



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON
MONDAY 7th JULY 2025**

Meeting Commenced: 7. 00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.16 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Owen James (C) ,Peter Crew (VC), Roger Bailey, Jemma Coles (S) Annabelle Chard, John Crockford-Hawley, Owen James, Simon Harrison-Morse, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (CEO/Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Director of Community Services/Deputy Town Clerk), Rebecca Saunders (Civic Officer & PA to the CEO/Town Clerk), Luke Rovira, Natalie Donabound and Karen Barry (members of the public).

	<p><i>A member of the public advised that they would like to take photos of the meeting which the CEO/Town Clerk advised members of.</i></p> <p>The CEO/Town Clerk invited Natalie Donabound and Karen Barry from Growing at Grove Park, to address the Committee</p> <p>Growing in Grove Park</p> <p>Natalie and Karen thanked the Committee for the opportunity to share the work the group had been undertaking in the park via a PowerPoint presentation. Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The background and growth of the group from Friends of Grove Park to Growing in Grove Park.➤ Positive impact green spaces had on wellbeing➤ Managing antisocial behaviour in the park➤ Aims & Objectives➤ Funding➤ Volunteer opportunities and sessions➤ How WTC might work with the group in the future. <p>The CEO/Town Clerk thanked Karen and Natalie for a very informative presentation.</p> <p><i>7.12 pm Natalie Donabound and Karen Barry left the meeting.</i></p>
68	<p>Election of Chair</p> <p>The CEO/ Town Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chair.</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Owen James be elected Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee for the year 2025-26.</p>
69	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ray Armstrong substituted by Jemma Coles.</p>
70	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Councillor Bailey declared a personal interest in Item 7 as an Allotment holder.</p>
71	<p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>The Chair invited nominations for the position of Vice Chair.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Peter Crew be elected Vice Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee for the year 2025-26.</p>
72	<p>To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 12th May 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.</p>
73	<p>Committee Forward Plan for the year 2025/26</p> <p>The CEO/Town Clerk advised that all committees had been supplied with a Plan disk to help focus and encourage forward thinking.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to suggest ideas they would like to see on future agendas.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding future agenda ideas and subjects raised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tourism and data from the Visit Weston site at timely intervals

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual events such as Christmas Lights ➤ Recent and new events such as the Weston BID summer schedule <p>RESOLVED: To include Tourism and Events updates on an appropriate future agenda.</p>
74	<p><u>AMENITIES</u></p> <p>.1 To receive the Notes of the (DRAFT) Allotments Community Consultative Group held on 5th June 2025</p> <p>The notes of the meeting had been previously circulated.</p> <p>A typo on the date of Chair being elected was noted.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the Notes of the Allotments Community Consultative Group held on 5th June 2025 be received.</p> <p>.2 To note the recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee (which had been previously circulated)</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bailey raised concerns around the eviction of non-residents from their allotments plots. Making points in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He felt the decision was harsh and did not allow for an appeal process. • He reported that a lot of these tenants had acquired their plots many years ago and had concerns that the eviction process would negatively affect their mental health. • Another concern was that the decision would cause a lot of bad feeling. <p>A member noted their disappointment that the matter had not been brought to this committee ahead of it being decided by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which they understood had the delegated authority to action matters as per Terms of Reference (F & GP no: 35).</p> <p>RESOLVED: - That the recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee be noted.</p> <p>7.3 To note the verbal report of the CEO /Town Clerk</p> <p>The CEO/Town Clerk advised that a recent meeting held 23.06.25 with the Allotment Club had been amicable and positive. There was understanding from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Allotment Club about the difficult decision that the council were having to make. It was further confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSMTC had undertaken a lot of research, but no minute could be found that resolved that non-residents could be allotment holders.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was confirmed that the Allotment Club agreement issued by WSMTC had always stated that plots were for residents of Weston -super-Mare only, but this had not appeared to have been enforced by the Allotment Club. The Allotment Club advised they would consider writing back to the council for an extension of time which had not yet been received. WSMTC had already started working with the council on Website and booking systems alongside electronic waiting lists to support them further. They would also work to support the allotment Club to action the notice to non-resident plot holders. <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report of the CEO/Town Clerk be noted.</p>
75	<p>Grove Park Toilets To receive the verbal report from the CEO/Town Clerk and Director of Community Services/ Deputy Town Clerk</p> <p>The CEO/Town Clerk advised that a request for an update of the works programme on 17th June to North Somerset Council. No response had been provided to date. However, it had been verbally reported that the works would start very soon. No leases would be signed until more information had been received.</p> <p>The knock on effect of members of the public using local business facilities and defecating in the park itself in the absence of toilets in the park was noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report from the CEO/Town Clerk and Director of Community Services/ Deputy Town Clerk be noted.</p>
76	<p><u>CULTURE</u></p> <p>To approve the Notes of the Old Town Quarry, Start and Finish Group meetings held on the 15th April and (DRAFT) 27th May 2025</p> <p>The notes of the meetings had been previously circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reported that the completion date for grant funds to be spent was 10th July, but works would continue beyond this date. Following the total project overspend, there would be a very robust valuation process with the professional team. <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Annabel Chard</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: - That the Notes of the Old Town Quarry, Start and Finish Group meetings held on the 15th April (DRAFT) and 27th May 2025 be approved.</p>
77	<p>To approve the Notes of the Heritage, Arts & Culture Community Consultative Group held on the 27th February 2025</p> <p>The notes of the meeting had been previously circulated.</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: - That the Notes of the Heritage, Arts & Culture Community Consultative Group held on the 27th February 2025.</p>
78	<p><u>LEISURE</u></p> <p>Play Strategy</p> <p>78.1 To receive the results of the Play Strategy</p> <p>The results of the play strategy had been previously circulated.</p> <p>78.2 To note the recommendations of the Devolution Start and Finish Group Meeting held on the 18th June 2025 DRAFT Min extract</p> <p>Which had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Director of Community Services/Deputy Town Clerk reported on findings that had been discussed at the Devolution Start and Finish Group. The consultant had carried out a very forward thinking, holistic assessment of each site considering location, park value and park use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 sites had now been shortlisted to 8, with a view to reconsider the remaining sites at a later date. • A list of priority works had been produced to start consultation with schools and the local community at these sites to give a focus. <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse SECONDED BY: Councillor Jemma Coles</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To acknowledge the results and approve the implementation of the Play Strategy recommendations . 2. To note the recommendations of the Devolution Start and Finish Group Meeting held on the 18th June 2025 DRAFT Min extract 3. To approve the capital investment for the year 2025/2026 to the value of £200,000 (approved in revenue budget), allowing the necessary consultation and procurement (Design & Build) process to commence over the course of the Financial year. As recommended and detailed in the Play Strategy the following Play areas should receive this investment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maltlands 2. Coniston Green

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.16 pm

Signed.....Dated

Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee