

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON  
MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 9 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Ray Armstrong, Mark Canniford, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, James Davis, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons (S), Clive Webb (S) and Martin Williams

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Financial (DTC and RFO), Matthew Hardy (Visitor Services Manager), Kevin Lillwall (YMCA), Tricia Brabham (Communications and Committee Officer) and Vicky Angear (Weston Mercury)

60	<p><b>Election of Chairman</b> The Town Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chairman.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor Roger Bailey be elected as Chairman of the Community Services Committee for 2018-19.</p>
61	<p><b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b></p> <p>Apologies of absence were received from Councillors James Clayton, Denise Hunt and Michal Kus.</p> <p>Councillor Denise Hunt was substituted by Councillor Catherine Gibbons.</p> <p>Councillor Michal Kus was substituted by Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the apologies be received and noted.</p>
62	<p><b>Election of Vice-Chairman</b> The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Sarah Codling be elected Vice- Chairman of the Community Services Committee for 2018-19.</p>
63	<p><b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>

64	<p><b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018.</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that following the last Community Services meeting the Expenditure and Governance Committee had met and discussed the concerns around the toilets, and the general consensus had been that the police were soft on drugs.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that toilets were included in the Grounds Manager's report and suggested they be discussed at that point in the meeting.</p>
65	<p><i>7.10pm Councillor Catherine Gibbons joined the meeting.</i></p> <p><b>References from other Committees</b></p> <p><b>65.1 Minutes of Weston in Bloom</b> The minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> May had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received and noted.</p> <p><b>65.2 Minutes of the Museum and Heritage Sub Committee</b> The minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that Grove Park War Memorial looked great following the restoration work.</p> <p>A member advised that Worlebury Hill Fort was one of the top 10 hill forts in the country and the first to have a wall and felt that the Town Council had an opportunity to get involved and support the work.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received and noted.</p>
66	<p><b>Management Reports</b></p> <p><b>66.1 Youth Services</b> The report of the Operations Manager - YMCA had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Operations Manager advised that the Youth Council was going really well, with Priory and Worle Schools.</p> <p>There is interest in some of the young people in the twinning with Hildesheim, and the opportunity to visit Germany.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members discussed how Councillors could provide support to the youth exchange programme with Hildesheim.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> Councillor James Davis <b>SECONDED:</b> Councillor Martin Williams</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor James Davis be nominated to represent the Town Council with Twinning Liaison.</p>

The Operations Manager-YMCA advised that the YMCA was situated opposite the toilets in Grove Park and that they sent regular reports to the police. There had been a raid in Grove Park recently and two people had been arrested. The YMCA had witnessed the impact of this on those who were unable to get hold of drugs.

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Operations Manager- YMCA be noted.

#### **66.2 Blakehay Theatre**

The report of the Blakehay Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda

The Town Clerk advised that attendances had been doing quite well, but had dropped off recently. The Comedy Night had had poor attendance, the Opera had broken even. He wondered if the recent hot weather was having an effect.

Debate ensued. Members discussed whether publicity of the shows was adequate.

The Town Clerk advised that the situation with light bulbs in theatres, following proposed changes by the European Union, was being monitored.

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Theatre Manager be noted.

#### **66.3 Weston Museum**

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

The VSM advised that over 30,000 people had now visited the Museum.

Events for Christmas had been booked, included the Costanzi Consort on the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

A member noted that the average spend in the shop was disappointing as was the national average spend for museum shops.

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Visitor Services Manager be noted.

#### **66.4 Grounds**

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

##### **66.4.1 Cemetery**

A member asked if the criticism of the over grown grass at the cemetery had been replied to. The Town Clerk advised that it had.

It was noted that the unusual warm and wet spring had caused the grass to grow quickly.

A member asked if the Town Council was happy for relatives to cut grass around the graves. The DTC and RFO advised that weren't in the past it had caused other issues.

##### **66.4.2 Weston In Bloom**

The Chairman advised that the WIB judging had taken place and would that he would like Councillors to help with the flowerbeds.

##### **66.4.3 Public Toilets**

The Chairman noted that there was an element of disquiet as the police were not reacting as hoped to the drugs problem with the toilets, and would like the Police and Crime Commissioner to come to a meeting at Grove House to discuss it.

A member advised that there had been a 90% drop in anti-social behaviour in the toilets in

the last six weeks. Many of the problems in Grove Park with the toilets were with the doors. Options that were being considered included alarms, and moving the last cleaning till after the toilets were closed. Drug paraphernalia in the toilets had dropped a lot over the last six weeks.

The DTC and RFO advised that there had been a lot of issues with the toilets, but there had been a drop recently. The drains blocking were not just down to drug paraphernalia. The reduction in issues could be down to the raid that had happened in recent weeks.

The Town Clerk advised that Expenditure and Governance had requested officers to look at the different options regarding the toilets. The final recommendations would be referred to either Community Services or Town Council for consideration.

A member thanked officers for their work on the War Memorial and the Cemetery.

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Grounds Manager be noted.

**67**

**Grants**

The report of the DTC and RFO had been previously circulated with the agenda.

**Revitalise Grant Application received**

**Grant applied for £1000**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The grant would be used to provide three respite breaks for disabled people.

A vote was taken and accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED:** That no grant be awarded as there was insufficient benefit to the community.

**Bridge Farm Pool Angling Club Grant Application received**

**Grant applied for £975**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The grant would be used to facilitate easier access for disabled and elderly members.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Mark Canniford

**SECONDED:** Councillor Peter Fox

**RESOLVED:** That no grant be awarded as insufficient information had been submitted.

**Theatre Orchard Grant Application received**

**Grant applied for £2000**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The grant would be used to hold an event “Weekend of Wonders” event in the Italian Gardens.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Mark Canniford

**SECONDED:** Councillor James Davis

**RESOLVED:** That a grant for £500 be awarded, on condition that all promotional material include the Town Council logo.

**Somerset Storyfest Grant Application received**

**Grant applied for £570**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The grant would be used to hire experts to offer their experience for their Anti-Bullying project.

Members felt that the issue of bullying was an important issue but would like to support a project that worked across the school network, not just focussed on one school. This was something that could potentially be done through the Town Council's partnership with the YMCA.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Mark Canniford

**SECONDED:** Councillor Peter Fox

**RESOLVED:** That no grant be awarded.

**ME/CFS Grant Application received**

**Grant applied for £1000**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The grant would be used for banners and flyers to raise awareness.

There were no accounts supplied to support this application.

**RESOLVED:** That the grant decision be deferred until more information is received.

**Hildesheim Youth Exchange Grant Application received**

**Grant applied for £1000**

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The grant would be used to cover the costs to host students.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor James Davis

**SECONDED:** Councillor Clive Webb

**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £1000 be awarded.

**VANS Grant Budgetary Approval**

**Grant applied for £3000**

The grant would be used to contribute towards the cost for a Volunteer Centre Worker for one day per week per year. The budget for this had been pre-approved by the Town Council in January.

**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £3,000 as per the budget, be approved.

**Citizens Advice Bureau Grant Budgetary Approval**

**Grant applied for £15,000**

Councillor Roger Bailey declared a personal interest, namely that he was trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Catherine Gibbons declared a personal interest, namely that she was a volunteer at the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The grant would be used for support to meet the demands of the service. The budget for this had been pre-approved by the Town Council in January.

	<p><b>PROPOSED:</b> Councillor Ray Armstrong  <b>SECONDED:</b> Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That a grant of £10,000 as per the budget, be approved.</p> <p><b>EAT Weston Grant Application received</b>  <b>Grant applied for £2,500</b>  Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The grant would be used for staging and public address equipment, insurance, licences and PRS and PPL licence fees.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That a grant of £1,250 be approved.</p>
68	<p><b>Review of Grant Criteria</b>  The Grant Criteria had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that he had rewritten the criteria to be clearer and to include changes that had been made and practices followed over the years by the committee. They had also been considered and amended by Expenditure and Governance Working Party.</p> <p>Members noted that the grant criteria had been reviewed to assist the committee in determination of the grants.</p> <p>Debate ensued regarding advertising the availability of grants, reporting back on the outcome of funding, and the need for more eligibility and financial evidence.</p> <p>The RFO advised that a scoring matrix could be provided to aid decision making.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That point 13 of the Grant Criteria be moved into eligibility</li> <li>2. That the Grant Criteria produced by the Town Clerk be approved</li> <li>3. That a scoring matrix be brought to the next meeting for consideration</li> </ol>
69	<p><i>8.45 Cllr Canniford and Codling left the meeting.</i></p> <p><b>Community Events</b>  The Chairman noted that the report sounded very positive.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report of the Community and Grounds Officer be noted.</p>
70	<p><b>Dog Bins</b></p> <p>The Chairman noted that dog bins were expensive, and a mechanism needed to be put in place for managing them. He also questioned if some dog bins needed to be moved or removed.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been complaints about overflowing dog bins.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that there had been a serious problem with dog bin collections in the snow in March and another problem with collections last week. The cost of emptying dog bins twice a week is £467 a year per bin.</p> <p><b>Dog Bin application – Scott Elm Drive</b>  A member advised that the Ward Councillors had been consulted and agreed with the request as it by a primary school.</p>

**RESOLVED:** That the dog bin application for Scott Elm Drive be approved.

**Dog Bin application – Lawrence Road**

**RESOLVED:** That the dog bin application for Lawrence Road be referred to the ward councillors for comment.

The Chairman requested that the dog bin policy be discussed at the next meeting, and a map showing dog bin locations be provided.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

Councillor Roger Bailey

**Chairman of the Community Services Committee**