

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT WESTON MUSEUM
ON 30th JUNE 2022**

Meeting Commenced: 10:03 am

Meeting Concluded: 11:28 am

PRESENT: Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman), Jan Holloway, Peter Crew, Richard Tucker and Marcia Pepperall; Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services), Lisa Clemons (Acting Museum Manager), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Jasmine Ryle (Events and Marketing Officer), Mike Solomon (North Somerset Councillor), Bethan Murray (South West Heritage Trust), Tom Newman and Paula Birtwistle (Culture Weston) and Heather Morrissey (Chair of the Friends of the Museum).

46	<p>Election of Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Chairman were invited.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Jan Holloway</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried, and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor John Crockford Hawley be elected Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee for the year 2022-23.</p>
47	<p>Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received Councillor Peter McAleer, who was substituted by Richard Tucker, and Cara MacMahon.</p>
48	<p>Election of Vice Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Vice Chairman were invited.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Jan Holloway SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried, and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Peter Crew be elected Vice Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee for the year 2022-23.</p>
49	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>

<p>50</p>	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th May 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman</p>
<p>51</p>	<p>Budget for 2022/23</p> <p>The detailed income and expenditure for the Blakehay Theatre and Weston Museum had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The report detailed the end of month two and demonstrated steady levels of income. The Blakehay studio and bar income was doing well. The Museum was in a better position than the same time the previous year.</p> <p>The Chairman asked for an update on the proposed Town Council insignia cabinet in the Museum. It was confirmed that the order had been placed and the case was being built. The South West Heritage Trust had agreed to support with display and interpretation of the insignia. Graphics would require additional funding. Members were informed that it was envisaged that the display case would be empty initially, with the Trust not having capacity until Autumn to complete the interpretation.</p> <p><i>Councillor Marcia Pepperall entered the meeting at 10:07am.</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>52</p>	<p>Marketing Report</p> <p>The report of the Communications and Marketing Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Evergreen social media posts had been set up to present a constant presence across platforms.</p> <p>A Museum leaflet had been produced. A member queried the accuracy of the map included on it. The Town Clerk advised for copyright reasons that it was not easy to obtain a map and it was suggested that a volunteer could create one. It was agreed the current map could be used until a new one was created.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted</p>
<p>53</p>	<p>Weston Museum Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Acting Museum Manager had been previously circulated.</p>

	<p>New staff had been welcomed to the Museum and services were running well.</p> <p>Members noted improvement in the café, with changes to the menu. The new Catering Supervisor was switching to local suppliers where possible, in order to cut down food miles.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>54</p>	<p>Blakehay Theatre Report</p> <p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Theatre Manager informed members of an increase in audience members in May. There were 96 booked performances in the auditorium in the coming year. Members agreed there had been a shift in local perception of the theatre, with the Town Council survey praising the theatre. It was suggested that there was more interest from audiences coming into Weston than from the local community. A member suggested advertising the Theatre and Museum in the monthly Worle publication 'Local'. This would be explored by officers.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Theatre Manager was receiving around 45 enquiries a day for use of the Blakehay Theatre. Due to a staffing issue, the review of these requests was falling to the Theatre Manager. It was explained that the reason the theatre had become so successful, with 96 upcoming bookings, was because the Covid-19 closure had freed up time for programming. This level of workload would not be able to continue now the theatre had been reopened.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: that the Personnel Committee review operational staff at the Blakehay Theatre.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that the Civic Society had decided to move their meetings from the Museum to the Theatre, and asked whether there was an agreed parity on price.</p> <p>The current charges were reviewed by the Expenditure and Governance Working Party and were set so the venues did not inadvertently compete with each other, whilst still recognising the overheads and other costs at each venue would vary. It was felt that the venues were similar in price, when considering costs, however they would be reviewed again in the future.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>55</p>	<p>WSMTC Grant Development</p> <p>A verbal update was given by the Development Officer.</p>

	<p>Members were informed that Arts Council England’s Museum Estate and Development Fund had been explored, however due to staff resources and a tight application turn around it would not be possible to apply this year. The fund would be reopened in 2023, and it was felt it would be better to apply when more time could be spent on an application.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
56	<p>Community Event Grant applications</p> <p>The grant application and summary report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The application submitted was for a programme of events link to SEE Monster. The proposed activities had been developed through think tanks involving the local community and would celebrate Weston’s identity. Funding had already been secured for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Council England • North Somerset Council • Burnham and Weston Energy • Bristol Water <p>The original schedule for events was designed in line with the opening of SEE Monster. Whilst the SEE Monster installation had been delayed, events were still taking place as schedule. There would still be events ongoing when SEE Monster was in place.</p> <p>A member asked how audience size had been estimated. It was explained that data was collected from North Somerset Council’s about typical audience size for events, as well as experience from Theatre Orchard’s own previous events. It was explained that the audience size had been underestimated to allow for fluctuations.</p> <p>A member raised concerns regarding the event ROAR which was described as “protest marches”. It was explained that the event would be working with a group of young people and discussing issues such as climate change and encourage them to make banners and walk along the seafront. Members were concerned that the event would encourage protesting as this was political in nature and as such could not be funded by a public body. Tom explained that the other funding received was also from public bodies and as such, were already aware of the need to ensure no political involvement in events.</p> <p>A member queried why the target audience for the events had been listed as Central Ward and South Ward. It was explained that there was a long standing relationship with groups in these areas and that there was a need to engage marginalised communities, as stipulated by New Substance and Unboxed and this was not representative of the entire expected audience. Members were concerned that the wider Weston audience was being forgotten. Tom reiterated that over 50 events would be taking place across</p>

	<p>Weston and engaging with the whole community. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Richard Tucker</p> <p>A vote was taken and was carried</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Theatre Orchard be awarded £26,623 from the 2022/23 community events grant budget, with the condition that the event which proposed protests be nonpolitical.</p>
57	<p>Arts Installation in High Street</p> <p>The report the of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><i>The Theatre Manager left the meeting at 10.57am</i></p> <p>Theatre Orchard had asked for permission to use the catenary wires in the High Street (which were there for the purpose of installing Christmas Lights annually) for the purpose of an art installation. The current proposal was for installation of colourful flags hanging off the catenary wires. They hoped also to extend the installation into Grove Village and Orchard Street using both wires and rigging for lampposts. The Town Clerk felt that this was a suitable request.</p> <p>Members asked for confirmation that insurance and repairs would be covered. It was confirmed that this would be covered by Theatre Orchard.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and was carried</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Theatre Orchard be given permission to use the catenary wires in the high street for the purpose of the arts installation</p> <p><i>Paula Birtwistle left the meeting at 10:58 am</i></p>
58	<p>South West Heritage Trust Update Report</p> <p>The report of Bethan Murray had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The SWHT Museum Development Officer asked if the Museum wanted to continue its subscription to the Harwell Disaster Recovery Support Scheme for £71.50 annually. Bethan was asked if the information could be sent to the Deputy Town Clerk to arrange.</p> <p><i>The Theatre Manager re-entered the meeting at 11:00 am.</i></p> <p>Members asked for an update regarding the copyright for Ivy Millicent James images. It was explained that the copyright was still with her estate. Members</p>

	<p>asked it would be possible to obtain permission for use of the images. The Town Clerk would explore this with the SWHT. Official opening events for the temporary exhibitions were being explored again. It was felt that it was important to reach new people and not just invite the same people each time.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>59</p>	<p>Friends of Weston Museum Verbal Report</p> <p>Heather Morrissey provided a verbal update</p> <p>The Friends were holding coffee mornings monthly; however, they were being suspended until September.</p> <p>Talks at the Museum were well attended. The last talk had been from the RNLI about saving lives at sea. A donation had been given to the local branch of RNLI, who were collecting for the new centre on the pier.</p> <p>The next event would be a cream tea at Weston Museum, with 30 people already signed up.</p> <p>Stalls had been booked at Weston Museum’s market on the 10th September and 3rd December, where they would be selling books and other items.</p> <p>The AGM would be taking place on the 21st September and members would be renewing subscriptions. There were currently 52 members and it was hoped there would be more.</p> <p>Grant information was being send to the Senior Development Officer for potential funding opportunities.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p>60</p>	<p>North Somerset Council and Heritage Action Zone Report</p> <p>The report of the Heritage Action Zone Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><i>The Events and Marketing Officer left the meeting at 11:13 am</i></p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that it was hoped that the Town Council would include their sites in Heritage Open Days this year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>61</p>	<p>Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard Update Report</p> <p>Tom Newman provided a verbal report.</p> <p>Tom listed upcoming events for Culture Weston including:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly poetry events, with every other month taking place in person. • Party on the Green at Coniston Green Park 9th July • Whirligig Festival 9th-10th September • Arts and Health programme 7th-9th October <p><i>The Events and Marketing Officer reentered the meeting at 11:15 am</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constanzi Consort 16th July • Brothers Across the Decades, event at Pride 3rd July. • Queer Tales of Weston 12pm 2nd July. <p>As well as events there were several project updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission had been received for the Super Shrine installation and was due to be in place from September • Working on a project welcoming refugees • Completed application for Art Council England’s national portfolio funding which would like Theatre Orchard and Culture Weston, and well as requesting an uplift. • Culture Weston were working with Upfest on extending the Weston Walls Trail with locations still to be confirmed. <p>The Chairman asked members to ensure they were coordinating with the college regarding events in September, as the college graduation normally spanned the Italian Gardens.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>62</p>	<p>Consider future Blue Plaque scheme</p> <p>Members had resolved previously to explore buildings as the subject for the new Blue Plaque Scheme.</p> <p>A member suggested a blue plaque to Jill Dando be installed on the former Mercury Building where she started her career in journalism.</p> <p>It was suggested that something should be produced to detail the lives of the previous blue plaque recipients.</p>
<p>63</p>	<p>Printing local history books</p> <p>Jane Evans had launched her book on George Cumberland at Weston Museum, as well as Tales of a Museum Curator. A member asked if North Somerset Council Libraries were stocking these books. Councillor Mike Solomon explained that he had contacted the team and was waiting to hear.</p> <p>The Chairman informed that he was rewriting a book on Weston at War and had produced an information sheet on the heraldry of Weston for use by the Civic team. It was suggested this could be useful for the interpretation of the Civic Insignia.</p>

64	Local History Update The Chairman informed members that he had addressed a series of local groups since the last meeting including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yatton history society• Milton Methodist ladies• St Monica's retirement village Sanford• HAZ opening in the museum• Uphill village society• North Somerset heritage forum• Marine lake official opening• Not Able club
	There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:28 am Signed.....Dated..... Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee