

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT WESTON MUSEUM
ON 8th DECEMBER 2022**

Meeting Commenced: 10:04 am

Meeting Concluded: 11:45 am

PRESENT: Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman), Peter Crew, Peter McAleer and Marc Aplin (substitute) ; Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Lisa Clemons (Museum Operations Manager), Jasmine Ryle (Marketing & Events Coordinator), Becky Walsh (Communications and Marketing Officer), Mike Solomon (North Somerset Councillor), Cara MacMahon (High Street Heritage Action Zone Officer - North Somerset Council), Tom Newman (Culture Weston) and Heather Morrissey (Friends of the Museum).

213	Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Catherine Gibbons, Jan Holloway, Marcia Pepperall who was substituted by Marc Aplin, and Sally Heath.
214	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest received.
215	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th October 2022 The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter McAleer RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman
216	Budget for 2022/23 The Deputy Town Clerk noted that income was down in some areas, but was not as bad as expected. Insurance costs were affecting the bottom line for both the Museum and the Blakehay. The Café was doing really well with a challenging target. The Council had chosen to go with an ambitious budget for this year and services are doing well considering this. Whilst services are returning to normal, public attitude since Covid-19 has changed, with people altering their habits and activities. Ticket sales in the theatre were not yet back to pre-Covid levels.

There would be challenges on the budget next year that were out of officers' control. Staffing costs, insurance and fuel prices were unavoidable increases, which would make growth difficult. Charges would need to increase by 10% to cover increased costs.

Bethan Murray entered the meeting at 10:12am

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

217 Communications and Marketing Report

The report of the Communications and Marketing Officer had been previously circulated.

Tom Newman entered the meeting at 10:13am

Officers had not yet received permission to put the John Lewis Blue Plaque on the selected building, but there was another potential option should discussions breakdown.

The Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting at 10:14am

North Somerset Council had commissioned a walking map tour of the Blue Plaques. The Mayor would be carrying out a walking tour when this was released. The chairman asked if he could be contacted for availability.

The Deputy Town Clerk reentered the meeting at 10:16am

It was suggested that the invite list for the opening of new temporary exhibitions should be explored. It was felt members had missed an opportunity with the National Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition, but not inviting more high profile people.

Social media statistics would be made available for members outside of the meeting, as the document was too bulky.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

218 Weston Museum Management Report

The report of the Museum Operations Manager had been previously circulated.

700 people visit Weston Museum on the 3rd December 2022 to attend the craft fare. Average Saturday takings over the till was £150, this increased to over £1,000 on the 3rd December. It was necessary to introduce a one in one out policy due to fire restrictions, but people were happy to queue and were given complementary tea and coffee.

Ticket sales for the two concerts were going well, with approximately 15 tickets remaining for the Constanzi Choir, and over 75% sold for the other event.

The Learning Team were at capacity, with on average 2 learning days a week,

	<p>both inside the museum and in schools. This included home education sessions. Handling Boxes were booked out until April 2023. It was explained that the learning offer was not always focused on physical value, but it had a big impact on community engagement, and return of visitors. It was suggested that information could be brought back to the group around “social value”.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
219	<p>Blakehay Theatre Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Members felt that the building did not look like it was open, even though there were bookings taking place inside. The doors had to remain closed due to the cold weather, but the team was open to ideas.</p> <p>The following ideas were suggested and debated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open sign being more noticeable or eye catching.• Better signposting of the activities taking place and the door bell• Christmas lights in the bar being utilised when open• Play music or voice clips when open• A-board outside detailing what was going on in the theatre <p>Members noted that volunteering across the council needed reengaging when a new Volunteer Supervisor was in place.</p> <p>The Blakehay Theatre had been shortlisted for an award.</p> <p>The Blakehay Theatre opening day had been rescheduled for 7th January 10am-4pm.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
220	<p>WSMTC Grant Development</p> <p>The Senior Development Officer reported that the Museum had been awarded a grant to support the development of a learning programme culminating in an event on Earth Day in Ellenborough Park West. This would be a cross service project, bringing together the learning, development and grounds teams.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
221	<p>Community Event Grant applications</p> <p>The grant application and summary report had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Real South West CIC had submitted a grant application for costs to support</p>

Pride events, a series of Beautifully Proud Weekends. This would linked in with national pride work and build on the events taking place in Weston. They requested £11,000 in funding to support performer costs. It was noted that they represented a very diverse community, and this would ensure the legacy of Pride 2023 in Weston super Mare.

Councillor Peter McAleer left the meeting at 10:47am

Debate ensued. Members were concerned that, with only £1,000 remaining in the budget, a smaller contribution would not be enough for the events to proceed.

Councillor Peter McAleer reentered the meeting at 10:58am

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley

A vote was taken and was **carried**

RESOLVED: To contact Real South West Community Interest Company and:

1. Inform them that due to budget constraints a grant would not be awarded by the committee at this time.
2. Suggest they work with the Town Council to develop the suggested event programme, and explore other ways the council may be able to support delivery
3. Encourage them to reapply for a Community Events Grant, should the budget provision be made available in the new financial year.

222 South West Heritage Trust Update Report

Bethan Murray provided a verbal update.

A1 Camera Club were continuing their work at the Trust, photographing the collection.

A Peggy Nesbit doll collector visited the trust to view the collection.

The Trust were working with the Museum on emergency training, which would be provided by a conservation specialist. The emergency plan would also be updated.

Discussions were being had with officers on how to mitigate the flood risk in the William Mable Gallery. A salvage plan was in development.

Members asked for an update on the display case for the Civic Insignia which would be rehoused in Weston Museum. The relocation of the insignia had been delayed from December to January to allow for Civic Events to take place in the Mayor's Parlour. This had been agreed by the Town Clerk and Tom Mayberry from the SWHT.

Discussion ensued.

Councillor Marc Aplin left the meeting at 11:16am.

Members asked if the Mace would be featured within the display. Bethan explained that the cases that had been designed, to members' specification, may not allow for easy extraction of items from the case. As the Mace was still regularly used in ceremonies, it was felt operationally it would be better to exclude it from the display. The Chairman felt strongly that the case needed to be accessible to council staff.

Councillor Marc Aplin reentered the meeting at 11:20am.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and was **carried**

RESOLVED: For all Civic Insignia to be relocated to the Museum, with access to the case made available for selected staff members.

Congratulations was given to the Trust on the National Photographer of the Year exhibition.

The Trust was now a National Portfolio Organisation with Arts Council England. This included funding for the next three years, and opened up opportunities for the Trust and the Museum's it represented.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

223 Friends of Weston Museum Verbal Report

Heather Morrissey gave a verbal update.

The Friends now had 51 paid members, and often had non members in attendance at talks. The talks were usually well attended, with 35-40 people attending regularly. This had included a talk from Jane Hill on the Museum past and present, and an upcoming talk on Birnbeck Pier. The Friends were currently looking for future speakers, and welcome input from Members.

The Friends had a stand at the Rotary Charity Fair at the Royal Hotel, and at the museum market.

Leaflets had been printed advertising the work of the Friends. It was suggested that a copy of the Ivy Millicent James booklet could be reprinted and sold in the Museum.

The apple tree in the courtyard had died during the heatwave. Fortunately, Thatchers had agreed to bring another one.

Members were informed of the passing of a long serving Friend and Weston Museum volunteer, Vivien Pratt. Members gave thanks on behalf of the museum to Vivian for all her work.

<p>224</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>Cara noted that the engagement work being carried out by Weston Museum with the schools was excellent, and demonstrated excitement amongst young people.</p> <p>Heritage Open Days would be taking place 8th – 17th September 2023.</p> <p>North Somerset Council had been invited to be part of a film to celebrate Weston, working with Culture Weston. The film was due to launch at the Local Government Association that day. This would be circulated to members.</p> <p>Heritage walks would be launched on the Super Weston website, with an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>225</p>	<p>Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard Update Report</p> <p>The climate Carnival as part of Weston Presents took place on the 2nd October, with 400-500 people in attendance. This marked the culmination of projects taking place throughout the summer. This project was possible through a grant received from Weston-super-Mare Town Council's Community Events Grant budget.</p> <p>The Shrine arts installation was due to launch on the 9th December 1-2pm.</p> <p>The Glow event, taking place 15th-18th February 2023, was in the planning stage. Culture Weston were hopeful for the inclusion of three additional locations which would illuminate the Weston Wallz Murals: Princess Royal Square, The Grand Pier and Premier Inn.</p> <p>Ticket sales were being limited to six per transaction. There was also an option to pay what you decide, encouraging people to consider a donation. Tickets would be launched from 12th December.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>226</p>	<p>Local History Update</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:45am</p> <p>Signed.....Dated..... Chairman of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee</p>