

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON  
MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.37 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sarah Codling (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Gillian Carpenter, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox, Pete McAleer, Robert Payne (S), Helen Thornton and Roz Willis.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcom Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Reece Evans & Dave Eastman (Community Response Officers), Ali Waller (YMCA Operations Manager) and David Skidmore (Skidmores – Worle).

<b>419</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Crockford-Hawley who was substituted by Robert Payne.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Clare Morris was absent from the meeting.</p>
<b>420</b>	<p><b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were none.</p>
	<p>At this point in the meeting, The Chairman invited David Skidmore of Skidmores – Worle and grant applicant to address the Committee and speak in support of the grant application to be discussed under item 11. of the agenda.</p> <p>David introduced Stanley’s Garden, which was a dementia friendly community garden just off of Worle High Street. Stanley’s Garden was a facility available to the local community and was used a lot by the elderly in retirement housing. He is asking for financial assistance of £950 to renew the pathways through the garden which were currently made from stone scalplings and would make the facility usable by wheelchairs and therefore creating access for physically disabled people. The garden also had fruit trees and vegetable plots and it was intended to be a sensory garden also.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked David for his address and welcomed him to stay for the meeting.</p> <p><i>David thanked members and left the meeting at 7.17 pm.</i></p>
<b>421</b>	<p><b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 7<sup>TH</sup> March 2022</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman referred to minute number 338 and asked for the councillor’s name to be removed and replaced with ‘a member’. It was noted, for future reference, that individual councillors should not be referred to by name within minutes.</p>

An update on the Welcome Back Fund was requested, to which the Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services reported that only one item had arrived so far. This was due to large batch orders and she would update further at the next meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Pete Fox

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
2. That an update on The Welcome Back Fund be given at the next meeting.

**422 References from other Committees:**

It was noted that there were none.

**423 Grounds Management Report**

The Assistant Town Clerk- Operational Services verbally reported on the following areas:

Cemetery

The grounds team was very busy with interments, burials, strimming and weeding. The Cemetery Conservation Officer was working on rewilding areas and signage had been ordered. Volunteers had painted the tea hut and enjoyed their time at the cemetery. Somerset Wood Recycling were working in the Cemetery every Thursday, this commenced at the start of May and will continue to September to assist the Grounds Team with strimming during this busy period.

Allotments

A meeting had been held with the Chairman of the Allotment Club and site representative and a work programme for each site agreed.

Toilets would be reported on later in the meeting.

Councillors were encouraged to visit sites and see the work of the grounds team.

In response to questions raised, the Assistant Town Clerk advised that rewilding sections had been created in older parts of the Cemetery which were not much visited. These areas would be well kept with mown edges and pathways and clearly indicated via signage. The grounds team were confidently able to tell which graves were not visited any more.

Debate ensued. It was felt to be a shame to see important graves such as Alfred Leete's fallen into disrepair and asked if it was possible for the council to budget towards the restoration of these important graves.

The Town Clerk advised that the graves were owned by the permit holders and family and their responsibility to maintain. Moreover, deciding which graves were 'important' could be a complex issue.

The Deputy Town Clerk added that an audio tour of all graves had been created some years ago. This was available on the website and all permit holders/families of the graves had been contacted.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted.

**424 Report from the Community Response Officer**

The report had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Dave Eastman who was now the Community Response Officer for the Town Centre with his colleague Wayne Hughes was introduced to the meeting. Community Response Officer Reece Evans explained that he now covered South Ward and surrounding Worle areas. Dave highlighted on areas of his report and welcomed any questions.

Dave advised that he and his colleague both worked 2.5 days per week.

In reference to .3 of his report and CCTV at Grove House, the Deputy Town Clerk informed that North Somerset Council had paid for the installation and the supply from Grove House.

Discussion ensued. In response to .1 of the report and pitching tents in Ellenborough Park, a member had received concerns from residents walking their guide dogs in the park and asked is dispersal orders could be issued. Dave explained that a dispersal order was a Police power under section 35.

Concerns from elderly residents had also been received about using the bus shelter at Waterloo Street as they felt intimidated by rough sleepers there.

Dave explained that he had contacted the church on the matter but it was a hard issue to resolve because if they are moved on, they simply disperse to another location and so we are continually moving them on around the town. Unless the wider social issue is addressed, this will continue to be a constant problem.

NSC had approved the use of new public space protection orders to remove tents on the beach lawns and so this could be useful for the Town Council.

A member highlighted the need to make the Italian Gardens a more cosmopolitan place and utilise it more for events, to deter the undesirable behavior there.

Dave reported that there were plans to change the concrete alcoves into flowerbeds to deter people from gathering there.

Reece reported that orders had been agreed by NSC and would come into force in June which would include tent pitching hopefully to cover Ellenborough Park. He explained that these could only be used if there was an element of antisocial behavior involved.

The YMCA Operations Manager Ali Waller offered assistance in CCTV identification as there were some new groups developing in South Ward which were known to the service.

In response to a member Reece reported that the 'Bag & Tag' scheme was still operating, however since Somewhere to Go now stored the belongings, the need to utilise had decreased.

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p> <p><i>Reece Evans &amp; Dave Eastman left the meeting at 8.04 pm.</i></p>
425	<p><b>Grove Park Public Toilets – Reference from the Town Council meeting</b> Minute Extract from the Policy &amp; Finance Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that there was nothing further to update the Committee on. He confirmed that the doors had been ordered after the Policy &amp; Finance meeting, with an 8-10 week lead time, therefore installation in late June/early July.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Noted.</p>
426	<p><b>Service Area reports:</b></p> <p><b>.1 Youth Services</b></p> <p>The report of the Youth Worker lead had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Ali added that the Youth Council was still operating but contribution at meetings and recruitment of members was very hard. They were looking at introducing an employability scheme, working in partnership with Town Council departments and attending committee meetings.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that he had received a request from the YMCA to increase the Youth Council's upper age limit from 18-21. As long as there were no safeguarding issues then there was no objection. The YMCA as a charity has an age bracket up to 25. This would need to be recommend to the Policy &amp; Finance Committee as it was a change to the Youth Council's Constitution.</p> <p>Ali Waller informed that the only cost implication to this would be for DBS checks, which the YMCA would cover.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> To the Policy &amp; Finance Committee that the Youth Council's upper age limit of 18 be increased to 21 in their constitution.</p> <p><i>Ali Waller left the meeting at 8.19 pm</i></p> <p><b>.2 Community Events</b></p> <p>In the absence of the Grounds Coordinator, there was nothing to report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That a report be submitted at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>.3 Weston in Bloom</b></p> <p>In the absence of the Grounds Coordinator, the Assistant Town Clerk verbally reported that flower beds were being stripped and replanted with more sustainable plants. The</p>

	<p>boat at the train station will be removed and replaced with a Tuk Tuk. The grounds team were now watering in house.</p> <p>In response to a suggestion regarding the utilisation of the See Monster plants, the Communications Officer explained that these had already been agreed for the Royal Sands and due to their size and weight, were difficult to transport.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roz Willis</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Weston In Bloom be asked to make a donation of plants to Stanley’s Garden.</p>
<p><b>427</b></p>	<p><b>Community Resilience Update</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the item be deferred for a report to be submitted by the Deputy Town Clerk.</p>
<p><b>428</b></p>	<p><b>Street Art Trail 2022 ‘Weston Walls’</b></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk verbally reported that she and the Assistant Town Clerk had met with Upfest and she informed that the aspiration was to paint 20 walls, however this was not guaranteed as it was subject to permission from property owners. The possibility of choosing walls outside of the Town Centre was a possibility for future years as the trail progresses.</p> <p>Upfest were leading the communications and marketing drive in liaison with Culture Weston and the Town Council’s Communications Officer. A map would also be produced this year. Upfest would select the artists as this slowed the process down the previous year and a ‘big’ artist had been secured pending the confirmation of a large wall from the Premier Inn.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p><b>429</b></p>	<p><b>Grant applications</b></p> <p>The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The annual budget for small and voluntary grants was £12,500.  The annual budget for Community Event Grants was £60,000.</p> <p><b>Stanley’s Garden</b>  <b>Grant applied for £950.00</b>  <b>Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</b></p> <p>Stanley’s Garden is a dementia friendly community garden just off of Worle High Street and they are asking for financial assistance of £950. This would be to renew the pathways through the garden which were currently made from stone scalplings which would make the facility usable by wheelchairs and therefore creating access for the disabled. Stanley’s Garden is a facility available to the local community and is used a lot by the elderly in retirement housing.</p>

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that there was wasn't a bank account set up as yet and so the funds would need be paid to Skidmores, which was a reputable company so she advised that this was acceptable.

The other option would be for the contactor who was undertaking the work to raise an invoice directly with the Town Council.

Members were very impressed with the commitment to the project and the community facility.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Pete Fox

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Pete McAleer

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** That £950.00 be granted from the 2022/2023 small and voluntary grants budget and paid to Skidmores of Worle High Street.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37 pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

**Chairman of the Community Services Committee**