

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
NOTES OF THE  
HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT WESTON MUSEUM  
ON 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

**Meeting Commenced:** 10:03 am

**Meeting Concluded:** 11:48 am

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Chair), Peter Crew, Catherine Gibbons, Helen Thornton, Charlie Williams, Roger Bailey and Jemma Coles; Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager), Jasmine Ryle (Marketing & Events Coordinator), Becky Walsh (Communications and Marketing Officer), Graham Meikle (Volunteer Supervisor) Bethan Murray (South West Heritage Trust), Cara MacMahon (High Street Heritage Action Zone Officer - North Somerset Council), Julia Stuckey (North Somerset Council Place Manager), Mike Solomon (North Somerset Councillor), Tom Newman (Culture Weston) and Heather Morrissey (Friends of the Museum).

<b>45</b>	<p><b>Election of a Chair</b></p> <p>Nominations for the position of Chair were invited.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Jemma Coles</p> <p>That Councillor John Crockford-Hawley be elected Chair.</p> <p>A second nomination was received.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Catherine Gibbons <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Charlie Williams</p> <p>That Councillor Helen Thornton be elected Chair.</p> <p>A vote was taken 4 votes to 3 and <b>carried</b>, and accordingly it was</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor John Crockford-Hawley be elected Chair of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee for the year 2023-24.</p>
<b>46</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marc Aplin who was substituted by Roger Bailey.</p>
<b>47</b>	<p><b>Election of a Vice Chair</b></p> <p>Nominations for the position of Vice Chair were invited.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey</p>

	<p><b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Catherine Gibbons  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor Peter Crew be elected Vice Chair of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee for the year 2023-24.</p>
48	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
49	<p><b>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman</p>
50	<p><b>Budget for 2023/24</b></p> <p>The budget reports for Weston Museum and the Blakehay Theatre from the start of the new financial year were circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><i>Julia Stuckey entered meeting at 10:06am</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
51	<p><b>Communications and Marketing Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Communications and Marketing Officer had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The John Lewis plaque would be unveiled shortly, an additional plaque which was separate to the main programme, paid for by John Lewis.</p> <p>It was suggested that a small group meet to discuss how to move forward with a new programme centered around buildings, having already been approached by members of the community. it was felt that this group should meet to discuss parameters of the new programme, priority places and locations and funding for the plaques.</p> <p>It was suggested that in the move to 32 Waterloo Street, the previous home of the Weston Mercury, that a plaque could be explored to remember Jill Dando.</p> <p>The English Heritage design was used for the plaques, with no format designated. It was suggested that national guidance for choosing plaques should be explored for the next round.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That a meeting be set up with the Communications and Marketing Officer, and Councillors John Crockford-Hawley, Catherine Gibbons, Peter Crew and Roger Bailey to discuss the next round of plaques, to be report back at the next meeting.</p>

<p><b>52</b></p>	<p><b>Weston Museum Management Report</b></p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Visitor numbers were high for this time of year compared to previous years. There had been 547 first time visitors in the past few months.</p> <p>Drag Queen Story Time had been held at Weston Museum. This had proven controversial with some members of the community. The Museum received support from the Police to manage the event, and only had positive feedback from those who attended. The Chairman attended the event and echoed this, noting that it was age appropriate. Councillor Catherine Gibbons also attended the museum in her role as Executive Member for Children’s services, families, and lifelong learning.</p> <p>The Myths and Monsters exhibition was now open in the temporary exhibition gallery. During the summer holidays, there would be illustration workshops held to link in with this.</p> <p>The new community gallery exhibition “Humans of Weston” would be opening on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.</p> <p>An expression of interest had been submitted for the South West Museum Development Travelling Together fund.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>53</b></p>	<p><b>Blakehay Theatre Management Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Bookings for 2024 were being explored, and the Christmas 2023 shows had recently gone on sale with a soft launch.</p> <p>It was noted that the Blakehay was perceived as too expensive. It was explained to members that the pricing schedule was set by council, and tied in with the business model for the theatre. A combination of commercial and community theatre models had been used, making it difficult to compare to other theatres and hireable spaces. It was noted that if members wished to review this model, it would need to be taken to the Expenditure and Governance Working Party.</p> <p>Members were reassured that new bookings were still coming in, with not all local groups deterred. It was also explained that the team were constantly finding new ways to bring in bookings.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> to recommend to the Expenditure and Governance Working</p>

	<p>Group that they explore the business model for the Blakehay Theatre.</p>
<p><b>54</b></p>	<p><b>WSMTC Grant Development</b></p> <p>A verbal report was given by the Senior Development Officer</p> <p>The Wild Escape grant funded project had concluded, following a series of outdoor events creating bug hotels. This brought together the learning and events team at Weston Museum and the grounds team with the use of our open spaces.</p> <p>Discussions have restarted regarding phase two of the Weston Museum redevelopment. This would see community consultation restarting, as it had been three years since this had been carried out and aspirations may have changed.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p><b>55</b></p>	<p><b>Community Event Grant applications</b></p> <p>The total budget for the year 2023/2024 was £60,000, with £20,000 having already been awarded to Weston Wallz, leaving £40,000 remaining.</p> <p><b>Theatre Orchard</b></p> <p>Theatre orchard requested funding to support the third year of Glow. Members discussed previous years, noting that it was comparable with events held in Bristol which had a much larger budget.</p> <p>The last festival had 20,000 visitors, but with an additional day added to the programme this year, they were expecting 30,000 visitors. They were working with an internally renown creator Illuminos, which was hoped would attract more people. The ticket process had been reviewed from year 1 to year 2 to make this run smoother. A member asked how they planned to deal with people who had tickets allocated but did not attend. It was explained that they measure the number of non-attenders on day one, and adjust ticketing for subsequent days. Last year they received £22,000 in voluntary ticket donations, all of which is reinvested into their work.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Helen Thornton</p> <p>A vote was taken and was <b>carried</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To award £22,000 to Theatre Orchard from the Community Events Grant 2023/2024 budget.</p> <p><b>Steeptomers Shanty Band</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Jemma Coles</p>

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** To award £2,000 to Steepholmers Shanty Band from the Community Events Grant 2023/2024 budget.

### **Together Pussycat**

Members felt that this event would be better suited to apply for a small and voluntary grant.

**RESOLVED:** to ask Together Pussycat CIC to apply for a small and voluntary grant which would be taken to the Community Services Committee.

### **.1 Weston Wallz Update**

Officers noted that the project was going well and communication had been good. It was, however, from the point of view of the venue that the communication was lacking. There had been some backlash over the content of some of the artwork. There are a few restrictions for artist, with the Public Art Guidance which was available on North Somerset Council's website. However, the design was mostly down to artist discretion. It was difficult to dictate a theme as that would count as a commissioned piece.

A member asked how locations were chosen. Some venues were approached, and others put their buildings forward. It was a long-winded process to find suitable buildings, with considerations such as scaffolding access.

The paint used was masonry paint which would get up to 10 years life. The plan was that walls would be recycled over the years in order to keep the scheme fresh.

Culture Weston noted that as a result of funding from Weston Town Council, Upfest had secured an additional £30,000 from Arts Council England.

## **56 South West Heritage Trust Update Report**

A verbal update was given by Bethan Murray.

The A1 Camera Club volunteers had continued their digitisation work at the Somerset Heritage Centre. The focus of activity has been the postcard collection with over 20,900 images being created linked to 8139 objects. The Curator has sent a further batch of photographs and data to be uploaded to Art UK. This online catalogue provided public access to the art collection.

The Town's Council's collection of civic silver had now been installed at Weston Museum by the SWHT Design Team.

A meeting was held with Arts Council England to discuss the possibilities of accessing funding through the 'Unlocking Collections' programme. The funding provides museums with the opportunity to develop projects linked to collections.

	<p>Rachel Bellamy, the Somerset Museum Development Officer, had met with the Museum Manager to discuss the Arts Council England Accreditation return. A working group was to be convened with Bethan Murray and Rachel Bellamy to progress the creation of a Forward Plan for the Museum, which meets the Accreditation standard.</p> <p>Whilst not yet formalised, Bethan detailed the temporary exhibition schedule for 2024, with a photography exhibition in February, a family exhibition in the summer and another photography exhibition in the autumn.</p> <p>Following the conclusion of the Myths and Monsters exhibition, the next exhibition was Doctor Who.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>57</b></p>	<p><b>Friends of Weston Museum Verbal Report</b></p> <p>Heather Morrissey gave a verbal update.</p> <p>The Friends now had 57 paid members, and often had non-members in attendance at talks. There had been a visit to Woodspring Priory, with 17 members in attendance.</p> <p><i>Councillor Charles Williams left the meeting at 11:27am</i></p> <p>There would be a cream tea at Weston Museum on 19<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>The AGM would take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p><i>Councillor Charles Williams reentered the meeting at 11:29am</i></p>
	<p><b>North Somerset Council and Heritage Action Zone Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Heritage Action Zone Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Cara offered to circulate the quarterly report to members.</p> <p>There would be an exhibition showcasing work done in partnership with Culture Weston in Unit 12 of the Sovereign Centre.</p> <p>Cara noted that there had been more demand for HSHAZ funding than funds available, with £2.25 million spent to date.</p> <p>£23 Million had been obtained from the Levelling Up Fund which would see works take place at the Tropicana, Birnbeck, Grove Park, Marine Lake, the Town Centre, and a Way finder system around the town. The project would last 19 months.</p> <p>Surveys had taken place on most sites, and NSC were working on a stakeholder communication plan to ensure they work with key partners and local residents. There were set outcomes to deliver, with only a small amount</p>

	<p>of flexibility.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<b>58</b>	<p><b>Culture Weston and Theatre Orchard Update Report</b></p> <p>Weston Wallz had been completed with 44 works of art in total. A new map would be printed with 10,000 given to the Town Council.</p> <p>Culture Weston would be working with the Town Council on the Literary Festival from 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> October which had been themed “Words on the Edge”.</p> <p>The Whirly Gig Weekend outdoor arts festival would be taking place in the Italian gardens, with the return of the climate carnival.</p> <p>Culture Weston were working with local artists on Promenade from 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> September, focusing on nature and coastal living.</p> <p>The bandstand installation on the Highstreet would remain for 3 years, with the college open to discussions of taking it on at the end of that period. Performances took place on Sunday afternoons.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:48am</p> <p>Signed.....Dated..... Chair of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee</p>