



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON
MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2026**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.01 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Councilors Owen James (C), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, John Crockford-Hawley, Simon Harrison-Morse, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (CEO/Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager) and Lisa Clemmons (Grounds Manager).

343	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Annabelle Chard with no substitution.
344	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received. Councillor Roger Bailey declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment plot holder.
345	To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 26TH January 2026 The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee had been previously circulated. PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey A vote was taken and carried . Accordingly. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.

346	To receive the DRAFT Notes of the Allotments Community Consultative Group Meeting held on the 5th February 2026 The CEO/Town Clerk confirmed when asked that the meeting mentioned on the 23 February was held. RESOLVED: That the DRAFT Notes of the Allotments Community Consultative Group be received.
347	To receive the DRAFT Notes of the Heritage Arts and Culture Community Consultative Group Meeting held on the 29th January 2026 <i>Councillor Ray Armstrong joined the meeting at 7.03 pm</i> RESOLVED: That the DRAFT Notes of the Heritage Arts and Culture Community Consultative Group be received. <i>19.03pm Councillor Ray Armstrong joined the meeting.</i>
348	<u>AMENITIES</u> Grove Park Toilets The previously circulated report of the CEO/Town Clerk was noted. It provided an update on engagement with North Somerset Council, findings from the February 2026 site visit, and proposed Heads of Terms and lease arrangements. Members raised concerns regarding the standard of works (section 2.1) and disagreed with proposals relating to visibility and landscaping provided by North Somerset Council (NSC) (section 3.2). It was considered that significant remedial works were required prior to entering into any lease agreement. It was noted that the café concession could assist with monitoring; however, it was not near completion and may delay opening. PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: 1. To note the report and concerns arising from the site visit (9 February 2026). 2. To seek further engagement with NSC and request a further report to committee prior to any lease recommendation being submitted to Full Council. The CEO/Town Clerk to continue dialogue with NSC requiring them to address areas of concern paying particular attention to: • Natural surveillance and visibility around the building and café area • Landscaping or structures that may create concealed areas.
349	Motifs (High Street and Grove Village) The previously circulated report of the CEO/Town Clerk was noted. It sought approval to replace existing town motif signs and approve expenditure from the signage budget.

	Members noted the deterioration of the “Welcome to Weston” and “Grove Village” signs and that the former reflected outdated branding. Weston BID may fund replacement of the “Welcome to Weston” sign, reducing Council cost. It was noted that the signage does not align with the Town Vitality initiative or strategic objectives. Members supported replacement and continued engagement with Weston BID. It was requested that designs be brought back to Committee. Replacement of the Grove Village sign was deferred pending redevelopment of the building to which it is attached. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: 1. To approve replacement of the High Street town motif signs subject to Weston BIF Funding. 2. To approve expenditure for the Grove Village sign for implementation following the redevelopment of the London Pub. (Noting the existing sign will need to be removed in the interim period). 3. To authorise a review of final design (as current signs are very dated) to allow final quotation, and installation, subject to Committee approval.
350	Milton Road Cemetery 350.1 Dogs in Milton Road Cemetery The previously circulated report was noted, outlining increasing issues relating to dogs within the cemetery. Members noted that regulations require dogs to be on leads and fouling removed, but complaints and operational issues have increased. The CEO/Town Clerk highlighted on some particular incidents which were very upsetting for people concerned and health and safety concerns. Additional signage will be installed, and enforcement options explored, including potential PSPO inclusion. Members emphasised clear signage, appropriate management during funerals, and active challenge of non-compliance. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: 1. To note the increase in dog-related incidents. 2. To approve additional signage and communication measures. 3. To monitor the situation until June 2026.

	4. To delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, to implement a ban if no significant improvement is seen. 350.2 Photographic Project – Milton Road Cemetery The previously circulated report was noted, presenting a proposal for a photographic book project. PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: To approve the project in principle, subject to appropriate liaison with the Town Council.
351	Old Town Quarry 351.1 Shop Review – Progress to Date The previously circulated report was noted. Members noted the café had been open for four months, was volunteer-led, and remained in development. A stock review would take place at six months, followed by a full review ahead of budget setting. Discussion highlighted the need to define the shop’s purpose, focusing on locally relevant stock. The Museum shop was cited as model practice. RESOLVED: That the report be noted and comments fed back to the Operational Services team. 351.2 Barn Development A report was received from the CEO/Town Clerk regarding the continuation of the barn redevelopment works at the Old Town Quarry. The Committee noted that: • the barn works formed part of the original competitively tendered contract awarded to John West Contractors Ltd; • the works were temporarily removed from the contract scope following a value engineering exercise to reduce overall project costs; • a further value engineering exercise has now been undertaken, resulting in a reduced scope and cost of approximately £31,800, representing a saving against the original tender allowance; • the market has already been tested through the original procurement exercise undertaken in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations; and • the proposed continuation of the works constitutes a non-substantial modification to the existing contract in accordance with Regulation 72(1)(e) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, as it does not alter the nature, scope or economic balance of the contract.

