

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
NOTES OF THE  
HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE WORKING PARTY  
HELD VIA ZOOM ON 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

**Meeting Commenced:** 10:03 am

**Meeting Concluded:** 11:47 am

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman), Peter Crew, Catherine Gibbons, Jan Holloway, Pete McAleer and Marcia Pepperall; Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Matt Hardy (Visitor Services Manager), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Jasmine Ryle (Marketing and Events Co-ordinator), Cara MacMahon (NSC Heritage Action Zones Project Officer), Richard Blows (Transformation Programme Manager Corporate Services), Tom Newman (), Fiona Matthews (Culture Weston/Theatre Orchard) and Bethan Murray (South West Heritage)

**NON VOTING MEMBERS:** Councillors Dorothy Agassiz and Alan Peak

<b>20.</b>	<p><b>Election of Chairman</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chairman.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Catherine Gibbons <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Jan Holloway</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor John Crockford-Hawley be elected Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee for the year 2021-22.</p> <p>Councillor John Crockford-Hawley took his place as Chairman of the meeting.</p>
<b>21.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk) and Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services).</p>
<b>22.</b>	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
<b>23.</b>	<p><b>Election of Vice- Chairman</b></p> <p>The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter McAleer</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor Catherine Gibbons be elected Vice-Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee for the year 2021-22.</p>

24.	<p><b>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Jan Holloway</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman</p>
25.	<p><b>Marketing Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Communications and Marketing Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The last two blue plaques had been ordered, with building permissions in place. The plaque for Ivy Millicent James would be put up in line with the exhibition at Weston Museum.</p> <p>Whilst a film was planned for the Christmas Lights, it was cancelled due to COVID, but in its place a film was being created to highlight the work of each of the services from April 2020 – April 2021. This would include drone footage of the Quarry.</p> <p>An event would be taking place in Ellenborough Park West in September called 'Love the Outdoors'.</p> <p><i>Councillor Peter Crew entered the meeting</i></p> <p>The Chairman suggested that members should consider the future of the Blue Plaque programme, noting that certain buildings in Weston could be considered for plaques. The Town Clerk advised that whilst the current year's budget was already fully committed, it could be considered in the next budget setting process.</p> <p>A request had been made to replace or reposition the plaque at Anchor head, which commemorates the first person to swim the Bristol channel.</p> <p>A member queried if there was a blue plaque walk to which the Communications Officer informed that there was an audio tour on the website.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
26.	<p><b>Weston Museum Management Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Visitor Services Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Museum would reopen to the public on 18<sup>th</sup> May at 10am. Not much guidance had been given by the government on how to manage the reopening, with the Museum Manager working off previous guidance for the</p>

	<p>meantime. There was a brand new temporary exhibition in place called ‘Wild Hares and Hummingbirds’. The new function room would also be open.</p> <p>The Chairman asked how members would be able to see the new function room. It was advised that a press release would be circulated shortly detailing the ‘Know Your Place’ exhibition that would take place in the function room.</p> <p>It was queried if the Museum would be using a booking system when it reopened. It was advised that the Museum would have a maximum capacity, and would use the test and trace method, with no need to book.</p> <p>A member asked if there was anything planned for the first day opening. The working party was informed that due to the uncertainty of the opening date, it was decided to have a soft reopening. This would also be useful for building volunteer confidence back up.</p> <p>Wedding requests had been received, with a few already booked and more tentative bookings. The Chairman suggested that it would be good to understand the financial reward of the wedding offer.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>27.</b></p>	<p><b>Blakehay Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Cultural Recovery Fund building works were due to start on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, with the end date unknown. Outdoor events were being planned for this interim period, including two evening events on the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> June at the Quarry, branded as ‘Blakehay On Tour’.</p> <p>A five-year plan had been created for the theatre, with an integrated marketing plan. The Chairman asked if the theatre were collaborating and in contact with other cultural and arts organisations such as Culture Weston. The Theatre Manager advised that events were planned in line with the North Somerset Council events schedule, to which the Communications Officer informed that the schedule was formulated through place making meetings and was comprehensive.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he had not seen much coverage of the theatre in the Weston Mercury. The Theatre Manager advised that publicity was difficult due to there not being a clear reopening date, however they had received generous coverage over recent months. The Theatre Manager was working with UK Theatre’s regarding information about returning guests</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>28.</b></p>	<p><b>WSMTC Grant Development</b></p> <p>The Development Officer reported that she would be placing a Buy a Block order the following week, with the Museum Manager and the Communications Officer having assisted with marketing in recent weeks.</p>

	<p>It was confirmed that Arts Council England had granted the extension to spend Cultural Recovery Fund monies until 30<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>The Development Officer and Deputy Town Clerk had met with members of South West Heritage Trust to discuss Clara's Cottage, with a funding application having been abandoned due to COVID in March 2021.</p> <p>It was agreed that given the changes over the past year, research into funding applications and the project plan would have to start from the beginning.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p><b>29.</b></p>	<p><b>South West Heritage Trust Update Report</b></p> <p>The report of Bethan Murray had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Chairman asked if there would be an opening event for the 'Wild Hares and Hummingbird's' exhibition. It was informed that due to COVID restrictions, an official opening had not been planned. An interview with Steven Moss had been recorded which would feature in the exhibition, with the potential to relaunch the exhibition when more of the interactive elements could be implemented.</p> <p>The Clevedon Torc would be returning to the British Museum. It was suggested that this could be an opportunity to highlight the national acclaimed artefacts that Weston Museum had been entrusted with. A member asked if any progress had been made with a replica of the Torc. The Museum Manager informed that the company that made the replicas had gone out of business. It was suggested that local jewellers and artists could be approached to commission a replica. Bethan suggested contacting the British Museum as they may be able to suggest someone.</p> <p>Bethan informed that a meeting had been requested with the Town Council to discuss future exhibition programming.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>30.</b></p>	<p><b>Friends of Weston Museum Verbal Report</b></p> <p>There was no representation by the Friends of Weston.</p> <p><i>Councillor Marcia Pepperall entered the meeting</i></p>
<p><b>31.</b></p>	<p><b>North Somerset Council and Heritage Action Zone Report</b></p> <p>The report of the NSC Heritage Action Zone Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Cara MacMahon informed that works had been affected by COVID, particularly engagement with retailers. There was a 6-month lag due to lockdown, but things were beginning to return to normal.</p>

	<p>With the success of the virtual Heritage Open Days in 2020, a hybrid model had been planned for 2021.</p> <p>Another project funded by Historic England would be the development of article 4 directions for stone walls and fences in Weston, with legal advice being sought. Once procedures had been agreed upon, elected members would be consulted and information reported to committees.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
32.	<p><b>Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard Update Report</b></p> <p>The report of Tom Newman had been previously circulated.</p> <p>A summary of the report was delivered by Fiona Matthews and questions invited from Committee.</p> <p>Fiona Matthews informed that the first date of the Weston Presents Rooftop Series had been pushed from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>The Chairman asked how long the temporary bandstand would be located in the high street as part of the 21st Century Super Shrines project. Fiona reported that it would remain in the high street for 3 years, clarifying that it would not be a bandstand in the traditional sense, like the one in Grove Park. The Chairman asked if permissions had been received, to which Fiona confirmed that applications were in progress.</p> <p>A member brought attention to the Town Council resolution to be an anti-racist council and asked what Culture Weston was doing to engage with all parts of the community. Fiona reported that Culture Weston's advisory board was representative, and that a number of upcoming projects engaged with the BAME Community.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
33.	<p><b>Greenery in the Town Centre</b></p> <p>A member had requested the item on the agenda to discuss the lack of greenery in the Italian Gardens and High Street and to find a way to make it brighter.</p> <p>The Chairman agreed and informed that new planters had been put in place around the Town Centre with nothing in. The development at Alexandra Parade should increase the amount of greenery, with more trees being planted than the amount removed. It was also suggested that there was potential along the seafront, with areas that could be planted.</p> <p>A member reported that he had had a meeting with North Somerset Council later that afternoon to discuss the topic. It had been suggested that the planters were being planted at the end of May.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that there was dispersed responsibility with regards to greenery around the town, with the Town Council maintaining Grove Park and</p>

	<p>Clarence Park, and the Town Centre Partnership traditionally maintaining the high street. Highways, the seafront, and the Italian gardens were all North Somerset Council’s responsibility. Richard Blows informed that collaboration was a theme running through the Place Agency aims and that he would be happy to feed this back.</p> <p>It was suggested that it would be an opportunity to work with the community, to encourage community ownership and that different displays could be themed, for example fair trade or surfers against sewage.</p> <p>Richard Blows informed that the Clinical Commissioning Group had just secured funding over three years for green social prescribing, which could be a useful connection.</p> <p>It was then suggested that this should be referred to the Community Services Committee who dealt with Weston In Bloom. The Town Clerk suggested setting up a meeting with the appropriate officers.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> That Greenery in the Town Centre be referred to the Community Services Committee for consideration.</p>
<p><b>34.</b></p>	<p><b>Town Council Involvement in The Old Town Quarry – Verbal Update</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that progress so far had been slow. The lease from North Somerset Council was still being negotiated via solicitors on both sides. It was hoped that proceedings would be completed by the end of June. Some important issues needed to be resolved before the lease was signed.</p> <p>The Chairman was concerned that negotiations had been taking a long time and asked if they could be speeded up.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that it was necessary to take the time with negotiations in order to ensure the town council’s objectives would continue to be met and to protect its investment in the site over the long term of the lease. The Grounds Team were assisting the Civic Society with maintenance, in the meantime. The negotiations had not affected normal service, with the café reopening, artists would be allowed back in studios and events would be taking place.</p> <p>A member cautioned against rushing lease negotiations, noting how a lease agreement had backfired in the past. The Town Clerk agreed and informed it was especially important given that the lease would be for 35 years.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>35.</b></p>	<p>A member referred back to items 7/8/9 on the agenda, and advised that as an Executive Member for Children Services at NSC there was a need for support. A project was being implemented to bring more poetry into people’s lives, and asked if there could be some collaboration from the Town Council through the services, and the noticeboards.</p>

	<p>The Chairman suggested that the Communications Officer, Museum Manager and Blakehay Theatre Manager get in touch with Councillor Catherine Gibbons on the matter.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:47 am.</p> <p>Signed.....Dated.....</p> <p>Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee</p>