,000 to buy-in-shows.

The Theatre Manager informed members that exciting marketing news about the Blakehay Theatre would be announced soon, on BBC Radio Bristol.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

226.3 Weston Museum

The report of the Responsible Financial Officer had been previously circulated.

The report covered:

- Operations
- Volunteer Engagement
- Learning and Events
- Community Engagement

The Responsible Financial Officer advised that the reports were the same reports as had gone to the Museum and Heritage Sub-Committee.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised there had been 13,474 visitors at the museum. They had anticipated 30,000 for the first year so this was a good indication that there was support for the museum.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised that there was a shortage in front of house volunteers so a recruitment drive for this specific area would be carried out.

Learning and events were working really well; the 'Night at the Museum' had sold out, with social media proving valuable for publicising events.

Conferences were being booked but we needed to push this area of operation more, and the were also looking to bring dementia cafés into the museum.

A Greek Cypriot evening had been very successful and other communities were now wanting to put on a display in the community gallery.

A member enquired about recent Sunday closures of the Museum. The Responsible Financial Officer this was due to two members of staff being off sick and one on annual leave. They were intending to open on Sundays, but had closed for the last two due as they did not have enough staff to meet fire regulations.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

226.4 Grounds

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

The report covered the following aspects:

- Weston-in-Bloom (WiB)
- Public Toilets
- Cemetery
- Allotments
- Bus Shelter

The Town Clerk advised that the Grounds Manager there was a separate agenda item for public conveniences.

The Chairman requested brought forward agenda item 7 on public conveniences to discuss along with the Grounds Manager's report.

ZS advised that a spare coin entry unit had been purchased, as the lengthy closure period of the Grove Park toilets had been as a result of the 11 week lead time for a new unit. The coin entry unit could be used for any of the toilets so if that level of vandalism was experienced again then we would be able to get the toilets opened in a much shorter period of time.

7.38 Councillor Sarah Codling left the room

7.39 Councillor Sarah Codling returned

Debate ensued during which members discussed the reputational impact of the toilet closures and the likelihood of further closures as well the as impact on staff time.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised that the toilets had cost £10,000 more than had been budgeted for.

	<p>The Leader, Deputy Leader, Town Clerk and Community and Grounds Administrator had met with the gentleman that had addressed Town Council regarding his concerns about the toilets. He was not happy with the actions the Town Council were taking.</p> <p>In response to concern over the sale of Worle Toilets, the Town Clerk advised that the toilets were part of the sale of Worle Library by North Somerset Council as freeholder. There was a break clause in the lease the Town Council had from North Somerset Council which could be activated by the freeholder in 2020 and 2027. In response to a request from the Town Clerk to reconsider this North Somerset Council had advised they were not willing to do so.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>The Chair returned to the remainder of item 5.4 on the agenda – the report of the Grounds Manager.</p> <p>The Grounds Manager advised that the arrangement with North Somerset Council to repair the bus shelters would not be continuing as North Somerset Council had frozen all non-essential spend on bus shelters until April next year. Therefore the Town Council would need to source their own contractors.</p> <p>A member noted that residents are often confused by who owns the dog bins. The Town Clerk advised that all Town Council dog bins have a sticker with the dog bin number and the Town coat of arms logo clearly displayed.</p>
227	<p><i>7.55pm The Grounds Manager left the meeting</i></p> <p>Grants</p> <p>The report of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>227.1 Somewhere to Go Ltd Grant applied for: £1,000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The application and accounts had been checked.</p> <p>The grant would be used to purchase two meal lockable cabinets..</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davies</p> <p>RESOLVED: That this grant application for £1000 be approved.</p> <p>227.2 Victoria Methodist Church Grant applied for: £2,000</p> <p>Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The application had been checked.</p> <p>The grant would be used to purchase food for Victoria's Kitchen, a charity to provide free meals for homeless people.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling SECONDED BY: Councillor Len Purnell</p>

	<p>A vote was taken and the proposal to award £500 and request details of accounts and more information before awarding more money was not carried.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Darke SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That this grant application and that £500 be awarded.</p> <p>227.3 Friends of Prince Consort Gardens Grant applied for: £3,000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The application and accounts had been checked.</p> <p>The grant would be used to contribute towards the costs of repairing pond area.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davies</p> <p>RESOLVED: That this grant application and that £1,000 be awarded.</p> <p>227.4 Birnbeck Regeneration Trust Grant applied for: £1,000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The application and accounts had been checked.</p> <p>The grant would be used to contribute towards the refurbishment costs of a toilet block.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Len Purnell</p> <p>RESOLVED: That this grant application for £1,000 be approved on the condition that the toilet block be reopened as a public toilet available at least 5 days a week in the summer and Friday to Sundays in the winter.</p>
228	<p>Events update</p> <p>The report of the Community and Grounds Administrator had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Members congratulated the Community and Grounds Administrator for organising the Literature Festival.</p> <p>The Community and Grounds Administrator advised that a decision needed to be made regarding charging for tickets. Some festivals charge between £6 and £10 whilst others rely on sponsorship and donations. None of the authors were charging the Town Council to attend.</p> <p>A member advised that she knew of two local writers that write on dementia and mental health that she could approach.</p> <p>A member advised that the festival was within budget, and the first literary festival would be an opportunity to establish it, then consider a charge in future years.</p>

	<p>The Community and Grounds Administrator advised that she would not want to devalue the festival by not charging, but it would be an opportunity to establish it. A request for next year's budget had been made for an extra £1,000, with the aim of raising an extra £2,000 through sponsorship.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor James Clayton</p> <p>RESOLVED: That events put on by the Council as part of the 2018 Literature Festival be free of charge.</p>
229	<p>Dog Bins The report of the Community and Grounds Administrator had been circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Community and Grounds Administrator advised that two requests had been received from a husband and wife requesting a dog bin in a donkey field at Uphill. A similar application for a dog bin from former Councillor John Ley-Morgan had previously been turned down.</p> <p>Debate ensued. The ward councillor for Uphill questioned the need for a dog bin, and advised that the Uphill Village Society had not requested one.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the application for a dog bin by the donkey field be refused.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.43 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Chairman</p>