



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON
MONDAY 11TH MAY 2026**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Armstrong , Annabelle Chard, Peter Crew, Simon Harrison-Morse, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (CEO/Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Director of Community Services/ Deputy Town Clerk) Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager) and Warren Parker-Mills (Communications & Visitor Experience Manager).

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair presided over the meeting.

416	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Crockford-Hawley, Caroline Reynolds and Owen James with no substitutions.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Roger Bailey was absent</p>
417	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
418	<p>To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 16th March 2026</p> <p>The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The following amendment was noted as follows: That Councillor Peter Crew was present at the meeting.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.</p>
419	<p><u>AMENITIES</u></p> <p>Weston Museum – Member Proposal The Committee considered a Member Proposal regarding future opportunities for Weston Museum and associated heritage assets, together with the accompanying report of the CEO/Town Clerk.</p> <p>The Committee noted the timely nature of the report in advance of the Museum’s forthcoming 10-year anniversary in 2027 and recognised that there were a number of potential “quick wins” alongside longer-term opportunities identified within the Council’s Strategy objectives linking to Phase 2 of the Museum project.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong SECONDED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the proposal and historical context provided. 2. To recognise that the matters raised fall within the remit of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee. 3. To request officers undertake an initial scoping exercise and report back to the next meeting of the Committee on feasibility, staffing, financial and partnership considerations, together with alignment to current service plans and strategic priorities. 4. To request that the report includes options and potential delivery approaches for Committee consideration. 5. To defer consideration and consider use of a start and finish group pending receipt of the officer report back to committee in the first instant.
420	<p>Capital Project Castle Batch Concession</p> <p>The Committee considered the report of the Senior Development Officer regarding proposals to install a hard standing area within the play area to facilitate a mobile café concession.</p> <p>The Committee noted the outcome of previous public engagement, including support for refreshments within the site in order to maintain a secure and self-contained play area with refreshment provision. The Committee also discussed potential income generation, future devolution arrangements, project costs and operational considerations.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>a) To approve progression of the project; b) To approve use of the allocated budget; c) To instruct officers to undertake procurement in accordance with the Council's regulations and the Procurement Act 2023; and d) To receive a further report prior to award, where required.</p>
421	<p><u>CULTURE</u></p> <p>Big Worle Conclusion of grant funded project</p> <p>The Committee received the final evaluation report submitted to Big Worle by Weston-super-Mare Town Council in its capacity as Lead Town Organisation (LTO) in respect of the final element of the grant funded project.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To formally note the Big Worle Conclusion of grant funded project.</p>
422	<p>Town Centre Events Programme 2026</p> <p>The Committee considered proposals submitted by the BID/Town Centre Manager for a programme of family-focused summer events during the 2026 school holidays, aimed at supporting the town centre and local businesses, at a total cost of £13,040. Members noted that Weston-super-Mare Town Council's contribution of £8,815 would be funded from unspent 2024/25 Community Events Grant monies held within the earmarked reserve, and that the matter had been brought directly to Committee due to timescales rather than through the Grants and Governance Sub-Committee.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Annabelle Chard SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the use of £8,815 from the 2024/25 Community Events Grant earmarked reserve towards delivery of the 2026 Town Centre Events Programme and to approve the events programme within this budget available as per the report.</p>
423	<p><u>LEISURE</u></p> <p>Tourism Updates</p> <p>The Committee received the report of the Communications & Visitor Experience Manager providing an update on Visitor Experience and Tourism activity, including Weston Welcomers, partnership development, noticeboards, Silica and the new Visit Weston website.</p> <p>The Committee noted the appointment of a new Weston Welcomers Team Leader, ongoing development of partnership opportunities, progress with the new website ahead of its proposed launch, and revenue generation through advertising and noticeboard initiatives. A live demonstration of the new Visit Weston website was also provided.</p>

	<p>During the subsequent question-and-answer session, the Committee discussed punctuation and presentation on the website homepage, opportunities to secure additional commercial partners following launch of the new platform, and how the improved digital systems and analytics would support engagement, partnership management and reduce officer administration time.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report and demo were welcomed and the works with regards to the Visit Weston Website (demo) were endorsed as being an excellent way forward.</p>
<p>424</p>	<p>Commissioning of formal Play & Sports Strategy</p> <p>The Committee considered the report of the CEO/Town Clerk seeking approval to commission Sports and Play Consulting Ltd to develop a combined Play and Recreational Sports Strategy for Weston-super-Mare.</p> <p>The Committee noted the initial engagement and site visits undertaken with councillors on 25 March 2026, together with the identified need for improved recreational provision for older children and teenagers across the town. It was further noted that the strategy would consider provision across the whole of Weston-super-Mare, including both existing Town Council assets and potential future assets through devolution. Concerns regarding timescales, community engagement, communications and the impact of the Pride and Place programme were discussed.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison -Morse SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the outcome of the initial engagement and site meeting with the consultant, committee members and officers; 2. To acknowledge the need to expand the scope to include a combined Play and Recreational Sports Strategy; 3. To approve the commissioning of Sports and Play Consulting Ltd to deliver the strategy at a cost of £19,500 (excluding VAT and travel expenses); 4. To agree that the cost be funded from the Council’s EMRRP budget; and 5. To request that the completed strategy be brought back to Committee and Full Council for approval.
	<p>There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.28 pm</p> <p>Signed.....Dated</p> <p>Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee</p>