

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON
MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.32 pm

PRESENT: Councillors James Clayton (Chairman), Mark Aplin, Roger Bailey, Gill Bute, Gillian Carpenter, Sarah Codling, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox, Peter McAleer, Ian Porter (S) and Helen Thornton.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Alan Peak, Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Grounds Manager), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Alli Waller (YMCA Senior Lead Youth Worker) and Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Administrator).

32.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roz Willis who was substituted by Councillor Ian Porter and Councillor Ella Sayce with no substitution.
33.	To receive Declarations of Interest No declarations were received.
34.	To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 9th March 2020 The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling SECONDED BY: Councillor Gill Bute RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
35.	References from other Committees 35.1 Minutes of Weston in Bloom Working Party held on 25th February 2020 The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda. The Chairman of the Weston In Bloom Working Party gave an update on activity since March. A few volunteers had stepped down which was a great loss and they had been written to convey the council's thank for their hard work. Flowers had been ordered for displays at various sites. RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.

36. Management Reports:

36.1 Youth Services

The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated but some members had not been able to obtain it.

For the benefit of members Alli highlighted on sections of the report.

The Operations Manager himself had temporarily moved onto other sections and so Ali was solely running the Weston based youth services at present. All services were available online and the service had given a lot of support to young people since March especially in respect of mental health.

Back in July the YMCA were supporting the Stable Café, delivering lunches to families that found the time tough and didn't qualify for free school meals, came to an end. Over 10,000 lunches were delivered. Many of the families were then signposted to the Summer Picnic challenge in South Ward. This gave the team an opportunity to check in safely with young people and families that might be of concern and signpost them accordingly.

Slowly services were getting back to normal and Alli had begun to look at how face to face services could resume as they were exempt from the 6people government legislation.

A grant application was being put together to the department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to refurbish the sports hall behind the café. This would be a welcome additional community space for the young people of Weston.

Youth Council meetings had continued via zoom and three new members had been recruited. Their latest e-letter was circulated with the report.

Members conveyed their thanks to Ali and her team for all the work that had been carried out. It was recognised as a huge achievement and invaluable service to the community with little resource.

Alli reported that youth workers had been lost due to the current situation and that recruitment to replace had started.

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

Alli left the meeting at 7.13 pm

36.2 Grounds

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

In response to a question the Grounds Manager clarified that that the Town Council had been approached by other parish councils to empty their dog bins. With the grounds team's limited resources a boundary had been set at Churchill as the team didn't want to overcommit themselves at this point. However, there was a real opportunity to expand and develop the service in future. Despite a training problem with the member of staff during early lockdown, the Grounds Manager was now very happy with how the service was running.

The increase in allotment waiting list requests was highlighted. The Grounds Manager reported that this was as a result of the pandemic and people's adjustment to lifestyles which was only going to continue. It was suggested that allotment provision should be another future area for consideration.

It was confirmed that the toilet blockages, although reports were awaited, were usually the result of items being thrown down the toilets at Grove Park.

The Chairman was pleased to hear that bringing the dog bin contract in house had proved successful and was generating a positive response. He suggested forming a working group to discuss the possibility of pursuing further contracts with other parishes.

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

37. Public Toilets Contract Options

The Town Clerk verbally reported that together with the Grounds Manager he had been looking at the possibility of tendering out the public toilets contract. The Council had looked at this option previously but decided not to pursue and he was now speaking with two possible companies. The tender would be split up into 3 elements; complaints, cleaning and maintenance. Contracting the service out to a company with the resources would unify the service.

Officers added that it was a good time to look at outsourcing the public toilets service as it would save a great deal of cross department time.

Members were requested to authorise a procurement process.

A member requested that the procurement process needed to include the council's decision to become a real living wage employer.

Further details on the procurement options were requested. The Town Clerk apologised for the lack of a written report in advance. At this stage, permission for a procurement process was being requested which would not commit the council to outsourcing the service; and a further report would be submitted to the Policy & Finance Committee in October.

A member suggested that the current cleaning company be included with the procurement process.

The Town Clerk updated that the Community Toilet scheme would be difficult to pursue at the present time due to COVID restrictions on pubs/café /shops etc but that it could be revisited when the pandemic settles down.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter

A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried

RESOLVED: That a procurement process for outsourcing the public toilet service be authorised and a report be brought to the Policy & Finance Committee for consideration.

38. Crime Prevention Budget Allocation

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated which outlined 3 options to use the Crime Prevention budget, for members' consideration.

Debate ensued. A member felt there was much information which needed to be carefully considered and that each option came with its own merits and risks. A suggestion was made to take the options to a working group to make a recommendation.

In relation to option 3b a member asked if the Community Response Officer would be restricted to Weston. The Grounds Manager confirmed that they would be a Weston focused officer joining a team of two others already in situ for North Somerset.

Members favored option 3b but raised the point that they would not want the officer used as a 'COVID Marshall'.

The Town Clerk explained that when members set the budget, the vision was to create a resource specifically for the town council to call on, to cover antisocial behaviour hot spots throughout Weston and Worle and not restricted to the town center. If members wanted to set up a working group, then this was an option.

The Grounds Manager advised that employing staff required training. The BID wardens were highly visible and would require a patrol plan. The Town Council did not have a full picture of the complaints received and so would have to liaise with North Somerset Council to operate. The town council has had various antisocial behavior problems but doesn't have the powers to remove, so is having to work with North Somerset Council to address.

The Chairman reported that he had experienced anti-social behaviour and unauthorised encampment problems within his ward. North Somerset Council only had two Community Response Officers across the whole district and were very stretched. If the town council were to provide its own resource it would demonstrate to residents that it was trying to tackle antisocial behaviour within the town. He therefore favored option 3b. Although he was understanding of the concerns raised regarding the need for careful consideration of the options via a working group, he was conscious of how much time this would take.

In response to this, the member elaborated on her concerns of duplication of service and matrix management difficulties, tasking and multi-agency steering groups and would like to see mechanisms in place for ward councilors to be involved.

The Grounds Manager advised that two out of three calls made to Avon & Somerset Police were for incidents in Weston and Worle and that she had already began speaking with Howard Potheary, Community Safety Manager at North Somerset Council regarding tasking.

The Grounds Manager highlighted the problems experienced at the Milton Road Cemetery which was out of CCTV range. The Police beat team were now patrolling twice a day and the Community Response team were letter dropping to residents, as the grounds team did not have the time or the resource to tackle the problem.

Members wanted mechanisms to be in place so that the officer would report directly to the Town Council.

It was suggested that any concerns raised could be dealt with via a Memorandum of Understanding and it was therefore

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

That option 3b, to employ 1 x full time Community Response Officer as per the details within the Grounds Manager's report, be approved.

Further debate ensued. It was said that all concerns should be dealt with via a service level agreement.

The Grounds Manager informed that the officer would be employed on a 3 year contract because of staffing and training implications to include vehicle leasing.

A member highlighted that the council was therefore committing to a £150,000 expenditure.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that this would be a £50,000 per year budget implication.

In light of this information, Councillor Roger Bailey withdrew his seconding of the proposal.

The same motion was then:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

SECONDED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

A vote was taken and was tied 5 for and 5 against. The Chairman made the casting vote for, and accordingly the motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That option 3b, to employ 1 x Full-Time Community Response Officer as per the details within the Grounds Manager's report be approved.

39. Literacy Festival Event 3 Year Review

The report of the Community and Grounds Administrator had been previously circulated.

The Town Clerk reported that the Community and Grounds Administrator had done a huge amount of work on the event over the past 3 years. As a result of COVID restrictions it was impractical to run the event in 2021 and now was a good time to review the event as a whole. The Community and Grounds Administrator would

	<p>bring back some options for further events that could withstand the economic climate at a future meeting.</p> <p>Members agreed that the expenditure on the festival was not justified at the present time and that a break would enable time to look at different approaches. The time could be spent linking in with other organisations including the Museum/Blakehay Theatre and Culture Weston to re launch a new strategy off the back of COVID.</p> <p>Members conveyed their tribute to the Community and Grounds Administrator for her work on the event over the past 3 years.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton</p> <p>A vote was taken and was carried</p> <p>RESOLVED: That a Working Group be set up to discuss and reevaluate the future of the Literary Festival event.</p>
<p>40.</p>	<p>Street Naming</p> <p>New Road Name Request for Part of Development Site off Woodside Avenue, Hutton, Weston-super-Mare</p> <p>A site map of the development had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that both North Somerset Council and Hutton Parish Council had made suggestions for the development. North Somerset had proposed 'Ten Acres Close'. In answer to a question from a member the Town Clerk confirmed that 'Ten Acres' was a historic name for the area on a tithe map.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford – Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the road name 'Ten Acres Close' be recommend to Corporate Services, North Somerset Council.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p>Councillor James Clayton Chairman of the Community Services Committee</p>