

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES WORKING PARTY
HELD VIA ZOOM
MONDAY 5th JULY 2021**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.26 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Sarah Codling (Chairman), Gillian Carpenter, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox, Pete McAleer, Helen Thornton and Roz Willis.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk/RFO), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Public Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Zoe Scott (Grounds Coordinator), Ali Waller (Youth Services) and Reece Evans (Community Response Officer).

72	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence received.</p> <p>Councillor Ella Sayce was absent from the meeting.</p>
73	<p>To receive Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
74	<p>At this point in the meeting, the Chairman brought forward item 5 (Grounds Management Report) for discussion in order to accommodate an update from Recce Evans, the council's Community Response Officer who was in attendance.</p> <p>Grounds Management Report</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk – Public Services verbally reported that the grounds team were not at full capacity and were doing the best they could with grass growing and staff shortages. Recruitment for Community Rangers had commenced with one post filled, phased in and already in place.</p> <p>There had been a shortage of strimmers due to demand and a lawn mower breaking down.</p> <p>It had been reported that strimmers had also been stolen from allotment sites.</p> <p>There was an issue with the coin dispenser at Uphill toilets and one out of the three cubicles at Grove Park toilets was open.</p> <p>There was continuing, very concerning anti-social behaviour taking place at the Cemetery which was actively being tackled via a multi-agency approach including the Police.</p> <p>Reece reported that the anti-social behaviour (ASB) at the Cemetery was a growing and concerning problem. ASB problems previously experienced at Alexandra Parade had unfortunately been relocated to the Cemetery. PSPO's were being enforced to try and target the problem.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk reported the effectiveness of having this communication link with</p>

Reece and the wider community response team and explained that the grounds team would really struggle without it. There needed to be a consistent presence in the cemetery to try and deter the ASB.

Members commented on the recruitment issues and explained that this was a national problem as a result of Brexit.

The Assistant Town Clerk informed that the redeployment of staff from other departments was being considered to help with staff shortages.

A member informed of ASB problems reported to her by a resident still being experienced at Worle church yard.

Reece urged members to encourage residents to report through 111 so that resources could be allocated effectively.

A member suggested contacting agencies like Addaction/Here for you now to help tackle ASB and urged staff not to approach anybody displaying ASB and put their selves at risk. The Assistant Town Clerk clarified that staff had been instructed not to approach anyone and informed that the toilets in the Cemetery had been closed after a police incident and were only opened for funeral services.

Reece reported that there would be some enforcement action taken with known individuals causing the ASB.

A member suggested the use of the mobile CCTV units the council had funded to try and tackle the problems. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that this could be an option, however a case for the use of the camera would need to be established and electricity and internet connection ability needed to be considered. The grounds team were in communication with the occupier of the bottom lodge of the Cemetery to install CCTV cameras on the bottom gates.

Reece reported that he and his team had close links with the CCTV department and would work with them to obtain the consents required and incurred costs.

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that the steering group included multi agencies like Here for you now/Addaction and so they would be aware of the anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Members were concerned to hear of the ASB problems and therefore it was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Fox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gill Carpenter

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the new Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to the next Town Council Meeting scheduled for 20th September to hear the of the extreme problems with anti-social behaviour being experienced in the Cemetery.
2. That the report of the Assistant Town Clerk – Public Services be noted.

	<i>Reece left the meeting at 7.28 pm.</i>
75	<p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 10th May 2021</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>In response to a member, the Deputy Town Clerk advised that grant applications would be considered at the next meeting scheduled for 13th September.</p> <p>It was noted that the minutes had some errors and highlighted sections which seemed to be a draft copy. The final version was available to members and would be uploaded to the council's website as approved.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p>
76	<p>References from other Committees</p> <p>.1 Greenery in the Town Centre</p> <p>The minute extract of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee (HAC) had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Chairman of the HAC Committee agreed the perusal of more planting but noted that there would be costs implications.</p> <p>It was noted that NSC had withdrawn funding for planting over the years and that the Town Council should work with them to achieve.</p> <p>The Grounds Coordinator reported that £2,000 funding had been secured from NSC for WIB/Love the Outdoors to plant up the town centre and other areas of the town. The WIB volunteer base was expanding and bedding plants for Autumn and winter had been ordered.</p> <p>The Town Council through Weston-in-Bloom (WIB) were great contributors to the towns planting and their plans had been effected over the past year due to Covid 19. As a result of the expansion in volunteer base and restrictions lifting, WIB could begin to plan for the future.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The update was duly noted by the committee.</p>
77	<p>Appointment of a Consultant to review the Public Toilets</p> <p>The report of the Deputy Town Clerk and feasibility study had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk had interviewed a consultant who had extensive knowledge of Weston super Mare and experience in producing reports of varying types</p>

for town and parish councils, as he was contracted to the Local Council Consultancy with the SLCC.

A proposal for works was attached for members' acknowledgement. The consultant would be coming down to work with the Deputy Town Clerk and relevant staff in order to understand the history of Grove Park toilets and collect data available to enable his research to commence. In addition, time was suggested to be spent with the Assistant Town Clerk and partnering organisations (PCSO, Community Response Officers) and to attend if possible a future toilet working group to coincide with his visit to allow members input.

The feasibility study would aim to provide all potential options for the council to consider, but it should be noted that some of the suggestions brought back may need approval and involvement from other parties (i.e. NSC if a suggestion for an alternative location was suggested as example).

The initial meeting of the toilet working group took place on Thursday 24th June 2021.

