

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE BLAKEHAY ON  
MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:01 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.49 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors James Clayton (Chair), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, John Carson, Owen James, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk) Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer), Wayne Hughes & Chrissie Simpson (CR), Ali Waller (YMCA), Josh Bell, Christina Chell and Peter Elston (Donate for Defib).

The Chair invited members of the public to address the committee.

Josh Bell from Donate for Difib presented a slide show outlining the organisations aims and objectives which included a map of the local area with the current defibrillator located. Research had shown that ideally, there should be an accessible defibrillator within 3 minutes' walk of any given location in the town and so much work was needed to achieve this. Donate for Defib had been running since September 2023 and had already installed 7 defibrillators within the town with another 3 on order. Infrastructure had been secured from local businesses such as electricians to fit and maintain the defibrillator for free. The scheme had the backing of Professor Graham Stuart, leading heart surgeon from the BRI and the air ambulance whose staff volunteered on non-working days to give tutoring on the use of defibrillators.

<b>291</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz.
<b>292</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest received.
<b>293</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>  The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated at the meeting.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen  A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b> .  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
<b>294</b>	<b>References from other Committees:</b>  There were none received.

<b>295</b>	<b>North Somerset Council CCTV Reports</b>  Regular CCTV reports had been previously circulated.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That CCTV the reports be noted.
<b>296</b>	<b>To receive the report of the report from the Community Response Officers</b> The report of the Community Response Officers had been previously circulated.  Chrissie Simpson reported recent Antisocial Behavior (ASB) in the Worle area by youths known to the police but however the Dartmouth Close play area had not received any reports in the last 5 months and work had been carried out to tidy up this area.  A member enquired as to why it was taking so long to deal with repeat offenders of ASB.  Wayne Hughes informed that the police were doing their jobs and arresting the youths causing the problems but the youth criminal justice system worked slowly with some panels reluctant to prosecute under 16's. There was a need for things to change nationally to really make an impact.  He further reported that The Italian Gardens had continued to be a focal point for youth gatherings along with the High street which often led to ASB and crime such as theft. Street Wardens had been working hard alongside CR to prevent and disburse these gatherings, some PSPO (Public Space Protection Orders) had been issued but this process was now under review by North Somerset Council and Avon & Somerset Police Force.  A member voiced the importance of only moving on youths that are causing problems not innocent youths causing no harm.  Wayne Hughes continued that they are aware of the groups that caused problems later in the day after initially meeting. If Street Wardens and CR were unsuccessful in moving these individuals on, then the Police needed to be called to assist. However, the Police were over stretched and did not always have the resources to attend.  CR had been working with youth offending services and the YMCA to engage with these

youths and encourage better use of their time which had proven successful.

A member highlighted that carparks had continued to be problematic for ASB.

Wayne Hughes reported that premises with stair wells were often used for youths to hang and use drugs but increased CR visibility was being used to control this.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported vandalism at The Waterpark, especially around the secluded fort. There were plans to update these areas, taking ASB into account.

On a positive note Wayne Hughes reported that ASB in the Waterloo Street & Boulevard areas had subsided and was working with local businesses on this and the entrance ways were looking much more inviting to visitors. There was an active volunteer at Prince Consort Gardens and no incidents had occurred apart from reports of benches smelling of urine.

Rough sleeping had continued at in Grove Park with four tents at the top end, all of which had been disposed of following the correct procedures. The persistent rough sleeper at Ellenborough Park had proven difficult to move on, despite being offered accommodation. Although they had not caused any ASB and were discouraging digging from metal detectors which was not allowed at this site and it was hoped with continued engagement, this could be resolved.

A new fixed CCTV camera was now in place which covered the majority of the Jill's Garden area in Grove Park.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**297 Service Area reports:**

**.1 Youth Services**

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

Alli reported that talking to young people had been a priority and feedback had proven that all service users felt safe and welcome at all service offerings. The youth Café had been renamed The Youth Hub and was due to relaunch on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and would open twice weekly initially, with the hope this could be increased if staffing levels allowed.

Satellite services had continued to do well, in particular the Southward 16-21year session with up to 15 attendees in each session, resulting in 4 individuals gaining employment.

Engagement with schools to get more uptake in the after-school club had continued and funding from Milton Baptist Church allowed a Christmas Dinner session to be held in December with older members cooking a full Christmas Dinner for younger members, which had been well received.

Work on community projects alongside Culture Weston was giving youths a sense of community and purpose which was hoped to avoid them getting into future trouble.

Community engagement with the CR had proven successful with the overall response being that youths felt they lacked anywhere to go.

The Youth Council was now in a stronger position with 8 active members and all roles such as Chair and Vice Chair now filled.

