



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON  
MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.45 pm

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

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Pearse (CEO/Town Clerk), Helen Morton (Director of Finance and Resources/RFO), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager, Warren Parker-Mills (Communications and Marketing Manager), Sally Kingston (member of the public) and 5 (other members of the public).

Sally Kingston was invited to address the meeting in relation Padel Tennis Provision in Weston super Mare. It was noted that a briefing note had been circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

Weston needed an indoor padel tennis facility (minimum 6 courts) serving the local area from Portishead to Taunton. Padel was a rapidly expanding, social, and inclusive racket sport that promotes physical activity and mental wellbeing for all ages and abilities. There was currently no indoor provision in the town or county; residents travelled and spend outside the area to play. An indoor, year-round venue with club facilities would retain local spending, increase community participation in sport, and deliver social, health and economic benefits. It was therefore requested that Weston Town Council and North Somerset Council collaborate on moving the project forward.

The Chair thanked Sally for her address and advised that that only the items on the agenda, could be discussed, unless the Chair of the meeting allowed this in accordance with Standing Orders.

It was therefore

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peter Crew

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Caroline Reynolds

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly.

**RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Orders at 19.06 pm in order to discuss and item that was not on the agenda.

A question and answer session then ensued.

The committee advised that whilst the town council did not have the facilities or remit to help with the request, it would be more than happy to lobby North Somerset Council and support with a feasibility study

The Chair thanked Sally and supporting members of the public for their address, who left the meeting at 19.14 pm.

*Standing Orders were then resumed at 19.15 pm*

<b>213</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</b>  There were no apologies for absence received.
<b>214</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Councillor Roger Bailey declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment plot holder.
<b>215</b>	<b>To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>  The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee had been previously circulated.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse  A vote was taken and <b>carried</b> . Accordingly.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.
<b>216</b>	<b>Budget Considerations 2026/2027</b>  The report of the Director of Finance and Resources had been previously circulated which outlined budget areas reviewed as part of the first draft review for the 2026/2027 budget and identified income and expenditure that needed consideration against the budgets that were set in 2025/2026.  Proposals had been tailored to achieved the council's requirements (F & GP) to have a standstill budget plus CPI for the year 2026/2027.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Caroline Reynolds  A vote was taken and <b>carried</b> . Accordingly.  <b>RECOMMENDED:</b> That all of the costs and income identified within the budget holders' reports be included in the draft budget for 2026/2027.

217	<p><b>Committee Forward Plan for the year 2025/26</b></p> <p>Due to technical difficulties, the Forward Plan could not be viewed at the meeting.</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer apologised for the inconvenience and would circulate this to members the following day. It was noted that the Forward Plan had been viewed at both the July and September meetings and was inclusive of all suggestions made at the previous meeting, as approved in the minutes.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Noted.</p>
218	<p><b><u>AMENITIES</u></b></p> <p><b>To receive the Notes of the (DRAFT) Allotments Community Consultative Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025</b></p> <p>The Notes had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Notes of the (DRAFT) Allotments Community Consultative Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 be received.</p>
219	<p><b><u>CULTURE</u></b></p> <p><b>To receive the (DRAFT) Notes of the FINAL Old Town Quarry, Start and Finish Group meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> (attached) ()</p> <p>The Notes had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Annabelle Chard</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Notes of the Old Town Quarry, Start and Finish Group meetings held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be received.</p> <p>It was noted that as the Quarry project was now complete and therefore, operational. It would now fall under the remit of and report to this committee.</p>
220	<p><b>To receive the (DRAFT) Notes of the Heritage Arts and Culture Community Consultative Group held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b></p> <p>The Notes had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Notes of the Heritage Arts and Culture Community Consultative Group held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 be received.</p>

221	<p><b>Old Town Quarry</b></p> <p>The Community Ownership Fund and Project evaluation summary report of the Senior Development Officer for noting, had been previously circulated. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overall project figures of £1,067,349, consisted of only £142,358 investment by WSMTC.</li> <li>• That there were delays in receiving the grant funding, National grid connection, covid ramifications, increasing costs of materials and structural reports which had delayed the project. It was initially hoping to open in the summer, which moved to September and the actual opening in October. Also there were delays.</li> <li>• It would be useful to evaluate how WSMTC could learn from the process, identifying where there were overspends.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be received and noted.</p>
222	<p><b>Blue Plaque</b></p> <p>The report of the Civic Officer and PA to the Town Clerk/CEO had been previously circulated, recommending to consider the purchase and fitting of a blue plaque as requested for Major P.D. O'Connell by a member of the public.</p> <p>Discussion ensued and councillors were not enthused about the concept of singling individuals out from many serving in the war for commemoration. It was noted that the costs associated with erecting a blue plaque were £800-1k.</p> <p>It was suggested that a smaller working group be formed to look at the concept of Blue Plaques in the future to include the exploration of blue plaques on buildings.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly. (noting 1x abstention).</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To decline the request for a Blue Plaque.</li> <li>2. To reestablish a working group to consider the concept of blue plaques for 2026/27.</li> </ol>
223	<p><b>Weston Wallz – proposal for 2026/2027</b></p> <p>The proposal from Weston Wallz for members to consider and approve for inclusion with the existing Grants Event Budget level proposals as per previous years, had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Town Clerk clarified the proposal included two options as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier One: (£32,000 total Funding of which £25,000 from WSMTC)</li> <li>• Tier Two: (£68,000 total Funding of which £25,000 from WSMTC)</li> </ul> <p><i>A member of the public left the meeting at 19.57 pm</i></p>

	<p>Discussion ensued regarding the lack of local artist involvement in the project, regardless of the Town Councils previous expectations made.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding some of the artwork and the need to balance quality over quantity.</p> <p>It was agreed that where possible local artists should be used, however standards did need to be maintained. Local artists could get involved in other ways rather than just the artwork.</p> <p>The white wall in spider lane had been highlighted to a Councillor for use in the project.</p> <p>The Town Clerk confirmed that the council suggest walls for use, however explained that all walls were subject to owners and planning (conservation) permissions.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that Upfest upscaled and upskilled where possible and that wall owners did like to be involved in the artwork design.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regrading sector jargon and in particular, social media, artists reach and coverage.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly. (noting 5for; 2against; 1abstention)</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the Weston Wallz proposal (Tier Two: (£68,000 total Funding of which £25,000 from WSMTC) for 2026/2027 for inclusion with the existing Grants Event Budget level proposals as per previous years.</p>
224	<p><b><u>LEISURE</u></b></p> <p><b>Play Area Capital Works Programme 2025-2026</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk/CEO and Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To receive the Play Area Capital Works Programme 2025-2026.</p>
225	<p>20.17 pm</p> <p><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></p>

226	<p>A member raised his disappointment that his previous request to receive a future report regarding Visit Weston partners packages, had not yet been received by the committee and requested that it be submitted at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>To appoint the Visit Weston website contactor</b></p> <p>The tender analysis report of the Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated, which provided an analysis of the tenders submitted in response to a concession advert which went live October 2025 for the procurement of a Design &amp; Build Contractor to support the creation of the Visit Weston Website, with ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>In summary, 14 submissions were received across the two tender options. The tenders had been assessed using a weighting of 60% to the technical evaluation (including social value for Option A only), and 40% to the interview. The final scores were outlined within the report which recommended the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To consider the outcomes of the scoring and procurement process and appoint a contractor to undertake the Visit Weston Website requirements, (noting the highest scoring overall was for Plaster with a overall score of 95. The next highest score went to Squarebird (93)). The Council did not have to appoint the highest scoring but should have regard for the process that had been undertaken and was advertised within this procurement exercise.</li> <li>2. If 1 was agreed, recommend to full Town Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025, that the order for the works could be raised, whilst recognising that the budget provision for the works had been included within the 2026/2027 budget setting process to allow the build to commence and be completed prior to the current website contract ceasing 31/03/26</li> </ol> <p>Discussion ensued and it was noted that all suppliers could build a good product, however the two recommended within the report had the edge from a profile perspective.</p> <p>One of the two's professionalism really came through in the interviews, whereas the other's enthusiasm really came through and it was noted that their employees were local.</p> <p>It was clarified that the reason for options A&amp;B was to try and recover some costs and that as the process had transpired, Shopify was not required.</p> <p>It was agreed that the committee should trust and endorse the recommendations generated from the council's agreed tender process as outlined within the report.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly. (6for 1x abstention)</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To <b>appoint</b> Plaster as the contractor to undertake the Visit Weston Website requirements (noting they were the highest scoring overall).</li> </ol>

	<p>2. To <b>recommend</b> to full Town Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025, that the order for the works can be raised, whilst recognising that the budget provision for the works has been included within the 2026/2027 budget setting process to allow the build to commence and be completed prior to the current website contract ceasing 31/03/26</p>
227	<p><b>Motion under Standing Order 11 - PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>Proposed under Standing Orders 8.1–8.9 (Ordinary Motions)</p> <p>The Chair invited Councillor Roger Bailey to present his motion.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>The Town Clerk provided assurances that the council had met with the Allotment Club to cooperate and support them with administering processes and advised the committee that the matter could not be discussed further without undermining another committee's resolution.</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>“That the Committee recognises and expresses its appreciation for the many years of service and commitment shown by the volunteers of the Weston-super-Mare Allotment Club in supporting the local management and maintenance of the town's allotment sites. The Council acknowledges the vital contribution that the Club's committee members and volunteers make in helping deliver an important community service which promotes social connection, food growing, and wellbeing among residents.</p> <p>The Committee further requests that officers continue to work collaboratively with the Allotment Club to strengthen communication, governance, and volunteer engagement, ensuring future management arrangements remain transparent, compliant with the Allotments Acts 1908–1950, and reflective of good practice in partnership working.”</p>
	<p>There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45 pm</p> <p>Signed.....Dated .....</p> <p>Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee</p>