

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2017
AT GROVE HOUSE**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.25 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, Clive Darke, James Davis, Michal Kus, Richard Tucker, Robert Payne (S)

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager), Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Nick Melling (Visitor Services Manager – Weston Museum), Kevin Lilwall (YMCA Director of Operations), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Sarah Robinson (Weston Mercury)

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

144	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Armstrong (substituted by Councillor Robert Payne), Len Purnell and Councillor Martin Williams</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the apologies be received and noted.</p>
145	<p>Declarations of Interest (<i>Standing Order No:30</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>
146	<p>Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on the 11th September 2017</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Davis SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
147	<p>References from other Committees</p> <p>147.1 The minutes of Weston In Bloom 13th June 2017 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p> <p>147.2 The minutes of the Museum HLF Working Party 25th May 2017 and 22nd June 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. The Town Clerk advised that surveys were being commissioned on three memorials and pre-applications on two had been made to the War Memorials Trust.</p>

	<p>The Community Services Committee supported the Museum and Heritage Sub Committee in pushing for completion of the War Memorial restoration by November 2018 as next year marked 100 years since the end of World War 1.</p> <p>147.3 The minutes of the Blakehay Theatre Working Party 27th April 2017, and 13th July 2017 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p>
148	<p>Management Reports</p> <p>148.1 Youth Services</p> <p>The report of the YMCA Director of Operations 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 Focus • Weston-super-Mare Youth Council • Weston Youth Centre • Uphill Taster Session • Summer Starter • Potential Youth Provision Worle • Links to Town Council Strategy <p>The Director of Operations advised members that following closure of the Badger Centre a number of groups had moved to the Youth Café. They were also supporting drop in sessions for young carers and children with disabilities.</p> <p>The Director of Operations advised that there had been an article in the Mercury about a father in Worle who had highlighted the need for youth provision in Worle and wanted to set something up. Damien Erangey (YMCA) had met with the father to discuss possible opportunities.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that the YMCA had done a superb job and were very good value for money – not just in the town centre but now reaching out to Worle and Uphill.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.</p> <p>148.2 The Blakehay Theatre</p> <p>The report of the Blakehay Theatre Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The report covered the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General update • Weston College update • Theatre Review update • Blue Sky Theatre & Arts <p>The Theatre Manager thanked members who had attended the re-launch on Saturday 9th September and advised that they had had over 200 people through the doors during the 2</p>

hour opening.

The Theatre Manager advised that John West had installed new exterior lighting to the front of the building but the door lighting still needed to be installed. The new banners were due to go up shortly.

The What's On Guide was an interim version as information about shows had not been forthcoming.

Whilst the majority of Weston College bookings had not been renewed, the Wednesday lunch-time class in studio 1 had been retained at the theatre as had the college shows. The income from the college was £18,890 down from £34,000.

At the open day on Saturday the Theatre Manager had been approached by someone wanting to book studio one four days a week for Pole Fitness classes.

The Theatre Manager advised she was looking to buy in shows and would be meeting with the Comedy Grove who used to run comedy nights on the Pier. In addition the literary festival provided opportunity for talk and questions and answer session at the Blakehay and the possibility of afternoon shows for coach trips was being explored.

A member raised the possibility of charging a reduced rate for amateur groups. Debate ensued. The Theatre Manager advised that the potential for marketing the theatre to amateur groups was something she was looking into.

PROPOSED: Councillor Sarah Codling
SECONDED: Councillor James Davis

A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED: That a working party is formed of members to work with Sally to support and evaluate theatre marketing.

The Town Clerk advised that members would be emailed to ask if they would like to volunteer for the working party.

The Theatre Manager suggested that the next item in her report regarding possible charging structure for Blue Sky Arts could be referred the working party.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

148.3 Weston Museum

The report of the Museum Visitor Services Manager had been previously circulated.

The Visitor Service Manager advised that the Museum had reopened on the 26th August and 2500 people had visited. In the first two week since opening the Museum had seen 6500 people visiting including a lot of families. The Museum had also received a lot of positive comments on social media.

The Visitor Service Manger advised that they were working with Boomerang Satsuma documenting the Bourneville Community through film. The film would be screened at Clevedon Curzon cinema and the Museum.

The Museum had 126 volunteers of whom 45 were front of house.

The first school group was visiting this week and bookings were being taken for the

learning space.

The museum had jumped two places on Trip Advisor to number ten, and its social media followers were growing. The Museum had also received media coverage from ITV West and BBC Radio Bristol.

The Town Clerk read out an email from the Chairman of the Museum and Heritage Committee thanking all those that had been involved in the Museum redevelopment and reopening. In particular the staff, volunteers, A1 Camera Club, Friends of the Museum, and councillors. He also noted that Richard Wyatt who writes for the Bath Museums website had visited and been very impressed and thanked the Mercury for their support.

The Chairman requested an update on the replacement doors. The Town Clerk advised that they had been manufactured and being held in storage till the planned Museum closure in January.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

148.4 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 Grounds Manager advised that a volunteer evening had been held on Friday 8th September 2017. The Chairman advised that six new volunteers had been recruited.

The Grounds Manager advised that serious vandalism at the Grove Park toilets had resulted in a prolonged period of closure due to difficulties with getting a replacement coin-entry mechanism as they had needed to assess the damage first in order to manufacture a replacement that would withstand similar vandalism. There was a possibility that one or two replacements could be ordered so if a similar incident occurred the closure period would be much shorter, but they cost over £1000 per unit. Debate ensued.

A member thanked the Town Clerk for his correspondence with one of his ward residents regarding the ongoing closure of the public convenience.

Members requested costs for replacement units be brought to the next meeting.

The Grounds Manager advised that the toilets at the cemetery had experienced drug abuse issues and were kept locked when funerals were not happening.

The Grounds Manager advised that there had been a fire at the Bourneville Allotment resulting in the fire brigade being called late a night and breaking through a school gate to reach the fire. The fire had been caused by people accessing the site through a broken fence belonging to Alliance Homes and not through the actions of the allotment holders.

The Grounds Manager advised that 18 months ago the committee had agreed to work with North Somerset Council to repair the bus shelters. He had been in contact with them recently to try and make a similar agreement again.

	RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.
149	<p><i>8.10pm Kevin Lilwall left the meeting</i></p> <p>Literary Festival The Town Clerk advised that the Literary Festival would run from Thursday 22nd February to Thursday 1st March 2018, ending on World Book Day.</p> <p>Discussions had been held with the Town Centre Partnership to adapt the Easter Egg Trail, and with Waterstones regarding potential authors as well as the Library Service.</p> <p>The Chairman advised he would like to speak to Yeovil Literary Festival to learn from their experience. The Town Clerk advised that Zoe Scott could organise a visit with Councillor Bailey and Councillor Codling to speak to the festival organisers.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Chairman</p>