

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON  
MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:01 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8: 56 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors James Clayton (Chairman), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Joe Bambridge, Catherine Gibbons (S), Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Caroline Reynolds and Robert Skeen.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell ( Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee & Office Manager), Sharon Miles (Grounds Manager), Andy Chappel ( Climate and Community Development Officer ), Wayne Hughes & Chrissie Simpson (Community Response) and Ade Bowan (Together Pussycat CIC).

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| <b>132</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b><br><br>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Owen James who was substituted by Councillor Catherine Gibbons; and Councillor John Stanfield with no substitution.<br><br>It was noted that Councillor John Carson was absent from the meeting.  |
| <b>133</b> | <b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b><br><br>There were none received.   |
| <b>134</b> | <b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023</b><br><br>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated and were also available at the meeting.<br><br><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey<br><b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Ray Armstrong<br><br>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b> .<br><br><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting. |
| <b>135</b> | <b>References from other Committees:</b><br><br>There were none received.   |
| <b>136</b> | <b>North Somerset Council CCTV Reports</b><br><br>The CCTV reports for the period of July 2023 and a link to the CCTV dashboard had been previously circulated for members to peruse.   |

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|                   | <p>The Deputy Town Clerk gave a brief demonstration of how to use the dashboard but advised that members needed to give direction on what they wanted to see going forward. The dashboard could be used in conjunction with the Community Response Officers report to support.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to view the dashboard in advance of meetings to flag any areas for discussion.</p> <p>The Chairman requested to have the dashboard live at future meetings for members to ask questions.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To have the dashboard live at all future meetings for members to ask questions if needed.</p>  |
| <p><b>137</b></p> | <p><i>Standing orders were suspended at 7.14pm</i></p> <p>To allow Ade Bowan to address the meeting in support of his grant application (Together Pussycat CIC) which was on the agenda for discussion under item 13.3.</p> <p>Ade wished to put on a free family outdoor event over the October half term, engaging with young people’s imagination and promoting creative writing around a new local legend for Weston super Mare. Encouraging children to really take ownership and feel part of the project.</p> <p>The event will include storytelling, live actors, games, art activities, and a magic show. Leading up to the event, there would be free literacy workshops in 5 Weston schools with a local published children’s author that would promote the use of similes and metaphors in writing, as well as a free downloadable story made available through Amazon.</p> <p>Throughout the week of the event there would be a scavenger hunt in The Sovereign Centre, Weston.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Ade for his address and advised that the item would be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders resumed at 7.17pm</i></p> |
| <p><b>138</b></p> | <p><b>Grounds Management Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Chairman introduced Sharon Miles, the Grounds Manager who was in attendance to answer any questions regarding grounds areas and her report.</p> <p>In addition to the report, The Grounds Manager informed that she had met with the Chairman of Weston In Bloom and the Volunteer Coordinator to discuss plans for the following year to include entering South West In Bloom.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>   |

## 139 To receive the report from the Community Response (CR) Officers

Both Wayne Hughes and Chrissie Simpson were in attendance to deliver their report and answer any questions.

Chrissie highlighted on sections of her report

- South ward – Targeting of bus drivers (objects thrown at buses or youths pressing emergency stop buttons) resulting in service stoppage on occasion on the estate.
- Activity at Uphill quarry had decreased due to the erection of anti-social behaviour (ASB) signs, but unfortunately some of them had been taken down.
- Castle Batch – in addition to the report, ASB had been reported in the last week with youths gathering and drinking in the shelter and causing damage. They were known to the Police.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the Castle Batch play area had needed to close over the weekend due to damage and glass. The Grounds Manager had attended and cleared the site and communications were rolled out straight away to advise members of the public. The response from the public was really positive and people were really engaged and helpful to try and target the offenders. Unfortunately, the CCTV could not identify, as was too dark.

The Chairman suggested using the CCTV technology which included speakers to which the Assistant Town Clerk informed that she would look into and that there was a further report on this, later in the meeting.

Members reported tents in Ellenborough Park West and Wayne advised them to encourage members of the public to call CR and explained the process of attending within 24hrs, serving notice and removal of tents etc.

Wayne highlighted on sections of his report

- Italian Gardens - There were still issues with gatherings of the street community drinking and causing ASB. Although there has been a migration of street drinkers to Alexandra Parade.
- Water Park – there had not been any reports over summer.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that when the council looks at replacing the play equipment, it would be a more open design to discourage gatherings of youth and ASB activity.

- Grove Park – After the writing of the report new encampments have appeared. They would be targeted to move on and were known to CR.

A member reported that she had been told by many residents that there was blatant drug use and dealing witnessed in the park daily, which was a deterrent for resident park users.

Wayne encouraged people to ring CCTV straight away to report this.

- Ellenborough Park East – Four tents had been situated and removed over the month of August.

A further tent was reported at the meeting as well as a group of at least 6 males congregating in the evenings around 8pm onwards.

Wayne encouraged people to call and report to CR and if out of shift hours, call CCTV on 643711.

It was questioned how well the reporting mechanisms were communicated to members of the public. Chairman informed that it was through the Safer Stronger Communities Facebook page and promoted the use of the Streetsafe App to which CR used as a tool to target their patrols.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the comms campaign pushed out for Castle Batch could be replicated for other areas.

The Assistant Town Clerk advised caution over reporting everything through to CCTV as they didn't have a huge resource and shouldn't be to overrun for live calls. Further discussion would be held with them on this.

The Chairman thanked both Chrissie and Wayne for their attendance and they *left the meeting at 7.54pm*

**RESOLVED:** That the report from the Community Response Officers be noted.

**140 Review of the Council's Service Level Agreement (SLA) for Community Response**

The report of the Assistant Town Clerk and Howard Potheary had been previously circulated.

The Assistant WTC introduced her report and reinforced that the Town Council had no statutory powers in order to deal with ASB. To demonstrate the impact of this, reported that during the current SLA term, the council would have had to pay over £100,000 for the removal of tents over this time, plus other resources.

The SLA was tried, tested and trusted and regularly reviewed. The council did not have the resources to undertake in house. It was noted that although the council funded one Community Response Officer, it was able to pull resources from a team of three which was good value for money in terms of resilience.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Catherine Gibbons

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

**RESOLVED:** To agree the continuation of the Service Level Agreement with North Somerset Council for a further 3 years (recognising employment of personnel) with an annual performance review and subject to budget confirmation January 2024.

Further to this, the council had received a quote of £2,500 from NSC CCTV to upgrade the Castle Batch CCTV camera to infrared. This would require budget approval by Town Council but the Committees agreement for the concept recommendation was requested.

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|                   | <p>A vote was taken and was <b>carried</b>:</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> To recommend the quoted cost of £2,500 to upgrade the CCTV camera situated at Castle Batch park for consideration by Town Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</p>   |
| <p><b>141</b></p> | <p><b>Service Area reports:</b></p> <p><b>.1 Youth Services</b><br/> The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated.</p> <p>For the benefit of new members, the Town Clerk gave the background to the SLA with the YMCA to provide a range of Youth Services on behalf of the council. The SLA had replaced the much more expensive operation of the former Barcode Youth Café currently stood at £74,000 and was due for renewal by 31/2/24.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he was concerned regarding the effectiveness of the SLA, in particular the Youth Council who were struggling to meet and suggested an in-depth review carried out by a working group.</p> <p>Members commented on the lack of data within the reports.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk advised that according to the council's Medium-Term Financial Plan, all SLA's needed to be reviewed by the end of the current financial year and that work on this needed to commence before budget setting in December.</p> <p>It was clear from recent meetings that the council's expectations for SLA reports needed to be clearer and communicated to partnering organisations.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk would circulate the current SLA to members.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted and that a task and finish working group be set up in the very near future , consisting of the following members: Councillors James Clayton, Joe Bambridge, Catherine Gibbons and Caroline Reynolds.</p> <p><b>.2 Community Events</b><br/> The report of the Community &amp; Grounds Coordinator regarding the Weston Literary Festival had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p> |
| <p><b>142</b></p> | <p><b>Community Resilience Update</b></p> <p><b>.1</b> The report of the Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The report covered the six areas of community engagement and it was noted that a new</p>   |

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|                   | <p>Community Wellbeing Development Officer would be joining the council on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Noted.</p> <p><b>.2 Shaping Places for Healthier Lives funding programme</b></p> <p>The report of the Climate and Community Development Officer had been previously circulated which covered the successful application to North Somerset Council for the Shaping Places for Healthier Lives project.</p> <p>Shaping Places for Healthier Lives is a national project exploring how local action can improve health. It is funded by the Health Foundation and managed by the Local Government Association. The project will run until October 2024 and in North Somerset, the focus is on the root causes of food insecurity in local communities, specifically Weston Central and South Ward.</p> <p>The idea of the project is to look for sustainable ideas to improve long term resident access to good quality, affordable food in their local area, as opposed to focusing on crisis food support.</p> <p>As the anchor organisation the council will take a lead in moving the SPHL project forward in the Weston Central and South Ward areas.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> That Town Council accepts the initial grant award of £9,000, to act as an Anchor Organisation for Shaping Places for Healthier Lives funding grant and for Wellbeing and Community Development Officer to carry out the project work.</p> |
| <p><b>143</b></p> | <p><b>Street Art Trail 2023 ‘Weston Walls’</b></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk verbally reported that project went very well and a n evaluation meeting was scheduled. Interest had already been received to return again next year and proposals for this were being drawn up.</p> <p>The Chairman commented on what an excellent attraction this was for the town and money well spent.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p>   |
| <p><b>144</b></p> | <p><b>Street Naming</b></p> <p>To consider proposed street name for Planning applications 23/P/0195/NMA, 22/P/0492/RM and 17/P/1138/O – land accessed from Bleadon Hill (attached)</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that the proposed name was ‘Bartells Place’.</p>  |

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council had no objection to the proposed street name 'Bartells Place' for planning applications: 23/P/0195/NMA, 22/P/0492/RM and 17/P/1138/O – land accessed from Bleadon Hill.

**145 Grant applications**

The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The Council's annual budget for small and voluntary grants was £12,500 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a **£12,500 balance remaining**.

The Council's annual budget for Community Event Grants was £60,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a **£60,000 balance remaining**.

The Council's annual budget for Youth Grants was £3,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a **£3,000 balance remaining**

**145.1 Girlguiding**

**Grant Applied for £500**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

An individual Girl guide was seeking financial assistance of £500 to fundraise towards the cost of a trip inter-railing across Europe for herself and 3 other Girl guide leaders as well as fifteen rangers. This would give her the opportunity to gain her international license with support from the region which will allowed her to provide the local units with international opportunities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Ray Armstrong

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Catherine Gibbons

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

**RESOLVED:** On the proviso that a bank statement was received, that a £500.00 grant be awarded from the small and voluntary grants budget.

**145.2 Weston Hospicecare**

**Grant Applied for £1,000**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

Weston hospice care were seeking financial assistance of £1,000 to replace the electric couches that were used to provide complementary therapy to patients. The cost of the chairs were £1,794 each and in a 12 month period 1117 treatments were given to 712 different clients.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Ray Armstrong

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Robert Skeen

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

**RESOLVED:** That £1,000 be awarded from the small and voluntary grants budget.

**145.3 Together Pussy Cat CIC**

**Grant Applied for £1,000**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The CIC would create opportunities for families to play and learn together in a safe and exciting environment. Together Pussycat CIC were looking to put on a free outdoor event over the October half term and are seeking financial assistance of £1000 to be able to do so.

It was confirmed that the funding was to pay for the infrastructure of the event. The Council were also providing the venue of the event for free, with the intention of showcasing Ellenborough Park East for future events. The capacity of the park was 1,250 and this was not exclusive to the event as was a public park.

There was a short 6 week turnaround to organise the event and funding from other sources had also been applied for.

It was noted that the application had been referred from the HACC has did not meet the criteria of supporting economic development.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Caroline Reynolds

A vote was taken and was **carried**:

**RESOLVED:** That a £ 1,000 grant be awarded from the small and voluntary grants budget.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.56 pm.

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

**Chairman of the Community Services Committee**