A member enquired into more detail on the after-school club offering to which Alli informed that this ran on the Bourneville 3.30-5.30pm where youths could come and have some food and assistance with Homework. It had proven very popular with new friendships being created and peers helping others with their school work. It was hoped these sessions could grow once more staffing had been secured as this could only run at a 1:10 staff: youth ratio. It was noted that with the current staff levels, more satellite facilities would not be possible and that service provision had been taken back to basics after the loss of some staff members who were worried about job security following the recent SLA changes.

The Chair informed that he felt the YMCA had been let down by the Town Council when the correct information the YMCA had provided regarding the SLA, was not presented to the Community Services Committee due to officer error. Which resulted in a deferral to Full Town Council who resolved that the SLA be renewed for 1 year rather than the usual 5-year agreement. He felt that the members with the objections were not members of Community Services Committee and therefore did not have all the information or knowledge to make the decision.

A discussion ensued regarding the need to support local youths especially in light of the Police & CR reports of youth ASB problems.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the working group could be restarted with a view to secure the YMCA 's more longer-term funding and enabling them to recruit and secure growth of the service.

All members expressed a desire to move forward in a positive way to support the YMCA and reform the working group with members from all parties involved. Councilors James Clayton, Caroline Reynolds, Owen James & John Stansfield requested to sit on the group.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and the YMCA working group be reformed with the above members, to bring a report to the March Committee meeting.

**.2 Grounds Management Report**

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated.

The Assistant Town Clerk highlighted on the toilet vandalism at Worle and fire damage which resulted in their closure and a meeting with North Somerset Council was to take place in the coming week, regarding the planned new facilities at Grove Park.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and that the Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services send a Grove Park facility update via email before the next meeting.

**.3 Community Events**

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational services reported that the Well-being Officer was working on a programme of Summer events at Ellenborough Park West which would be reported to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted.

**.4 Community Resilience Update**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that members welcome to the upcoming community meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**298 Street Art Trail 2021 'Weston Walls'**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the project was ongoing subject to budget and additional funding was being sought, however all was on track and any updates would be brought back to a future meeting.

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p><b>299</b></p>	<p><b>To Note Street Naming</b></p> <p><b>9.1 Allocation of Street Names of Addresses to Sixty New Dwellings at a Site in Uphill, Weston-super-Mare</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk gave a brief outline on the historical meanings of the street names.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the allocation of Street Names of Addresses to Sixty New Dwellings at a Site in Uphill, Weston-super-Mare SNN4939</p> <p><b>9.2 SNN4981 Allocation of Street Names to land at the Former Weston-super-Mare Airfield.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the allocation of Street Names to land at the Former Weston-super-Mare Airfield SNN4981</p>
<p><b>300</b></p>	<p><b>Grant applications</b></p> <p>The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for small and voluntary grants was £12,500 with £2,500 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£10,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Community Event Grants is £60,000 with £44,000 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£16,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Youth Grants is £3,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£3,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p><b>.1 Donate For Defib – working in partnership with Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC)</b>  <b>Grant Applied for £1000</b>  <b>Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</b></p> <p>Donate for Defib were a new project established in September 2023. The main purpose of Donate for Defib was to ensure that Public Access Defibrillators were available 24/7 and registered with the Circuit which was connected to both the local and national ambulances. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help towards the objectives of the project which was to provide defibrillators in every pub, club, school, college, public place and doctors surgeries. It was noted that Donate for Defib did not have a bank account due to it being a new project and all donations were looked after by Great Weston Air Ambulance (GWAAC). The cost of each Defibrillator was £1705.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that all requests from the previous meeting had now been fulfilled.</p> <p>A member enquired if members could have input as to where the funded Defibrillator could be located.</p> <p>Josh Bell informed the committee that input on Defibrillator location by Weston Town Council</p>

would be possible.

A member suggested a location in or close to The Weston Museum would be suitable.

A member enquired if the committee had the authority to award more than the requested £1000, to which the Deputy Town Clerk advised that a recommendation to the Policy & Finance Committee would be required.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Robert Skeen

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

**RESOLVED:** That a £1000 grant be awarded from the small and voluntary grants budget,

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Robert Skeen

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Joe Bambridge

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

**RESOLVED:** To make a request to the Policy & Finance Committee to award the outstanding money to fully fund one Defibrillator.

#### **.1 North Somerset LGBT+ Forum**

##### **Grant Applied for £1000**

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

North Somerset LGBT+ Forum was a voluntary organisation whose aims were to provide a voice for the LGBT+ community of North Somerset. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help with the costs of the increase to their rent costs from December 2023. The rent for their HQ was being increased by 40% which equated to a total increase of £4560. They had also applied for grants from Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead Town Councils.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the additional information requested from the previous committee meeting had now been received and other parishes were supportive.

The committee felt that the financial issues would be ongoing for the organisation and didn't feel it was appropriate for continued support via the Grant scheme.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Owen James

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Joe Bambridge

A vote was taken and was **carried: 8 for 1 against**

**RESOLVED:** That a £1000 grant be awarded from the small and voluntary grants budget,

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49 pm.

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

**Chair of the Community Services Committee**