	The Committee further noted that: - the works are being delivered under a JCT Intermediate Building Contract, and re-procuring the works could introduce risks relating to programme delay, coordination and potential contractual claims; and - the revised cost remains within the approved budget provision. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: - That the Committee approves the continuation of the barn redevelopment works at the Old Town Quarry through the existing contractor, John West Contractors Ltd. - That the Committee confirms that no further procurement exercise is required, on the basis that: - the works were included within the original tendered scope; - the proposed works represent a reduced and value-engineered scope; and - the continuation constitutes a non-substantial modification in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. - That the Committee notes that this approach is consistent with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and represents value for money. - That authority is given to proceed with works at the new estimated value of £31800, to finalise the Old Town Quarry Refurbishment Project.
352	Sea Monster Scales The previously circulated report was noted regarding potential rehoming of Sea Monster scales. A potential installation at Old Town Quarry was identified, alongside opportunities for community reuse. Members questioned suitability of the quarry location but supported reuse where possible. Costs to the Council would be limited to transportation. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: - To approve installation of a small number of scales at Old Town Quarry. - To support a community engagement project with North Somerset Council to redistribute remaining scales, where appropriate.
353	LEISURE Tourism Review The previously circulated report was noted.

	Members raised concerns regarding the lack of tourism reporting since the committee restructure. It was reiterated that only decision reports were routinely brought to Committee, with updates provided via the monthly newsletter. Members requested future reporting on partner lists, the new website, the waterpark cabin, noticeboards, and touchscreen data at Silica. RESOLVED: That the report be noted. That the next report include: 1. Updates on Website completion 2. Updates on VW partner numbers 3. Noticeboard space sales performance since launch
354	Development of Formal Play Strategy The previously circulated report was noted. Members supported earlier involvement in the process. It was confirmed that work to date was a condition assessment and evaluation rather than a full play strategy. A meeting with consultants was scheduled for 25 March 2026. Members of the committee confirmed they would like to attend this briefing and start of process meeting, noting findings would be brought back to committee for formal approval, with any final decisions taken on strategy adoption needing to be taken by Council. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: 1. To note work undertaken to date. 2. To approve engagement of Sports and Play Consulting Ltd (£700 initial meeting; £500 per day thereafter), to develop an appropriate Play Strategy funded from EMRRP noting members of the committee would like to attend the briefing meeting 25.03.26. 4. To request a further report once a development of the strategy proposal is underway.
355	Christmas Lights Switch-On Dates The previously circulated report was noted. Members preferred earlier dates and supported coordination with the Pier fireworks. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: That 14 November 2026 and 20 November 2027 be approved.

	8.50 pm <i>To resolve under the Public Bodies (Admissions of Meeting) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for the following item by reasons of the confidential nature of the business.</i>
356	Play Area Procurement 356.1 Coniston Green Tender The previously circulated report was noted. Five tenders were received; four compliant and one non-compliant. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: To award the contract to Proludic, with the CEO/Town Clerk to discuss replacement of the trampoline with suitable alternative equipment. 356.2 Maltlands Tender The previously circulated report was noted. Three tenders were received; two compliant and one non-compliant. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: To award the contract to Proludic.
357	Toilet Cleaning and Maintenance Procurement 357.1 Water Park Toilets The previously circulated report was noted. Four tenders were received; three compliant and one non-compliant. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen A vote was taken and carried. RESOLVED: To award the contract to The Sleek Easy Clean Ltd. 357.2 Public Toilets (5 sites) The previously circulated report was noted. Three tenders were received; two compliant and one non-compliant. Members considered appointing a single contractor across both contracts. Healthmatic's current service was noted as strong.

	PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield A vote was taken and carried (6 for, 2 abstentions). RESOLVED: To recommend appointment of Healthmatic to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval.
	There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21.01pm Signed.....Dated Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee