

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON
MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2023**

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.04 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Peak (Chair), Joe Bambridge (S), Gill Bute, Hugh Malyan, John Crockford-Hawley, Owen James (S), Lisa Pilgrim, and Tim Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE : Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk) and Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer).

172	To receive Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Thornton , who was substituted by Owen James , and Mark Canniford who was substituted by Joe Bambridge.
173	To receive Declarations of Interest There were none received.
174	To approve the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee Meeting held on the 19th June 2023 The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Gill Bute SECONDED BY: Councillor Tim Taylor A vote was taken and carried . Accordingly, it was: RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.
175	To receive the minutes of the Working Party to Review Expenditure & Governance held on 28th September 2023 The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda. RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.
176	To receive the minutes of the HQ Working Party Meeting held on the 1st September 2023 The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda. RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

<p>177</p>	<p>To receive the minutes of the Civic Consultation Meetings held on the 8th June and 21st September 2023</p> <p>The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Concerns about safety at the Worle Remembrance Day ceremony had been raised by officers of North Somerset Council. It was noted that although a member of the council normally attended the Worle ceremony, the event was not itself organised by the Town Council.</p>
<p>178</p>	<p>Budget Considerations for 2024/25</p> <p>The following items were put forward as considerations for the development of the 2024/25 budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of Speed Awareness Signs to improve child safety in residential areas around the town. • As above, regarding safety at the Remembrance event in Worle where there was no responsible person to control highways and events management, noting it was not known who is the organiser of the event. • To review the effectiveness and value for money of the current budget for homelessness and service level agreement with Somewhere to Go. • Markings or signs for the ways into Weston Woods (noting that this was owned by North Somerset Council.) • The old ‘Weston-in-Bloom Award Winner’ sign on Somerset Avenue was in poor condition, difficult to maintain and clean, and should be removed, with the involvement of North Somerset highways. • Improvements to Worle High Street e.g. benches and walls around trees.
<p>179</p>	<p>Monthly Financial Reports: July & August 2023</p> <p>a) For Approval Schedule of Unapproved Expenditure</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Tim Taylor SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>.1 RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Unapproved Expenditure for July and August 2023 be approved.</p> <p>b) For Noting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bank Reconciliations ii. Budgetary Control Report iii. Bank Interest Report iv. Schedule of Receipted Income v. Bad debt report vi. Overspend report <p>.2 RESOLVED: That reports b) i – vi be noted.</p>
<p>180</p>	<p>Social Value – Recommendation from Expenditure and Governance Working Party</p>

The minute extract from the Expenditure and Governance Working Party meeting on 28th September had been previously circulated.

The Town Clerk briefly introduced the item and apologised that the report to the Expenditure and Governance Working Party meeting had not been included in the committee agenda documents. However, the recommendation was included within the E&G minutes that were attached to the agenda.

Discussion ensued.

Some members who had attended the Expenditure and Governance Working Party meeting said that they were happy with the proposals. The Working Party had selected three essential questions and the others would be optional.

A member felt strongly that the Social Value Policy was a load of nonsense and the need to have one as well as the content was challenged by others. It was an unnecessary complication for procurement.

The Town Clerk explained that the Social Value Policy had originally been proposed by a member and agreed by the council in 2021/22. The committee had authorised the Working Party to review and agree amendments to the Social Value elements in the Procurement Guide to ensure they were proportionate and measurable for smaller contracts and small local businesses who didn't have teams of people specialising in answering social value questions. His proposals had been aimed to achieve this, based on the three statutory considerations in the Social Value Act 2012.

Further discussion ensued and it was agreed that the committee could not take an informed decision without further information.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Joe Bambridge

SECONDED BY: Councillor Owen James

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED: To defer the item to the December meeting.

181 Audit 2022/23

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gill Bute

The Annual Governance Statement with the external auditor's certificate had been previously circulated.

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly, it was:

Policy & Finance Committee 16/09/23	RESOLVED: That the Audit 2022/23 be noted.
	There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.04 pm Signed.....Dated..... Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee