



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON
MONDAY 13th JULY 2026**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.35 pm

PRESENT: Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (C), Ray Armstrong, Annabelle Chard, Peter Crew, Robert Skeen, John Standfield, Tim Taylor, Helen Thornton and.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (CEO/Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Director of Community Services/ Deputy Town Clerk) Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager) and Molly Matthews (Senior Development Officer).

54	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Reynolds who was substituted by Jemma Coles, Martin Williams substituted by Roger Bailey and Helen Thornton with no substitution.
55	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.
56	To note the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair by Full Council at its Annual Meeting held on 28th May 2026 RESOLVED: That the appointment of the Chair (Councillor John Crockford-Hawley) and Vice Chair (Peter Crew) by Full Council at its Annual Meeting held on 28 th May 2026 be noted.
57	Confirmation of Committee Terms of Reference by Council at its Annual Meeting held on 28th May 2026 RESOLVED: That the Committee Terms of Reference by Council at its Annual Meeting held on 28 th May 2026 be confirmed.
58	To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 16th March 2026

	The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee had been previously circulated. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.
59	To receive the DRAFT Notes of the Allotments Community Consultative Group Meeting held on the 11th June 2026 The Notes had been previously circulated. RESOLVED: That the Notes of the (DRAFT) Allotments Community Consultative Group held on 11TH June 2026 be received.
60	To approve the DRAFT Notes of the Heritage Arts and Culture Community Consultative Group Meeting held on the 4th June 2026 The Notes had been previously circulated. RESOLVED: That the Notes of the (DRAFT) Heritage Arts and Culture Community Consultative Group Meeting held on 4th June 2026 be received.
61	To approve the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee Annual Work Programme 2026/27 The covering report of the Democratic Services Manager and CEO/Town Clerk accompanied by the proposed Annual Work Programme (Appendix A) had been previously circulated The Committee were advised that the programme had been developed to provide a structured framework for the Committee's business throughout the year, ensuring that matters within its delegated remit were considered in a timely and strategic manner. It was noted that the Work Programme was intended to be a live document, enabling the Committee to respond to emerging priorities, legislative changes and matters referred by Full Council as necessary. The Committee welcomed the proposed programme and noted that it would support effective forward planning, governance and budget development throughout the municipal year. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly. RESOLVED: 1. To approve the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Annual Work Programme for the 2026/27 municipal year, attached at Appendix A.

	2. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, to make minor administrative amendments to the Annual Work Programme during the municipal year, provided such amendments do not alter the Committee's delegated responsibilities or decision-making powers.
62	<u>AMENITIES</u> Weston Museum – Development Scoping Exercise The Committee received the Development Scoping Exercise Report presented by the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk. During discussion, Members: • welcomed the comprehensive report and accompanying photographs illustrating opportunities for future development within the Museum; • sought clarification on the financial information presented, including forecast income, stock valuation and the distinction between turnover and profit. It was confirmed that the figures were budget forecasts and that financial performance would be reviewed following the summer season; • recognised the importance of obtaining further qualitative evidence to support any future proposals; • acknowledged the valuable contribution made by volunteers, noting that whilst they enhanced the visitor experience, the Museum remained capable of operating independently of volunteer support. The Chair proposed the establishment of a cross-party Project Group to consider the report in greater detail. The Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk advised that, under Standing Orders, the Committee could not establish a formal Working Group and recommended that an informal Project Group be appointed through Group Leaders, with findings reported back to the Committee in September. PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew A vote was taken and the motion was carried. RESOLVED: 1. That an informal cross-party Project Group be established to consider the findings of the Development Scoping Exercise and determine whether further feasibility work, engagement with professional advisers, grant funding opportunities and community engagement should be pursued, with recommendations to be reported back to the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee in September. PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew A vote was taken and the motion was carried.

	RESOLVED: 1. That an informal cross-party Project Group be established to consider the findings of the Development Scoping Exercise and determine whether further feasibility work, engagement with professional advisers, grant funding opportunities and community engagement should be pursued, with recommendations to be reported back to the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee in September.
63	<u>CULTURE</u> Weston Artspace CIC – Statement of Strategic Support and Current Intent Culture – Weston Artspace CIC: Statement of Strategic Support and Current Intent The Committee received the report presented by the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk. During discussion, Members: • noted the positive meeting held with Weston Artspace CIC regarding the proposed sublease at Old Town Quarry; • noted that Weston Artspace now understood the legal framework for the tenancy, including the requirement for it to be contracted out of the security of tenure provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954; • recognised that the proposed Statement of Strategic Support and Current Intent was non-legally binding, created no contractual rights and did not amend the lease, whilst demonstrating the Council's commitment to the long-term vision for Old Town Quarry; • acknowledged Weston Artspace's significant contribution to the successful development of Old Town Quarry as a community arts and cultural facility. PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: 1. That the update following the meeting with Weston Artspace CIC held on 3 July 2026 be noted. 2. That it be noted Weston Artspace now understood the legal framework governing the proposed sublease, including the requirement for the tenancy to be contracted out of the security of tenure provisions contained within the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. 3. That the significant contribution made by Weston Artspace to the development of Old Town Quarry as a community arts and cultural facility be recognised. 4. That the Statement of Strategic Support and Current Intent, attached at Appendix 1, be approved. 5. That the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk be authorised to issue the Statement on behalf of Weston-super-Mare Town Council.

	6. That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee, to make any minor typographical, administrative or legal amendments to the Statement prior to its issue, provided these did not alter its substantive meaning.
64	<u>LEISURE</u> To receive the outline Programme for the Play & Sports Strategy (to follow) The Committee received a verbal update from the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk and Director of Community Services on the development of the Play & Sport Strategy. During discussion, Members: - noted that the written report would be circulated following the meeting due to timing issues between officers and the appointed contractor; - were advised that the Strategy would consider play and sports provision across Weston-super-Mare, including assets owned by a range of organisations, and was being developed in partnership with North Somerset Council, Voluntary Action North Somerset, Pride of Place and other stakeholders; - noted that the project timetable had been aligned with the Committee cycle, with completion anticipated by 30 September 2026, and that the appointed consultants had offered to present the completed Strategy to a future Committee meeting; - noted potential future funding opportunities through the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime Prevention Fund, which would be considered during the Strategy's development. A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: 1. That the verbal update on the development of the Play & Sport Strategy be noted.
	There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.35 pm Signed.....Dated Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee