



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON  
MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.25 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Owen James (C), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Annabelle Chard, John Crockford-Hawley, Catherine Gibbons (S), Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

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

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| <b>292</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</b><br><br>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon-Harrison-Morse who was substituted by Catherine Gibbons and Peter Crew with no substitution.  |
| <b>293</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest</b><br><br>There were no declarations of interest received.  |
| <b>294</b> | <b>To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b><br><br>The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee had been previously circulated.<br><br>Amendments were noted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pg5 – quality over quantity</li><li>• ‘Sector speak’ amend to sector jargon.</li></ul><br>An update on the provision of Paddle tennis was requested, and the CEO/Town Clerk advised there was no update. She noted that a devolution meeting with John Flanigan would take place later in the week, where the matter would be raised, though it was considered unlikely that either council would be able to pursue it due to the lack of suitable locations. |

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|                   | <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey<br/> <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Annabelle Chard</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That with the above amendments, the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.</p>  |
| <p><b>295</b></p> | <p><b><u>AMENITIES</u></b></p> <p><b>Cemetery Walls Procurement</b></p> <p>The report of the Director of Finance and Resources had been previously circulated which provided an update with regards to areas of wall which had collapsed in Milton Road Cemetery.</p> <p>Wall 1 – Adjacent to the Memorial Garden – noting that the responsibility of the wall was a problem and that WSMTC were taking legal advice and working with the property owner on this.</p> <p>Wall 2 – K Section – noting that this had moved significantly in 2years and was a very complex repair due consideration of trees and historic graves.</p> <p>Committee approval for emergency expenditure was sought should it be required in the interim period, whilst a full analysis and procurement exercise (including structural and build specifications) for the repairs were underway.</p> <p>The Arboricultural report had been completed and appended to the report, with any decisions returning for final approval if within budget; otherwise, the matter would be considered by F&amp;GP. It was noted that approximate costs for one of the walls exceeded £50k. The Cemetery was in a conservation area but not listed, and the Structural Engineers report would be reviewed and challenged if necessary.</p> <p>The CEO/Town Clerk advised that the owners of any effected graves would be contacted.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley<br/> <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the update report with regard to the two cemetery walls be noted.</p> |
| <p><b>296</b></p> | <p><b><u>CULTURE</u></b></p> <p><b>Old Town Quarry Update (Events &amp; Community Charter)</b></p> <p>The report of the Community Operations and Resource Manager updating the committee on the Old Town Quarry and highlighted what had been planned for the coming year had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The CEO/Town Clerk reported continued success since the opening, noting that the café and events programme were performing well and that the Community Charter had been adopted to guide the quarry's operation. The committee discussed the</p>   |

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|                   | <p>shop's operation, acknowledging positive feedback but agreeing to monitor the income stream, with figures requested for the next meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Old Town Quarry Update (Events &amp; Community Charter) be noted.</li> <li>2. That E&amp;I figures for the shop be reported at the next meeting.</li> </ol>  |
| <p><b>297</b></p> | <p><b>Old Town Quarry – Wood Kiln</b></p> <p>The report of the CEO/Town Clerk had been previously circulated, which presented an application received to rent a small plot of land at Old Town Quarry for the purpose of constructing and operating a wood-fired Anagama kiln, seeking the committee's approval.</p> <p>The committee noted that the location was suitable as outlined in the report, and that the kiln would be lit twice per year and manned for 48 hours, as recommended by the applicant. In response to comments on the use and frequency of kiln lighting, the CEO/Town Clerk advised that expenditure and maintenance were the applicant's responsibility, and that use of the kiln would be bespoke and rare, with further requests unlikely. It was confirmed that insurance implications complied with the council's policies, and the committee agreed that introducing the wood kiln would enhance the Old Town Quarry's offer and attract positive media coverage for the WSMTC.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley<br/> <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Annabelle Chard</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve the application to operate a wood-fired Anagama kiln at the Old Town Quarry.</li> <li>2. Authorise the CEO/Town Clerk to work with applicant, any professional services (Building Surveyor) to enable works to commence meeting all health &amp; safety, environmental, legal and site considerations to do so, within agreed timescales (tbc).</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>298</b></p> | <p><b>Weston Wallz</b></p> <p>The report of the CEO/Town Clerk, summarising recent vandalism to the Weston Wallz street art in Post Office Lane, outlining correspondence with project partners, and setting out the costs and options available for repair or interim management of the affected artworks had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Options for Council were as follows:<br/> Option 1 – Attempt Repair (at a cost of approx. £700)<br/> Option 2 – Blank affected areas<br/> Option 3 – No immediate action</p> <p>The committee were requested to provide direction and consider Options 1-3 and approve use of budget if required.</p>  |

In addition recent photographs of the vandalised areas were circulated at the meeting.

For clarification, the CEO/Town Clerk advised that WSMTC had been asked by a councillor to investigate the matter, alongside feedback received via WSMTC's social media, and that no request had been received from UPFEST. It was noted that the lane was called Old Post Office Lane and that inspection showed the artwork had deteriorated due to weather rather than vandalism.