A member welcomed the inclusion of a multi-agency approach and stressed the importance of considering the impacts on the local community, especially the elderly, vulnerable and tourism. A meeting with the toilet working group was necessary.

The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to take the points raised on board and explained that it had not been any easy task to appoint a consultant for the project. All findings would be reported back through the Community Services Committee and a date for the consultants next visit would be reported to members.

A member who wished to attend the toilet working group but was not aware of the date, stressed the need for the council to provide a reliable functioning toilet facility or not at all as this did not service the needs of the town's elderly and vulnerable residents.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the report would be an independent feasibility study and that it was important to note that the council only had jurisdiction over the footprint of the toilet block. The council was handing over all its information in order for the consultant to come back with various options of which would come back through Town Council, it would also include options that may require other parties involvement i.e. NSC.

A member highlighted that Weston would be in competition with other seaside towns.

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

RECOMMENDED:

1. To note the appointment of Stephen Butt, Consultant, to undertake a Feasibility Study on Grove Park Toilets and details of proposal provided.
2. That the report findings/options be reported to the next Town Council meeting for consideration.

78 Service Area Reports:

.1 Youth Services

The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated.

Ali reported that the Blakehay had loaned some of its furniture which was looking great and very much appreciated. The YMCA was ready to open up with a coffee morning on 23rd

	<p>July. There had been a problem with the drains which needed to be signed off before opening.</p> <p>In response to a member, Ali advised the Youth Services team would be keen in helping with the ASB problems within the Cemetery as some of the young people would be known to them.</p> <p>Ali reported that there was still no designated place for youth services in Uphill to meet and that once restrictions were lifted, the team would actively pursue.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That the report of the Operations Manager - YMCA be noted.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Ali for her report and attendance at the meeting.</p> <p><i>Ali left the meeting at 8.02 pm.</i></p> <p>.2 Community Events</p> <p>The Grounds Coordinator was not able to be present at the meeting due to technical problems and would provide all member with an update via email.</p> <p>.3 Weston in Bloom – Love the Outdoors</p> <p>The Grounds Coordinator was not able to be present at the meeting due to technical problems and would provide all member with an update via email.</p>
79	<p>Request for Street Name, Planning Applications: 13/P/1909/F and 20/P/0201/MMA Land to the Rear of 44-46 Upper Bristol Road, Weston-super-Mare</p> <p>Correspondence from NSC Street Naming department, suggesting proposed street names had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Developer had suggested the following street names:</p> <p>Barton Close, Barton Grove, Barley End or Barley Grove</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That Barton Close be approved for Planning Applications: 13/P/1909/F and 20/P/0201/MMA Land to the Rear of 44-46 Upper Bristol Road, Weston-super-Mare.</p>
80	<p>Community Resilience Update</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk verbally reported that the Community Resilience team were going from strength to strength. The Music Declares Emergency event which had just taken place was a really positive event. The Community Fridge Project was to get back on track now that restrictions were being lifted and now that confirmation of a unit had been received. Food Clubs set up and community engagement works were operating well with a presence in both Weston South Ward and Worle with a meeting scheduled for 2 weeks' time. Grants for community groups were being actively sought and finally, the Anti-</p>

Racism Group were meeting on the last Tuesday of every month and had had some very positive meetings. It was agreed that each meeting would have a theme and the next meeting would feature a speaker from the NHS.

A member reported that she had attended the Music Declares Emergency event and felt it was a great success and thanked all who were involved.

RECOMMENDED: Members noted the verbal update.

.1 Music Declares Emergency event happening in Grove Park

The briefing report of the Communications Officer had been previously circulated.

RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

81 Street Art Festival 2021 Update:

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced Tom Newman from Culture Weston to verbally update the meeting.

Tom reported that the first live event had taken place at the Quarry the previous weekend which was very successful and well attended. There were also more regular events scheduled where tables and tickets could be booked in advance.

Unfortunately, an impromptu news article about the Street Art Festival had been released and details of the event were too premature to be advertised.

Culture Weston and Upfest were currently working to finalise locations for the street art trail.

Current locations include: Premier Inn – TBC, Regents Jewellers – confirmed, Sultan's, Kebab House – confirmed, Loves Cafe – confirmed, Brunello Lounge – confirmed, WsM station - as digitally printed panels and Apple Taxis – TBC.

Given the scale and cost involved of the Premier Inn should it be secured the number of murals overall may have to be reduced from 10 to 7/8. There were a number of backup locations also being worked on should the location not be secured.

A list of shortlist of artists had been agreed by the decision panel and could be circulated to members. It was noted that the list wasn't yet confirmed as it would be dependent on artist availability, and matching of artists to the various locations and therefore still subject to change.

Thanks to the commitment of £20k by Weston Town Council towards the mural trail, Culture Weston had been able to work with local artists Shruti Ashish and Lin Toulcher to secure a further £15k from Arts Council England towards community engagement activities around the new trail, including workshops in schools and a Sprayjam event for local artists to take place on the same weekend in Weston as Whirligig Festival, to create a critical mass of activity to drive local attendance but also promote Weston as a high quality cultural destination to audiences in the West of England and beyond.

Members that had attended the recent event at the Quarry were impressed with the use of the marquee and Tom advised that there was various equipment at the site which were assets intended for community use.

The timescale for the starting of the trail was estimated at approximately 6-8 weeks' time as it was to be tagged onto an event running in Bedminster '75 days', which had been delayed.

Tom confirmed that he would work closely with the Council's communications officer on the publicising of the event.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.26 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Community Services Committee