Comments from a councillor were read aloud by a committee member, suggesting that WSMTC had painted over graffiti without permission. The CEO/Town Clerk stated she would investigate this with the Grounds team and update the councillor she had been in dialogue with, explaining that the report had been prepared on that basis. She confirmed that the decision rested with the committee and noted that UPFEST 2026 had been approved.

Following discussion, it was suggested that a site visit take place to assess the condition before any decision was made. It was also noted that Option 1 may not be feasible, and concerns were raised about how future vandalism would be addressed, with selecting less secluded locations suggested as a possible approach. It was suggested that a site visit to the affected area would be beneficial for members understanding.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. No immediate action to be taken with regard to the affected wall in Old Post Office Lane.
2. To instruct the CEO/ Town Clerk to ask UPFEST to look at Old Post Office Lane and any other graffiti affected areas and overpaint in 2026, giving priority over new walls in the town to address this issue.
3. Arrange a site visit with members of the committee to see the extent / remaining damage at Old Post Office Lane.

**299 Town of Culture 2028 – Competition Grant (DCMS application)**

The report of the Senior Development Officer / CEO Town Clerk informing the committee of the Town of Culture 2028 Competition and seeking approval for exploring an application had been previously circulated.

The CEO/Town Clerk advised that this was a national programme (£3 million), with Stage 1 requiring submission of an Expression of Interest by 31 March, to be developed in partnership with other organisations. The matter would be discussed at the upcoming HAC CCG meeting on 29 January and aligned with WSMTC's strategic aims.

In response to concerns about staff resources, the CEO/Town Clerk confirmed that Stage 1 could be delivered within the development team's capacity, with later stages delivered in partnership with other organisations and the HAC CCG.

Comments included the importance of working with other cultural groups, with the CEO/Town Clerk noting that the HAC CCG included a range of members from across

the cultural sector; the need for WSMTC to consider longevity and long-term planning for such programmes, referencing examples of other councils and questioning how much funding would be ringfenced for delivery after administrative requirements; and that Civic Pride could be enhanced in line with WSMTC's strategic aims.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor John Standfield

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Catherine Gibbons

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

**RESOLVED:** To approve in principle for the Council, working in partnership with community partners (via the Heritage, arts and Culture Community Consultative group), to apply for the Town of Culture 2028 competition, subject to grant conditions, with further information to be brought back to a future meeting.

## **LEISURE**

**300**

### **Play Area Procurement**

The report of the Senior Development Officer requesting to nominate councillors to support ongoing procurement requirements had been previously circulated.

There were currently four live procurement exercises which were:

- Coniston Green Toddler Play Area Refurbishment
- The Maltlands Play Area Refurbishment
- Public Toilets Management, Maintenance and Cleaning Contract
- Waterpark Cleaning

In accordance with the Councils Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, there was a requirement of at least two councillors present for the tender opening dates as follows:

6<sup>th</sup> February 2026:

- Coniston Green Toddler Play Area Refurbishment
- The Maltlands Play Area Refurbishment

20<sup>th</sup> February 2026:

- Public Toilets Management, Maintenance and Cleaning Contract
- Waterpark Cleaning

The report outlined the following options for the committee to consider:

- Nominate two councillors for tender openings on the 6<sup>th</sup> February
- Nominate two councillors for tender openings on the 20<sup>th</sup> February
- Nominate three councillors for tender interviews week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> February
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A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That Councillors John Standfield and Caroline Reynolds be nominated for tender openings on the 6<sup>th</sup> February
2. That Councillors Roger Bailey and Owen James be nominated for tender openings on the 20<sup>th</sup> February

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|     | <p>3. That Councillors John Standfield, Owen James and Caroline Reynolds be nominated for tender interviews week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> February.</p>  |
| 301 | <p>8.20 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>   |
| 302 | <p><b><u>AMENITIES</u></b></p> <p><b>CCTV – Provision changes across Weston-super-Mare</b><br/> The report from North Somerset Council had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The report advised that a number of CCTV cameras in South Ward would be affected by the proposed demolition of buildings, some of which had been funded by WSMTC.</p> <p>North Somerset Council had begun discussions with building owners regarding potential support options and had held site meetings with CCTV contractors to explore feasible solutions following the demolition. At the time of the meeting, no confirmed plans were in place to secure the ongoing operation of the CCTV, although North Somerset Council was working with relevant parties to seek continuity of coverage where possible.</p> <p>The committee noted the potential for increased maintenance and relocation costs should cameras require repositioning, and that the financial implications could be significant. Comments regarding the possibility of installation costs being met by building owners would be fed back to North Somerset Council.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew<br/> <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p> |
|     | <p><u>A site visit to inspect vandalised artwork locations was agreed as Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February @ 2pm</u></p> <p>There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm</p> <p>Signed.....Dated .....</p> <p>Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee</p>  |